

Pray for Eastern Asia and Oceania

27. Indonesia

The Walak of Indonesia, are part of the New Guinea people cluster within the Pacific Islanders. This people group is only found in Indonesia. Primary schools in the remote highlands of Papua, East Indonesia, have been closed since 2003. Pray for teachers so they can open again and children can learn to read and write in their mother tongue. Also, two church denominations in Papua have been unable to agree on the best way to write the Walak language. Pray this will be an opportunity for them to come together and practice humility and grace. Pray that this disagreement is resolved so that Sunday school materials can be completed and the Walak children will know they are "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14) (Wycliffe Bible Translators)

28. Cambodia

The country of Cambodia is facing a deepening problem with possible sanctions from the EU. It was announced recently that the EU would take action if the government did not move to towards political reform. Cambodia has many poor people that depend on the garment industry to provide for their families, this could be the sector that is hardest hit. Please pray for the Cambodian Government, that the wisdom of the Lord would be evident and that change would come so that people in Cambodia will not have to suffer again. (Cambodia Action)

29. Japan

Japan is prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, landslides and volcanic eruptions, all of which have taken lives. Despite being well prepared for the majority of the 1,500 earthquakes which strike each year, serious incidents such as the 2011 Tohoku disaster and the recent landslides in Hiroshima can still cause devastation. Praise the Lord for Christian charities and churches, many of which have responded rapidly and effectively to the material

and spiritual needs which arise from each of these events. Pray that all Christians in Japan will show Christlike love in times of need and have wisdom in knowing how best to provide support. Pray that this will lead the Japanese to Christ and that, through a relationship with him, they will find peace despite the trauma of natural disasters. (Japan Christian Link)

30. China

China's urban migration is drawing away young people from the villages for higher paid jobs and big city lifestyles. Men frequently leave their wife and children behind while they travel to work. If both parents work away, the children may be left with their grandparents. Rural churches cannot hold onto their leadership and staff, losing them to the urban migration. They continue to hold services and Bible studies but other activities are limited by their diminishing congregations. The unregistered (underground) churches are facing digital surveillance and they are systematically being shut down. Pray that the rural believers can share the gospel despite the challenges they are facing. Thank God that in the past the church grew despite times of persecution. Praise him that he can "use the weak to confound the wise". Pray that signs and wonders will follow as the rural believers share the gospel. (Chinese Church Support Ministries)

31. Indonesia

Following the 7.5-magnitude quake that struck just off the central island of Sulawesi in September, a local Christian radio station in Palu has been providing essential on-air information to the community and emergency relief supplies to those affected. Initially the station was full of mud and water, but thankfully the radio tower was still standing. Pray for this devastated community as they rebuild their lives and their homes, and that Christ's love and compassion will be seen through this local ministry. (Reach Beyond)






World Prayer News

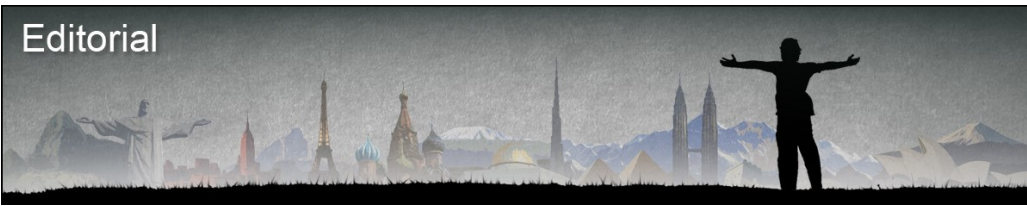
A guide to help you pray for people around the world

November - December 2018



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Pray Against Evil

We live in troubling times. This is true, of course, for each and every generation. There are always threats and challenges, some more obvious than others. One hundred years ago the First World War, the “war to end all wars”, came to an end. But a merely twenty-one years later Europe erupted again, spilling over into a global war. We had not learnt the lessons – and arguably we still have not done so.

We can feel powerless in the face of such threats, but as followers of Jesus we know that wars are a symptom of something more threatening and dangerous. Saint Paul tells us that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood but ... against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). We are called to “take our stand against the devil’s schemes” (v11). The “full armour of God” includes the “belt of truth ... the breastplate of righteousness ... the gospel of peace ... the shield of faith ... the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God” (vv14-17). Our calling is to “stand firm ... and pray in the Spirit.”

