

International Prayer Connections

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World



APRIL 2018

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01 Prayer as a Strategic Resource in Missions (Part 3)

By John D Robb

1. God desires and requires intercessory prayer for the accomplishment of His salvific purpose for the peoples of the earth.

Jesus told us to pray, *"Thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven."* Abraham interceded for Lot in Sodom, Moses prayed that God would turn from His wrath against Israel, Daniel for the return of Israel from Babylon. Ezekiel was told by God, *"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it but I found none"* (Ez. 22:30)



Why does God desire and require His people's intercession? Most likely because God originally gave dominion of the earth to humankind. That dominion has never been revoked by God. Satan's dominion achieved through rebellion against the Creator is a false, illegitimate, usurped dominion. Redeemed through Christ, we can exercise our God-given right to influence the affairs of this world through the exercise of intercessory prayer. Like Kuwait's request for the multi-national force to come against the illegitimate dominion of Iraq, so we in prayer as God's redeemed children, pray that His will be done, His kingdom come on earth. Prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit breaks through the false dominion of the enemy, and clears the way for His deliverance and shalom to come to all peoples. Linked through prayer with the risen Christ, sitting at His side (Eph. 2) far above all authority and dominion, we share in the accomplishment of His redemptive purposes.

Dick Eastman, president of World Literature Crusade, recently shared with our staff at World Vision how early in 1988, God had led him to take a team of intercessors throughout Eastern Europe. Their mission was *"to confront the strongholds of Communism."* In obedience to God's leading, they carried out a "prayer walk" around the Politbureau building in Bucharest where less than two years later, Ceaucescu made his last stand after pridefully announcing his regime would last for a thousand years. While in Berlin, God led Dick to go out with a German friend in the middle of the night to face that still forbidding wall. Moved in intercessory prayer, they both laid their hands on the wall and prayed, "In the name of Jesus, come down!"

In the dramatic events of the last year in Eastern Europe God has used the prayers of His people to shake the nations. He can do the same thing in the unevangelized world. He is seeking those who will stand before him in the gap for the 2,000 major unreached peoples, the 1,000 unevangelized cities, and the 30 unevangelized countries.

2. Victory in the spiritual realm is primary, and it is won by prayer.

Remember Moses' intercession as he held up his hands before God while Joshua and the army of Israel fought the Amalekites in the valley below? Each time Moses' arms grew tired and faltered, Israel's army was pushed back. But as he sustained his stance in prayer with uplifted arms, the Israelites were victorious.

Later in Israel's history. King Jehoshaphat relied on the weapons of united fasting and prayer, public worship

and praise which brought God's intervention against the invading armies of Israel's enemies. Bible teacher, Derek Prince, writes: *"These weapons, scripturally employed by Christians today, will gain victories as powerful and dramatic as they gained for the people of Judah in the days of Jehoshaphat.... Victory in the spiritual realm is primary. It is to be obtained by spiritual weapons. Thereafter its outcome will be manifested in every area of the natural and material realm."*

These two Biblical episodes vividly portray intercessory prayer as being the winning factor. Why should this be any different in today's battle for world evangelization?

3. Prayer has always undergirded and extended the missionary outreach of the church.

Prayer is mentioned over 30 times in the Book of Acts alone, and generally it is mentioned as occurring just before major breakthroughs in the outward expansion of the early Christian movement. For the Apostles extended times of united prayer and waiting on God together were pivotal in their mission to the unreached. Before the first great outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost and Peter's mighty sermon that brought 3,000 into the church, it is recorded that the Apostles "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14). Then, as the Apostles and their new converts *"devoted themselves to prayer,"* signs and wonders occurred, the city was filled with awe, and people were added to the church daily (2:42-44). It was *"after they had prayed" that the place where they were meeting was shaken, all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God with boldness* (4:31).

The Apostles early on let it be known what their priority in mission was- *"We will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word"* (6:4). The result of the Apostles determined adherence to this priority was that *"The word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly, and a large number of the priests became obedient to the faith"* (6:7).

Peter's prayer resulted in signs and wonders such as the raising of Tabitha. Later it was a time of prayer that opened his eyes to the revelation that the gospel was also for the Gentiles, making him willing to go and preach to Cornelius. It was also the church's prayer that brought the release of Peter from prison.

