

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

A guide to help you pray for people around the world | Sep - Oct 2020

1. Frontiers – Oman

The coronavirus pandemic, together with falling oil prices, has brought turmoil and crisis to the Arabian Peninsula. Oman is one of the countries worst hit by the coronavirus crisis; it has suffered from the highest number of cases per capita within the region. Pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic in Oman and in this region, that God in His grace and mercy will bring healing to this land and its people.

2. Middle East Concern – Lebanon

Lebanon is struggling in the wake of the recent catastrophic explosion in Beirut as well as with Covid-19, acute economic issues, and political turmoil. Please pray for those injured and those who lost family and friends due to the explosion, as well as those who have been rendered homeless or lost their means of livelihood; for the mobilising of assistance and for wise decisions amongst leaders; for stability and positive change; that God's love and provision is the source of comfort, encouragement and hope for people, including the refugees residing there.

3. OM – Yemen

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Arab world. It is also a country least reached by the Gospel. War and desperate hunger stalk the land. Pray for salvation, especially in the northern tribes and for women whose situations can be harsh and limited.

4. IFES – Syria

Pray that God would raise up qualified leaders and local funding for the IFES movement in Syria. Pray for them as they continue to adapt ministry for online during the pandemic. Pray for Syrian students who have had to flee their homes. Pray that they would encounter Christians who will introduce them to Jesus.

5. Transform Europe Network – Romania

The Roma communities, amongst the poorest people groups in Eastern Europe, have been particularly hard-hit during coronavirus. Lockdown restrictions have been tight which has meant that many Roma have been unable to work and therefore have had no money for food or water bills. Please pray for the Roma during this very challenging time, for God to sustain and provide for their needs, and for those who are working tirelessly to help them.

6. People International – Europe

Pray for the Mari people – Europe's last pagans – a Finno-Ugric ethnic group who have traditionally lived along the Russian Volga and Kama rivers. Even though a significant number became members of the Russian Orthodox church during the Soviet era, many kept their pagan traditions and Mari tribes worship in Groves offering blood sacrifices. Pray that the Gospel will take root amongst them; that they will see that Jesus made the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins. Pray for the church in Yoshkar-Ola, the capital city of the Mari El republic which has a population of about 700,000.

7. France Mission – France

France is currently facing a significant increase in the number of new Covid-19 cases, especially among young people. Please pray for all those trying to contain the spread of the virus and limit its impact. Please also pray for the witness of French churches as they seek to maintain a biblically-faithful, socially-responsible witness to the Lord.

8. ECM Britain – Spain

Please pray for us as we reimagine short-term ministry for the future. Pray for creativity and ingenuity, so we can make a way to help these willing young people capture a vision for world mission and God's heart for Europe. Thank God that two of our current short-termers finish up with plans to return long-term.

9. Galeed House – UK

Women from many nations are overwhelmed by the loving care of Galeed House volunteers in Sheffield. Community activities at Galeed House may be closed at present, but the loving care of our volunteers still reaches out through doorstep visits, and now, with guidelines in place, Galeed House doors are starting to reopen. An asylum seeker from Egypt and a man from Yemen were delighted to have an English teacher to themselves, and before the end of the month a Covid-safe craft session will be trialled for children from the Kids Club.

10. Christian Unions Ireland – Ireland

Pray that God would strengthen the team at CUI to continue reaching their goal: to give every student in Ireland an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Praise God for the online evangelistic events that have drawn non-Christian students from across the island to hear the gospel, and the opportunities He has given to students to witness to non-believing family members whilst being quarantined at home. Pray that God would continue this vital work for His Kingdom and glory, so that more students across Ireland would come to know Him.

11. Starfish Malawi – Malawi

Pray for the protection of God upon each and every staff member, our families and the office properties and premises. Pray for God's guidance upon everyone as we carry on doing some work in this period of the pandemic. Pray for God's encouragement to Pastors to keep on reading Christian books and teaching material during this period of Covid-19 so that they get encouraged. Ask God to help members to receive God's direction after reading the books and apply it in their day-to-day life.