Consider some of the issues we face in today’s world and how followers of Jesus try and address them. There is mass migration, much of it driven by war; Christians serve refugees and displaced people. Human trafficking tears

lives and families apart; Christians help in campaigning, rescuing and rehabilitating the victims. People face starvation, poverty and lack access to clean water; Christians provide food, wells, and seek to alleviate poverty. Children are used as commodities in sweat shops, mines, armies and the sex trade; Christians work tirelessly with, for and to children at risk, to give them a better hope and life. But such human suffering is only part of our calling.

We live in a “post-truth” society. The very concept of truth is challenged. Technology and scientific advances raise deep ethical questions about the beginning and end of life. There is a growing disparity between the “haves” and “have nots.”

It is time for us to face these and other challenges, and the best and first step is to pray, remembering our struggle is not ultimately against flesh and blood. Therefore, as you come to pray for the world this month, ensure that you dress appropriately in the full armour of God.

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22. India (1)

Vicky is a radio listener from a Hindu family in India. She said, “Last year, my friend Rakesh told me about your radio programme when I asked why he is different now? He has given up drinking and fighting with everyone. He said he feels different since he started to believe in Jesus and that from your programme he learns good things from the Bible. Now, for the past few months, I have also started listening to radio programmes from your station. I have lots of questions and so many times I have found answers from your programmes. Often when I call your office someone talks and prays with me. Thank you all for helping me.” Praise God for those who respond to the gospel through the radio in India. (Reach Beyond)

23. Central Asia

Mobile medical clinics were recently carried out in two villages within an unreached area of Central Asia. Over 450 people were seen in the four days the clinic ran and individuals were able to share their health and life concerns. Many who came to see the psychologist had problems which caused ill health and depression. The team remarked how many of these individuals had sad eyes. But, once they had the opportunity to share their stories away from others in the community, they could see ways to solve their problems. At the clinic, miracles were happening: sad eyes became bright! Counselling gave them hope for the future. Pray for these people to begin a journey with Christ as a result of the medical help they received from believers. (Reach Beyond)

24. India (2)

Please pray for two mission partners working in North India in the area of anti-trafficking. They write asking for prayer for: “the next year, that we will see where God is moving and be a part of it; the Holy Spirit to speak directly to all church leaders in our land and to prepare them to deal with abuse fully; healing where there is

brokenness and the courage to walk the hard road to freedom for those addicted to pornography.” (CMS)

25. Nepal

The Chepang, one of Nepal’s indigenous peoples, rank lower in society even than the “Untouchables”, Nepal’s lowest caste. In recent years the Chepang have begun to change from a semi-nomadic lifestyle to a more settled way of life. Historically they foraged for food, collecting wild plants and catching fish, bats and birds. Because of their lifestyle they are disliked and have hardly any access to basic services. Some are still living in temporary shelter after their homes were destroyed in the 2015 earthquakes. Churches in Nepal are now helping to build new homes for the Chepang. Please pray that people will not have to spend a fourth winter in temporary shelter. (International Nepal Fellowship)

26. India (3)

After years of prayer and lobbying for change to the many laws that unfairly discriminate against people affected by leprosy in India, praise God that in August a law was passed so that leprosy is no longer grounds for divorce. Please continue to pray for organisations committed to campaigning until all these outdated and discriminatory laws are repealed so that “equality in dignity and rights” become a reality for people affected by leprosy. (The Leprosy Mission)

Pray for the Americas



17. Cuba

The need for Bibles in Cuba is urgent as 40% of believers do not have a Bible, many sharing one Bible between a whole Bible study group. Furthermore, many who do have Bibles find that they are old and so well used that they are in a very poor condition. The One Million Bible Mission project will work with churches from all denominations to distribute Bibles to Christians in Cuba who desperately want their own copy of God's word. The Bible Commission (the name for the Bible Society in Cuba) are also providing scriptures for children and youth, and large print Bibles for the elderly. Only Bibles donated through Bible Societies around the world are allowed into Cuba. Pray for the import and distribution of Bibles into Cuba, and that everyone desperately waiting will soon experience the joy of having their own copy of God's word. (Scottish Bible Society)

18. Guatemala

Working in partnership with hundreds of other Christian and relief organisations, Mission Aviation Fellowship enables practical help, physical healing, and spiritual hope to be delivered to many of the most remote and inaccessible communities on the planet. In Guatemala, please pray those attending training programmes for pastors in remote areas will be equipped and encouraged for ministry. Pray also for engineers and support staff who maintain the Cessna 206 aircraft. Give thanks for their skills, experience and Christian witness. (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