A period of prayer and fasting by five leaders of the Antioch church led to the setting apart of Paul and Barnabas for their frontier mission to the Gentiles. Afterwards they were sent out with more fasting and prayer (13:1-3). It was through prayer that Paul was not allowed by the Spirit of Jesus to enter Bithynia, but redirected into Macedonia. And it was through the prayer and praise of God by the imprisoned Paul and Silas that an earthquake helped to originate the church at Philippi!

The whole European side of the modern Protestant missionary enterprise grew out of Pietism, a revival movement that was steeped in earnest prayer. From its influence the Danish-Halle Mission to India went forth and the Moravian movement under Count Zinzendorf emerged. One author writing about the Moravians said that *"the glorious movement of the Spirit... among the Moravians at Herrnhut in 1727 [which] transformed them into what has been the mightiest evangelizing force in the world for the past two centuries, was borne in prayer."*

The prayer meeting which the Moravians began in 1727 went on 100 years! By relays they offered unceasing prayer for the church and needs all around the world. This prayer effort kindled their desire to proclaim Christ to the unreached and led to the beginning of modern missions. And from this one small village, over 100 missionaries went out in 25 years.

Decades later, William Carey, while still employed as a humble shoe repairman to support his part-time preaching, drew a homemade map of the world, entering all information he could find about its regions and countries. As he mused over the world's appalling needs and problems, he turned the information gathered into heartfelt intercession. His biographer reveals: *"Often in the silence of the night... by the dim rush light, he would scan that map and then kneeling before it, pour out his soul to God."* Prayer for the world was a definite motive force in the call and service of the one who came to be known as "the father of modern Protestant missions."

In 1806, a few college students from William's College took refuge from a sudden rainstorm beneath a haystack. Sitting in the midst of hay, they used the time to pray for the world and its needs. Out of that unlikely venue for a prayer meeting, the American mission movement was born.

Robert Glover sums up the role of prayer in the history of missions:

"From Pentecost and the Apostle Paul, right down through the centuries to the present day, the story of missions has been the story of answered prayer. Every fresh outbreak of missionary energy has been the result of believing prayer. Every new missionary undertaking that has been owned and blessed of God has been the germinating of seed planted by the divine spirit in the hearts of praying saints."

John Robb, IPC Chairman

(Excerpted and adapted from the article by John Robb "Prayer as a Strategic Weapon in Frontier Mission" Published in the International Journal of Frontier Missiology in 1991)

02 Call for prayer for peace on the Korean Peninsula

Evangelical Call to Prayer for Peace on the Korean Peninsula March 27, 2018

As American Christians with diverse approaches to force and nonviolence and yet all committed to pursuing peaceful relations among people and nations, we unite in prayer for permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. We do this mindful of the millions of lives, including more than 230,000 Americans, that would be threatened by an escalation of conflict there.

We are heartened by proposals for dialogue between our national leaders at a time when increasing tensions seemed to be marching our countries perilously in the direction of greater conflict, if not war. We call on all Christians everywhere to join us in praying for a just and peaceful resolution.



We pray for wisdom for our political, diplomatic and military leaders as they work across differences toward a goal of peace, security and freedom. We pray that God will bless the efforts of citizens who seek to bridge the vast differences between our countries.

Decades of people-to-people contact between North Korea and the United States- through business, educational and other humanitarian exchanges - have put a human face on those who are sometimes characterized by one another as enemies. So, we pray with empathy and in a spirit of friendship, noting the image of God in every human being. However profound the differences between our governments, we do not view the North Korean people as our enemies. On the contrary, we desire only the best for the people of North Korea.

Most of the nearly two million Korean-Americans are Christians, and many belong to evangelical churches. This community too has contact with North Koreans through humanitarian and family ties. South Korea is also home to many evangelical churches, including some of the world's largest. Many of these Korean brothers and sisters have been praying for North Korea for years and we humbly join them. These connections with Koreans in North Korea, South Korea and the United States strengthen our resolve to seek God for mercy and, so far as it depends on us, to pursue peace between our respective countries.

Sincerely,

Leith Anderson – President - National Association of Evangelicals
Hyepin Im President/CEO & Founder Faith and Community Empowerment
Dr. John P Hartley Chair Evangelicals for Peace
Rev. Johnnie Moore Founder The Kairos Company
Nikki Toyama-Szeto Executive Director Evangelicals for Social Action

More info at: <http://www.evangelicalsforpeace.org/northkorea>

PRAY: Let us continue to pray that the expected upcoming meeting between President Trump with Kim Jong Un will be used of the Lord to end the conflict, denuclearize the Korean peninsula and even to make possible the reunification of the two Koreas.