12. SIL – Central African Republic

The story-based Biblical trauma healing programme has been widely used after years of conflict. Many people have now heard Bible passages in their own languages and want more! Several language groups have begun drafting translations themselves; this is very exciting, but could cause challenges with getting an official writing system adopted, or having someone check the exegetical accuracy. Pray for wisdom for the leadership of the Central African Wycliffe organisation, ACATBA, as they try to devise a new way of doing Bible translation.

13. MAF UK – South Sudan

Pray for South Sudan which is facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity due to frequent drought, crop damage from locusts, conflict and the coronavirus pandemic. Refugees and displaced populations are among the most vulnerable, as incomes and aid sources have been impacted by lockdown measures and border controls.

14. Emmanuel International – Tanzania

Emmanuel International and Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) work together in the Mwanza region helping churches in various community development projects. This September they are launching Integrated Environmental Renewal Project (IERP), which includes community health education, entrepreneurship, beekeeping and conservation agriculture. This cause is both physical and spiritual; we have seen it is vital to combine these projects with appropriate evangelism to reach those who don't know Christ.

15. Lifewords – Kenya

Pray for schools teaching the Choose Life curriculum, which is helping young people to navigate the new circumstances of the pandemic. The values of altruism, peace, justice, love and freedom are being used to help children understand the need to care for others in society, especially in washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing. It has also helped them with issues such as family conflict, depression, relationships. Pray that young people would find peace, freedom, and a new perspective as they discover how God wants them to live.

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16. Zambesi Mission – Malawi

Numbers of Covid-19 cases are rising rapidly in Malawi. At a recent Scotland Malawi Partnership meeting, Malawian health leader Dr Jane Mallewa said that the situation is “going to escalate badly” and their “health system is not going to cope”. Zambesi Mission’s partner the Zambesi Evangelical Church (ZEC) runs five health centres in rural districts. ZEC’s healthcare workers are shining the light of Christ into their communities. Zambesi Mission is providing them with PPE during the pandemic. Please pray for God’s protection over ZEC’s staff and for the love of Christ to be experienced by everyone they serve.

17. Global Care – Bangladesh

Pray for Global Care’s partners in Bangladesh, who are developing a Foster Care initiative for vulnerable children, due to launch in early 2021. In line with best practice in child development they are attempting to develop a local family-based alternative to residential institutions for children who are unable to live with their birth families. It’s a new venture for them, and unusual in Bangladesh. Pray for wisdom, perseverance, and God’s blessing, as they seek to learn and model what is best for these children.

18. Dohnavur Fellowship – India

In Tamil Nadu, as of 25th June, 3,481 children aged 0 to 12 years had tested positive for Covid-19. Pray that the children who have contracted this virus may be admitted to good hospitals and treated well so that they recover soon. Pray for children who lost their parents in this epidemic that they are given a loving home and care. Please also pray for those of our Old Girls who are working as senior nurses on Covid-19 wards in various hospitals in South India, and remember others who work as medical records officers, paramedics and pharmacists.

19. Wycliffe Bible Translators – South Asia

There are over 15 million Lofian* people across different countries and only 1,000–2,000 followers of Jesus worldwide. The majority of Lofians are Muslims and have never heard the gospel. Pray that God will awaken Christians from every corner of the globe to pray extraordinarily for the Lofian people to come to know God and to make him known to others. *Name changed for security reasons.

20. Reach Beyond – Central Asia

A second wave of Covid-19 is sweeping one Central Asian country. There are currently no hospital beds available anywhere in the city, and very few ventilators. One Christian clinic is trying to make a difference in whatever ways they can, although some of their trainee doctors have been drafted in to work in the struggling hospitals. Pray that the light of Christ will be seen through their compassionate service and that this spike in cases will decrease.

21. Al Massira – South Asia

Pray for followers of Jesus in a ‘closed land’ in Asia. Pray for those experiencing persecution of many kinds; may they ‘stand firm in the faith’ at all costs. A small team of translators have been dubbing the AM resource into this country’s main language. Pray earnestly that God would open doors for seekers to have the opportunity to hear the gospel in their own tongue. Pray He would empower those overseeing future trainings and groups, that they would speak without fear.