19. Colombia

In Colombia, praise God for the many children and young people who have been given new opportunities through the sports clubs. Pray that they continue making good decisions and can be a positive influence in their families, schools and neighbourhoods. Lift up the local church and our partners as they support local communities in finding solutions to the

challenges they face. Pray for physical and spiritual protection for those working in these areas. Pray for peace in Colombia, for an end to the conflict and violence that have characterised so much of its recent history. Pray for those who have been affected by the violence, that they might find support and restoration. (Tearfund)

20. Latin America

Without a doubt, the greatest strength of students in Latin America is their initiative to be involved in mission. In many of the movements there are only one or two workers, who support students in various universities and even in cities. Students are the main protagonists of the university mission! Poverty, corruption and violence are huge challenges for students in Latin America. However, perhaps the greatest challenge is for students to not be ashamed of their faith, but instead to share and connect with the academic and social world. Please pray for courageous communities of students who know and live in God's word, who share their love for Jesus, who are serving the needs of the vulnerable, and who enter the academic and ideological discussions of the university from the perspective of a mature and complete faith. (IFES)

21. Venezuela

The latest figures show a 30% increase in child mortality in Venezuela. Please pray for this country, and our partner network there, during the ongoing economic crisis. Along with severe shortages of food, over the last week the country has been experiencing increased political unrest. (Viva Together)

Pray for Northern Africa and the Middle East



1. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and remains a very conservative Muslim country. Since his appointment in 2017, the Crown Prince has resolved to make Saudi Arabia more moderate. Until recently, it was believed there were only 300 Saudi Christian believers worldwide. In fact there are thousands, the result of decades of prayer. Pray for protection over the growing number of Muslim background believers, that they would be bold to share their faith with others in their communities. Pray for God's hand to be on Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he leads his country in this time of transition and political change. Pray for peace and stability in Saudi society, encouraging more gospel workers to go there to share Jesus with those they live amongst. (Frontiers)

2. Bahrain

Workers have contact with young women and their mothers who live in Bahraini villages. The young women who have studied at university are open to hearing about the gospel, having had exposure to different kinds of people and different religions. Please pray that some will want to pursue the truth of the good news of what God has done for us in Christ. Pray too for those women being taught English by workers. May they learn more of Jesus as they read and discuss Bible stories. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of the women in these villages, and for them to grow in understanding God's love and in learning more about Him. (AWM Pioneers)

3. Egypt

From isolation to independence: Embrace's partner BLESS, which is part of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church, is changing the lives of visually impaired women by nurturing their independence. Their programme offers training in daily living skills, technology, social skills and leadership, transforming the lives of women

who have spent most of their lives in isolation. The project also involves sighted women as volunteer mentors to befriend the participants and promote their inclusion in the community. Please pray for Egyptian women broadening their horizons. (Embrace the Middle East)

4. Turkey

Sixty million Turks live in 70 countries: huge numbers, but each one is an individual who needs to know Jesus loves them. Pray for the teams living and serving among Turks, especially those working in areas where it is dangerous to share Christianity openly. Pray for God to give these workers faith, courage, wisdom and protection. (WEC International)

5. West Bank and Gaza

A wondrous gift is given: One humble birth more than 2,000 years ago brought us the hope of everlasting life. Today, in places where Jesus lived, babies are being born into poverty and conflict. But we can help them get a healthy start, thanks to your donations and prayers. Embrace's partner Caritas Jerusalem provides antenatal and maternity care to disadvantaged women, and postnatal support for them and their precious new babies. Please pray for women giving birth amid poverty and for the health of their new-borns. (Embrace the Middle East)

Pray for Europe



6. Croatia

Croatia has gone through huge changes in the past 30 years, moving haphazardly from communism to democracy. This beautiful country attracts millions of tourists each year to its Adriatic coastline and many idyllic islands. Tourism presents new opportunities for the 20,000 evangelical Christians. Nine out of ten nationals (4 million) are Roman Catholic. There are serious concerns about the widespread migration of thousands of Croatians into other EU member states. This affects many local churches. Sadly, corruption and bribery remain commonplace. Pray for honesty and integrity to be restored. Pray that Croatians will discover hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Give thanks that new churches are being planted on the mainland and also on at least one of Croatia's islands. Pray for a new generation of evangelists and church pastors. (Transform Europe Network)

7. Germany

Recently, over 200 Christian lawyers drawn from across Europe (and a few from further afield) gathered in Berlin to deepen their knowledge of God, build relationships with one another and to be strengthened to be salt and light in their communities. Many came alone, knowing only a few, and for some not even one, other Christian lawyers in their community or country. Please pray that each of these delegates would return home with a fresh vision of God's heart for justice and their call to serve him in their church, community and legal institutions. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship)

8. United Kingdom

In the last month, hundreds of thousands of international students have arrived at UK universities. Though many will be enjoying getting stuck in, there are students who, since arriving in the UK, feel lonely, isolated and lost. One new international student recently wrote to us: "I arrived here on 13th September 2018.