03 What is God doing in relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel?

(Image: Route of AI139 passenger flight from New Delhi to Tel Aviv 22 March 2018)

From the evening of her re-birth 70 years ago, Israel, has been always keenly aware and wary of the vast desert kingdom spreading southeastward from her western neighbor Jordan.

Six months previous, Saudi Arabia had cast their vote against the UN Partition Plan paving the way for the birth of the Jewish State. Now, hours after Israel's Declaration of Independence, as five Arab armies began their invasion to stamp out the new state, allied under the Egyptian army was a mass of soldiers sent from the Arabian Peninsula.



Twenty-five years later, the Saudis would again send troops to support Egypt in the 1973 War. Afterwards, although there have been no further military overtures, Saudi Arabia has continued to be seen as an enemy nation, one with a hatred for Israel and Jews (By law, no Jew is allowed to live in the Kingdom). They have never opened diplomatic relations with Israel. It was with uneasiness that Israel witnessed in 2010 the US sale of \$60 billion worth of F-15 fighters, attack helicopters and advanced munitions to this unfriendly nation, some of whose borders lie only minutes by air from our capital.

For 70 years no Israeli passenger planes have been allowed over Saudi airspace (When, some years ago, the authors travelled to Thailand, our plane was forced to fly southwards along the Arava through the Gulf of Aqaba, then down the length of the Red Sea—with enemy state Sudan to the west, Saudi Arabia to the East—on southward to just before the Horn of Africa, where we finally made a sharp left turn eastwards out over the Arabian Sea towards India—

In recent years, there have been signs that this official stance of hostility may be, at some levels anyway, beginning cautiously to change. The Saudis came out with a “peace plan” related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. More recently, rumors began to surface of secret communications between the two countries. When the newly-elected President Trump made his maiden trip abroad last May, his first stop was to Saudi Arabia—from there his plane made one of the few flights ever allowed from Arabia to Israel.

With the remarkable reforms which appear to be attending the rise of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman Al Saud, an unprecedented warming of relations with Israel has begun to be spoken of as a legitimate possibility (PM Netanyahu recently spoke of Israeli relations with the Arab world—obviously including Saudi Arabia—as “best ever.” As of this week, the flights from India over the Arabian peninsula will continue three times a week.

Then this past Thursday night, history was made. For the first time in Israel's 70 year history, a passenger plane from another country was allowed to travel the length of the Arabian Peninsula (see map above) en-route to Tel Aviv. The Air India Boeing 787 from New Delhi touched down at Ben Gurion Airport at 10:15

p.m. Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Katz described the occasion as *“the first time that there is an official connection between the state of Israel and Saudi Arabia.”* Of its enormous significance, one Israeli analyst observed that even in the absence of an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty (considered for years a prerequisite for relations between Israel and the Arab world), *“this shows you can have small gestures that are of real meaning.”*

The most generally held explanation for this thaw in relations is that the Sunni Saudi government is eyeing the expansion of its Shi’ite arch-enemy Iran and its nearness to acquisition of nuclear weapons, and is therefore open to (at least temporarily) making an alliance with the Israelis, whom the Iranian Ayatolla’s have repeatedly vowed to annihilate. ***While not discounting this as a factor, we sense it is essential that we seek the Lord as to what He—Lord of the Nations—is doing.*** Of course there is war in the heavenlies, with evil powers and principalities over nations at war against the decrees of the *Elyon*—the Most High—on behalf of His redemptive purposes on the earth.

We believe that through the present year a season of grace is being extended in which nations are being granted opportunity for making choices as related to their alignments with God’s purposes in His covenant land and people Israel. How they choose will significantly determine their pathway in the season ahead—whether for blessing and awakening or for darkness and great deception and delusion. During this year, there will be nations whose past histories would have indicated them to be last in embracing Israel, which will turn towards here—others with reputations as friendly will turn away.