22. Latin Link – Brazil

Brazil has abundant wealth, yet more than 16 million people live in conditions considered ‘extreme poverty’ – pray for these people. Brazil is also the country of the ‘jeitinho’: finding a way around things. In some cases this can reveal a sinful mentality which says it is fine to trample on others to get what you want and has led to an ethical crisis. Please pray against this and for Latin Link Brazil to grow as a sending and receiving team.

23. Viva – Central America

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed inequalities and inequity in Central America. Lockdown is a death sentence for many people because they are unable to go out every day to look for food or work in informal trade activities. In Guatemala, where Viva has a partner network, we see heart-breaking situations for children each day. For example, more than 20 boys and girls sleep in cemetery graves as they have nowhere to live. Pray that local churches working together, supported by Viva’s partner network, would be able to make a difference in Guatemala and across the region with practical help such as food relief and a phone mentoring programme to keep children safe.

24. SIM – Bolivia

Pray for workers sent from God to join us in reaching those without Christ; for churches to turn away from legalistic attitudes, embracing the gospel of grace; and for God to use SIM’s medical ministry, English classes and other creative outreaches to bring people closer to Him. Pray also for grace, unity and cultural understanding, as we live and work in multi-ethnic and multi-generational teams.

25. Global Care – Guatemala

Pray for the mental health of vulnerable children affected by the extended lockdown in Guatemala. Many children in the slums of Guatemala City have been trapped in small tin shacks in temperatures around 30 degrees, 24/7 with nothing to do. Our local partners report a deterioration in the mental health of many children, despite their best efforts to support them in creative ways. Please pray for a restoration of joy for these children, and the ability to get out, move around, and access education.

26. Reach Beyond – Ecuador

Ecuador has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. Radio HCJB in the capital Quito, has been creating short-format programmes to help heal the trauma that people are experiencing with the crisis. On their last day of prayer, they received 483 requests for physical health, work, family relationships, but also for emotional health. People are afraid, depressed, anguished, but at the same time they are more open to hear the truth of the God’s Word. Pray for the team of intercessors who continually pray for listeners or followers from social media who request prayer.

27. Logos Ministries International – Myanmar

Pray for resolution to the world’s longest running civil conflict. Decades long ethnic tensions continue to run high, especially among the majority Burmese army and minority peoples. Pray for peace and justice in this significant year of national elections. Pray for the growth of God’s kingdom throughout this land of Pagodas.

28. Japan Christian Link – Japan

Most churches are relatively small and there can be a tendency for members to view evangelism, discipling, pastoral support, and other essential roles as the responsibilities of the pastor or leadership team. Older pastors especially feel obliged to perform most of these roles themselves, but if a role is assigned, they may not always be assigned based on an individual’s gifts. Please pray for leaders to have wisdom and servant-heartedness; for the younger generation to step forward; for the wisdom of one generation of leaders to be passed down to the next; for church members to recognise and make use of their gifts and for church leaders to support and encourage their members in this.

29. Cambodia Action – Cambodia

With Covid gripping the world, Cambodia has been spared with low infection numbers and no deaths but the knock-on effects on the economy are truly an area of concern and prayer. Many Cambodians depend on a salary that feeds a number of family members. Factories are shut, tourism has been curbed and therefore wages have been either reduced or suspended. Please pray that Cambodians will not become victims of predators, willing to borrow money at very high rates. Pray that the industries that fuel the economy will start to reopen and Cambodians will be able to return to work.

30. OMF – Taiwan

Praise God that Taiwan has passed over 100 days with no locally transmitted Covid-19 cases, although there have been a few imported cases recently. Several OMF workers have been able to return to Taiwan after home assignment in recent months and have been given the all clear to start back in ministry. Also, most churches have resumed and schools plan to open as usual at the end of August, with appropriate precautions in place.

31. AsiaLink – Mongolia

Many families in Mongolia are broken. Due to lack of education and opportunities and even alcoholism, widespread in Mongolia, many children grow up in families unable to care for them properly. There is a real opportunity in Mongolia to reach families by offering life skills training. Ministry teams meet with families who are in need of help and teach vital skills to improve family life and the environment in which children are growing up. Through this practical help, teams are also able to introduce families with no exposure to Christianity to Biblical values and ultimately the Gospel itself.