Since then I have been trying to make friends, but unfortunately I haven't made one. I don't know where I'm going wrong. I'm feeling very lonely. I have tried making friends in the university but people just talk and carry on, they don't really think me as a friend." Please pray for the students in your local university, especially for those who are struggling, alone and in need of friendship. Pray that they would see the light of Christ. (Friends International)

9. Kosovo

In a country struggling with unemployment, pray that BMS' quality educational work with individuals from Kosovo's minority communities would increase their employment prospects. Pray especially for BMS' work amongst the marginalised Roma people and give thanks for a new partnership that facilitates this. (BMS World Mission)

10. Refugees

In 2017, 68.5 million people were displaced as a direct result of persecution, conflict or violence. People make treacherous journeys by foot and by sea, with few possessions. They arrive exhausted. Many are traumatised and feel unsafe and they often face resentment and extremist threats. Pray for the victims of human trafficking, who were promised hope and a future. Pray for safety and protection for people making treacherous journeys. Pray for Bible-believing churches and Christian migrants to have opportunities to respond in practical ways with the love and message of Jesus Christ. (HowWillTheyHear)

Pray for Sub-Saharan Africa



11. Tanzania (1)

Pray for the people of Tanzania who are living in spiritual darkness, following their traditional religious beliefs. There are many Christian evangelists preaching the gospel to villages and, in a recent trip into villages in the South Maasai area, a few evangelists preached to 325 people and 20 gave their lives to Jesus. Please pray for these new Christians, that their faith will grow and their relationship with the Lord will strengthen, and they will be a light in their communities. Pray also for the evangelists as they faithfully continue to make Jesus known in Tanzania. (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

12. Malawi

There has been a very positive response among the Yao people in Malawi to their new Christian radio station Radio Lilanguka. Only 0.5% Malawians are evangelical Christians but this first Yao Christian radio station has already started to unify isolated ministries and churches who are working with this unreached Muslim people group. In addition, 600 solar powered fix-tuned radios have recently arrived at the station for distribution amongst the local people. Pray for a real gospel impact as a result. (Reach Beyond)

13. Cameroon

Cameroon's people are going through a challenging time. Bible translation is happening in various areas and the translation teams would value our prayers. There is a great deal of uncertainty for the people of Cameroon, yet we also worship and believe in a God who loves us and protects us. Please pray for serenity, peace and calm in their hearts despite the violence, killings and lawlessness around them. Pray for those who have been relocated, that they will have peace of mind during this time of transition. Pray for international awareness of the situation to grow and for divine intervention to prevent more violence. (Wycliffe Bible Translators)

14. Burundi

It is common for the young children of women in prison in Burundi to remain in prison with their mothers. However, there is no provision made for the children. Christian lawyers in Burundi have recently gained access to prisons to share the gospel and to provide free legal advice. In addition to support for navigating the criminal justice system, our partners are exploring ways to help these children practically (nutrition, education, family support) and share Jesus with them. (Lawyers Christian Fellowship)

15. Tanzania (2)

The residents of Lupembelwasenga in Tanzania used to fetch their water from the river 2km away and carry it home. Through instigation of the local church, Lupembelwasenga Water Project is bringing clean spring water from the next valley and pumping it to the top of the village using a solar powered pump. Residents provided the labour for laying the distribution pipe system to bring water within reach of every household. Alongside this, there is health and hygiene teaching, and training of a water users' association to own and operate the system. Pray that the project brings lasting health and poverty relief benefits to the village, bringing glory to God as a result. (Emmanuel International)

16. Western Africa

This landlocked state near the Sahara Desert is still a pioneer missions country, with two-thirds of the population unreached. There are less than 1% evangelical believers here and breakthrough has not yet been seen. In the middle of the bush a little two-room concrete building is being renovated with solar panels on the roof; there is no electricity for miles around. This will be a radio station aimed at reaching 10,000 people that haven't yet heard the good news of Jesus. Pray for many to respond as they hear the gospel for the first time. (Reach Beyond)