During this window of opportunity, the determined efforts of intercessors, though small in number, may have great influence in swaying the stance of their leaders towards that which is good. It is remarkable that we see the leadership of Egypt, with whom Arabia allied strongly in both the 1948 and 1973 wars against Israel, slowly but steadily engaging in more friendly relations with her. We believe this is being surely facilitated through the prayers of millions of Christian believers and the many houses of prayer in that land who love and are praying fervently towards the fulfillment of the Isaiah 19 “Highway” which God says will connect “Egypt My people” with “Israel My inheritance.”

If God has such plans for Egypt, where His people suffered bondage for 400 years, might He not also have redemptive plans for the Arabian Peninsula, where it appears that these same Children of Israel may have wandered for 40 years in the desert? (In fact, in the opinion of a growing number of Biblical scholars, many factors point towards the very Mountain where the LORD came down and spoke with Moses as lying, not in the “Sinai Peninsula,” but in that area of Midian on the “back side” (i.e. the Arabian side) of the Gulf of Aqaba).

Might not this area of the world in which the delusion of Islam arose—a delusion which holds vast throngs of people throughout the nations in a bondage not unlike that typified by Egypt before the Exodus—might not this area where His manifest presence once moved among His people Israel be one in which the God of Salvation longs to begin releasing freedom to captivities from evil—even from its very source? Perhaps this itself sounds delusional. But God, whose greatness will dwell in Jerusalem, is beginning to shake things—*“Let the peoples tremble...let the earth shake, YHWH is great in Zion, He is exalted above ALL peoples...They SHALL praise Your great and awesome name: Holy is He!”* (Psalm 99:1-3). This includes those in captivity to darkness in Saudi Arabia!

Some of the Body of Messiah in Israel is using the shifts we sense occurring to stir us to pray for His life and blessing to spread over this great enemy from our past. After all, a part of our call, from the beginning, has been that through the seed of Abraham, every family and nation will find blessing! (Genesis 12:3; 22:18).

Will you join with us!

PLEASE PRAY:

- * That the Spirit which is drawing a new generation in Saudi Arabia towards regarding Israel with favor, will increase - that the leaders there would respond positively to this Spirit.
- * That the *“true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every human being”* (John 1:9), will illumine hearts of Muslims throughout the Arabian Peninsula to the truth that *Issa-Yasuah-Yeshua-Jesus* who was born in Bethlehem is the divine Son of God and saviour of the World (We personally have heard testimonies of former Muslims who were illumined by this Light while on the *Haj* in Mecca itself!).
- * For Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman Al Saud, that He will be protected in mind and body; that the Power which has already been at work in him towards releasing freedoms towards women, and other areas of his society which have for centuries lain in unjust bondage and oppression, that this Power will reveal itself in a personal way.
- * For Israel’s leaders, to regard the initiatives in Saudi Arabia with wisdom, discernment and grace. That God will work His alliances between the two countries out in His way and timing.
- * That the grace and favor which is presently linking India and Israel will be released over the Arabian peninsula over which their flights are now free to take place!

“In world first, Air India crosses Saudi airspace to Israel”: AFP (Reprinted in *The Times of Israel*: 22 March 2018).

Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem

04 Prayer Testimonies from the United Nations

In 2207, 2009 and 2013, it was both a great challenge and privilege of the IPC to arrange international prayer initiatives with hundreds of prayer leaders and intercessor children from around the world to pray with ambassadors of the U.N. The Lord graciously worked in answer to the prayers of many and here is an encouraging report of recent developments there, thanks be to God!

“A brief testimony about what God is doing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. So



often we watch and pray for years and do the things we believe God has asked us to do. Then, all of a sudden, it's as if the prayers that have been stored up in the bowls of heaven are poured out, and doors open that no man can shut.

For more than 25 years, there have been weekly prayer gatherings at the United Nations sponsored by Christian staff members, plus a weekly service with worship and a guest speaker. There are also many other organizations that have specific outreaches to the Ambassadors and monthly Bible Studies, all working hard to bring the presence and word of God into this global community.

In the fall of 2017, several of us who have been praying at the United Nations were invited by Pastor Jim Garlow of Skyline Church in San Diego, CA to come to San Diego for several days of prayer and conversation about a new ministry they wanted to launch to the United Nations. So we went and had the opportunity at the time to meet and pray with former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, who had recently joined the Skyline Church staff as the Executive Director of "Skyline UN," So, since early in January, several of us have been meeting weekly with her for a time of worship and prayer within the United Nations, asking God to open doors and visit this global community with an outpouring of His Spirit. So, fast-forward to March 2018.

The testimony I want to share is of what God did during the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women's conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. This year's theme was "Empowering Rural Women and Girls." Individuals from around the world attend this 2-week conference, and many of the Member States host side events to address issues affecting women and children around the world. We approached the Mission of Guatemala about hosting an event. Their response was that you have to apply for a conference room months in advance because the available spaces fill up quickly. But God....! We asked just 2 weeks prior to the opening of the conference, and there was nothing available, so we just kept praying and then we heard on a Thursday afternoon that there was one room available on the following Tuesday. So, in just four days we had to get speakers, pick the theme, and make a flyer to get approved to go up on the UN's Digital Messaging board.

When God opens a door, He makes a way where there seems to be no way! We put together a panel of five amazing women, a multi-ethnic and multi-generational representation, with the theme, "Personal Stories of Women's Journey's in Leadership". Honestly our expectation was that we would be happy if 25 people showed up for our event since our flyer went up on the messaging board the day before our event and most organization's events had been advertised for weeks. So, we gathered early that morning before our event and prayed fervently that God would use the testimonies of each one's journey and how instrumental God and Faith were in those journeys. God did not disappoint. He showed up in a big way. The room was packed with such a diverse group of young and old and many different nations represented, with standing room only! Women in the audience had tears in their eyes, as each of our speakers shared how they found their identity through their faith. Not one person left, even when each one spoke of Jesus and how He brought them through trials and testing on their journeys! At the end of our session we had many attendees follow us out into the hall to ask questions and to speak to us. Many come up to thank us afterward for the event. We were blessed to pray with several women who are leading in their nations. One woman remarked, "I've never seen anything like this at the United Nations before!"

The Spirit of God was truly at work. We praise God for what He did and is doing at the United Nations!

1. Please join us in praying for those who heard our session. We are praying the seeds that were planted during would take root in the hearts of all and that they would each come to know the love and saving grace of our Heavenly Father.
2. Pray that Guatemala will be able to reserve a conference room on a weekly basis so we can gather for Worship and the Word within the Secretariat.

Jody Wood,
New York City Intercessors

Pray: In addition, let us continue to pray for God's working in the hearts of the ambassadors and staff at the U.N. that they will come to know the Lord of the Nations Himself, Jesus Christ. May they hunger to know Him and to become His vehicle for bringing peace and development to the poor and the suffering around our world. Satan would like the U.N. to serve his purpose as a preparer of the way for the Antichrist and the global oppressive control he will represent. Pray that instead God's good and loving intentions will prevail as never before in that influential body of diplomats.

05 Pray for the U.N.: "Sex Education"

A Reason We Need to Pray for the U.N.: "Sex Education" Standards Push LGBT Agenda on 5-Year-Olds

In yet another bid by the United Nations to **sexualize and indoctrinate your children at younger and younger ages**, the UN Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) just unveiled **a new set of "Comprehensive Sexuality Education" standards for humanity**. Among other

controversies, the UN's planetary sex-ed scheme advocates masturbation, abortion, gender confusion, homosexuality, homosexual parenting, contraception, fornication, and more. The document, which cites abortion giant Planned Parenthood almost 20 times, represents a full-blown assault on parental rights and traditional morality that critics say could devastate a generation of young people. But the UN wants it to be mandatory for every child on the planet, starting at age five.



The UN document, dubbed **"International technical guidance on sexuality education,"** purports to provide an "evidence-based approach" to teaching young children all about sex, homosexuality, gender confusion, and more. But as the document itself makes clear, much of the "evidence" comes from extremist organizations that promote abortion, sexual "liberation," fornication, and more. Planned Parenthood, for instance, provided much of the alleged "research" and "evidence." That is despite the fact that the tax-subsidized abortion behemoth and the UN have **been exposed in the U.S. Congress helping the Communist Chinese regime with its coercive population-control schemes, including forced abortions**. Another outfit involved in the UN scheme was the rabid LGBT advocacy group OutRight Action International.

While self-styled, **scandal-plagued UN education ministry UNESCO** played a lead role in developing the controversial new sex-ed scheme, it was hardly alone. In fact, the new global "Comprehensive Sexuality

Education” guidelines are also being publicly supported by UNICEF, **the UN agency ostensibly in charge of “protecting” the world’s children**; UNAIDS, which supposedly exists to protect humanity from sexually transmitted diseases; UN Women, **the radical pro-abortion outfit supposedly leading the global fight for “women’s rights”**; and even the World Health Organization, an extreme organization whose leaders are so out of touch that they **recently tried to name a genocidal Marxist dictator as “goodwill ambassador” due to his alleged success in providing “universal healthcare”** to the victims of his barbarous tyranny.

The document itself would be considered shocking to anyone who adheres to traditional notions of family or morality, whether they be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or virtually any other religion. For instance, the document promotes “sexual pleasure” for children, beginning before they even turn 10. At age nine, for instance, the UNESCO guidelines call for children to “describe male and female responses to sexual stimulation.” Also at age nine, children are taught that masturbation is fine but should be done in private. The standards brazenly encourage fornication (sexual relations outside of marriage) among children, too, painting traditional morality as old-fashioned and wrong. By age nine, the standards say children should “demonstrate respect for diverse practices related to sexuality.” And by 12, the children are expected to believe that various forms of sodomy are “pleasurable” and less likely to result in infection. They are also to be taught about condom use.

Indeed, the UN document, which distorts abstinence education, is filled with the sexual-revolution ideology that has helped devastate families across the Western world. By age 12, the UN “learning objectives” demand that children “support the right for everyone” to “express their sexual feelings.” And by “sexual feelings,” the UN refers to complete hedonism, with sex being totally divorced from morality. Throughout the manual, which UNESCO hopes will be used to indoctrinate every child on the planet, it is clear that the UN wants everyone to support the so-called “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex” (LGBTQI) agenda. In fact, the document is filled with references to waging war on “homophobia” and “transphobia,” terms that are routinely applied to describe opposition to the redefinition — or undefinition — of marriage that began in recent years and culminated with a rogue Supreme Court lawlessly pretending to create a “right” to something called a homosexual “marriage.”

The document gets worse. When children are nine, for instance, they should be able to “explain how someone’s gender identity may not match their biological sex.” At that same age, they must also “demonstrate respect for the gender identity of others.” In other words, even before they reach age 10, they must not only accept, but “respect,” gender confusion that is strongly correlated with mental distress, suicide, and more. At age five, the children are expected to be able to “define gender and biological sex and describe how they are different.” They are also expected to “express respect” for homosexual parenting. “All people should be able to love who they want,” the UNESCO document explains, a clear reference to normalizing and promoting homosexual relations...

In a response to the UN’s latest CSE guidelines, Family Watch International President Sharon Slater did not hold back. “We have repeatedly warned governments, parents and other stakeholders that comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a radical, graphic, sexual-rights, pleasure-based approach to sex education that promotes promiscuity, abortion, and diverse sexual practices and identities to young children,” Slater said in an e-mailed statement. “With this new UNESCO technical guidance publication, we now have additional, conclusive evidence to prove it.”

The recently released UNESCO publication, she continued, “clearly reveals the UN’s stealth global agenda to manipulate and sexualize children through comprehensive sexuality education...

“Parents should be outraged by the content of the UNESCO publication, and UN Member States should demand that the sponsoring UN agencies withdraw their support immediately,” added Slater, whose organization works to defend life, marriage, and the family around the world. Noting the vast array of UN agencies pushing the scheme, Slater highlighted the danger. “This is an all-out frontal assault on the health and innocence of the world’s children from some of the most powerful and well-funded institutions that set the health standards for women and children across the world,” she said.

The CSE mantra is a crucial weapon in the war on the family, Slater concluded. “Comprehensive sexuality education is the primary tool used to advance the global abortion and sexual rights agenda and is designed to change the traditional sexual and gender norms of society by changing the worldviews of children,” she explained. For more information on the dangerous agenda, Slater recommended a short documentary video on CSE by Family Watch International posted at WarOnChildren.org.

The Trump administration's **publicly announced plans to withdraw from UNESCO represent a good start**. After all, the organization, which has long been **dominated by communists, globalists, and other extremists, has been waging war on America, freedom, morality, and more for generations**. As this magazine has documented repeatedly, the UN agency is literally trying to standardize indoctrination under the guise of “education” all across the world — not just on sex, but on everything. Indeed, UNESCO leaders have been openly demanding that government-controlled education force drastic **changes in the views, behavior, values, and ethics of children worldwide**.

However, UNESCO is only part of the problem. As *The New American* reported last year, **the UN appointed an LGBT czar who said that when it comes to brainwashing children to support the agenda, “the younger the better.”...**

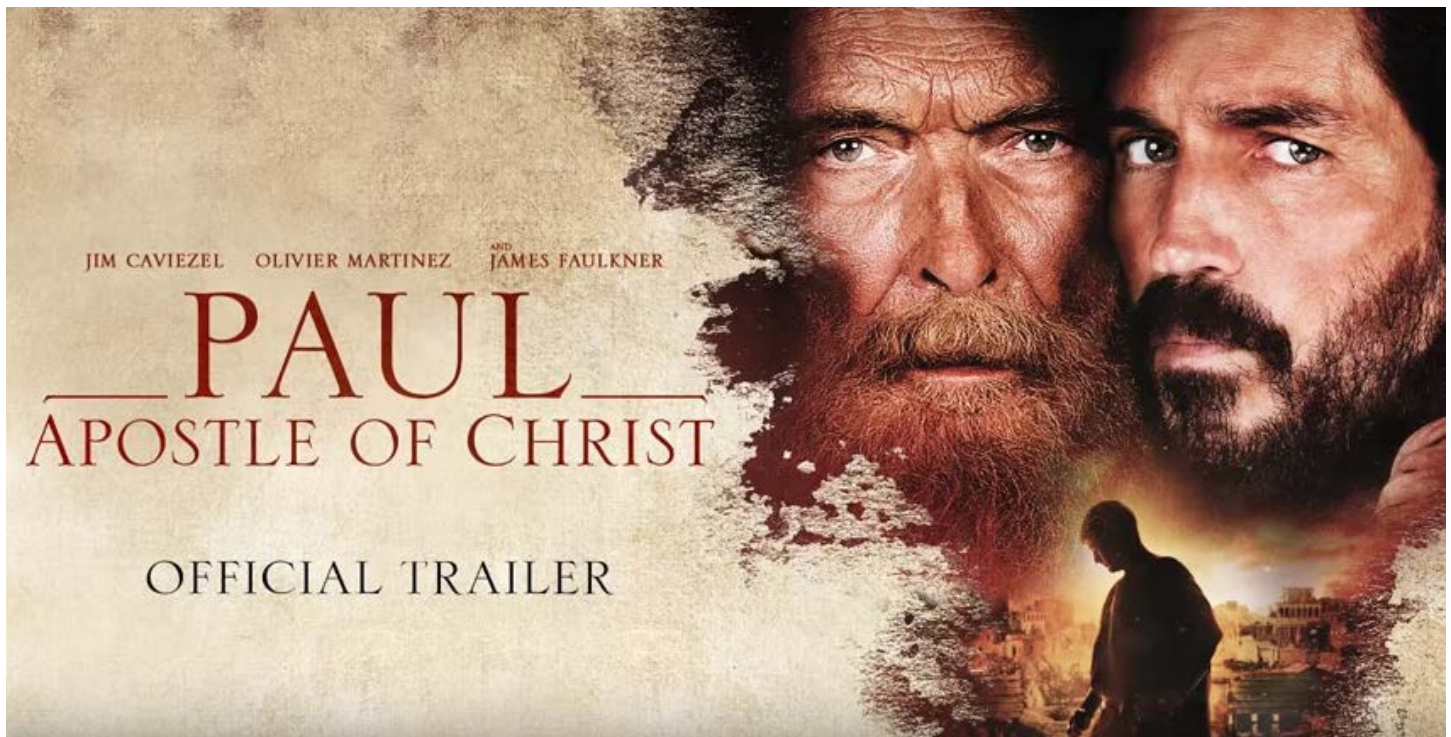
<https://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/28269-un-sex-education-standards-push-lgbt-agenda-on-5-year-olds>

Pray: Let us pray strongly and persistently that this assault on the world’s children will be exposed and overthrown by those governments that work with the U.N. and its agencies.

Pray: for a great groundswell of opposition to arise in order to protect the innocence of kids who cannot defend themselves from these perverse institutions and the adults that so misguidedly run them.

Pray: that those who are responsible for the introduction of these outrageously wicked policies and programs will repent or be removed from being able to cause such corruption and harm to children.

06 Two world-impacting movies for our time



You may have heard about the release of the very significant new movie about the great Apostle Paul that is hitting movie theaters here in the USA this weekend. It is a movie that covers the awful persecution of the followers of Christ in the first century, especially in Rome under the Emperor Nero. You can see a preview of the film and the 31 nations in which it will be shown on the attached links below. Hopefully many of you will be able to see it.

According to the director with whom some of us prayed the other night, even the non-Christian actors and film crew were all weeping as they filmed this historic retelling of Paul's imprisonment and execution along with many other followers of Jesus that also bravely met their deaths during that horrendous time of suffering for the church in Rome.

Pray: Would you please pray for the movie to impact and transform the lives of those who see it? May it also be powerfully used by the Lord to encourage the estimated 215 million of His followers who live in nations of high or extreme persecution.

Pray: that it can be translated and circulated all across the globe. Pray especially that it can be made available in Hindi, Urdu and Arabic.

Pray: also for Mel Gibson and his team who are said to be working on a new movie about the Resurrection that could be used by the Lord to bring many millions to the Lord around the world. It will be a powerful sequel to his amazing film, *The Passion of the Christ*. Obviously, these kinds of movies are strongly contested by our spiritual foe, the "the prince of this world". Therefore, pray accordingly that those working on this project will be protected and shielded by the presence of the Lord throughout this whole process.

Pray: for a marvelous degree of creativity while being faithful to the Biblical text.
Pray: that the immense amount of finance needed will be released freely and fully.

Thanks so much for your vital support in prayer,

[Click here to watch Paul, Apostle of Christ Preview:](#) Starring Jim Caviezel (Luke), Oliver Martinez, James Faulkner (Paul)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFFAPpejV8>: A “must see” video of Jim Caviezel who played Luke and compellingly challenges us to live like the great Apostle Paul

For list of international nations and opening dates, go to www.paulmovie.com/site/international

ABOUT THE FILM

"**PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST** is the story of two men. Luke, as a friend and physician, risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero's darkest, bleakest prison cell. But Nero is determined to rid Rome of Christians, and does not flinch from executing them in the grisliest ways possible. Before Paul's death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will come to be known as the church.

Bound in chains, Paul's struggle is internal. He has survived so much—floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure—yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. Alone in the dark, he wonders if he has been forgotten . . . and if he has the strength to finish well.

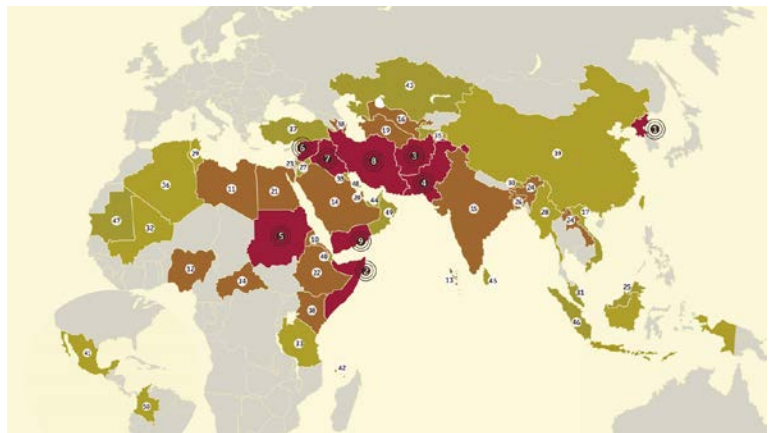
Two men struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world."

07 'Worst Year Yet': Open Doors Report

The Top 50 Countries Where It's Hardest to Be a Christian; Islamic extremism now has a rival, according to the 2017 World Watch List

For the third year in a row, the modern persecution of Christians worldwide has hit another record high.

But the primary cause, Islamic extremism, now has a rival: ethnic nationalism.



Thus, Asia increasingly merits concern alongside the Middle East, according to the 2017 World Watch List (WWL) [released today](#) by Open Doors. This being the list's 25th anniversary, Open Doors also released an analysis of persecution trends over the past quarter-century. The annual list examines the pressures faced by

Christians in [five spheres of life](#) (private, family, community, national, and church), plus levels of religiously motivated violence, in order to rank the top 50 countries where "Christians face the most persecution." [Full list below.]

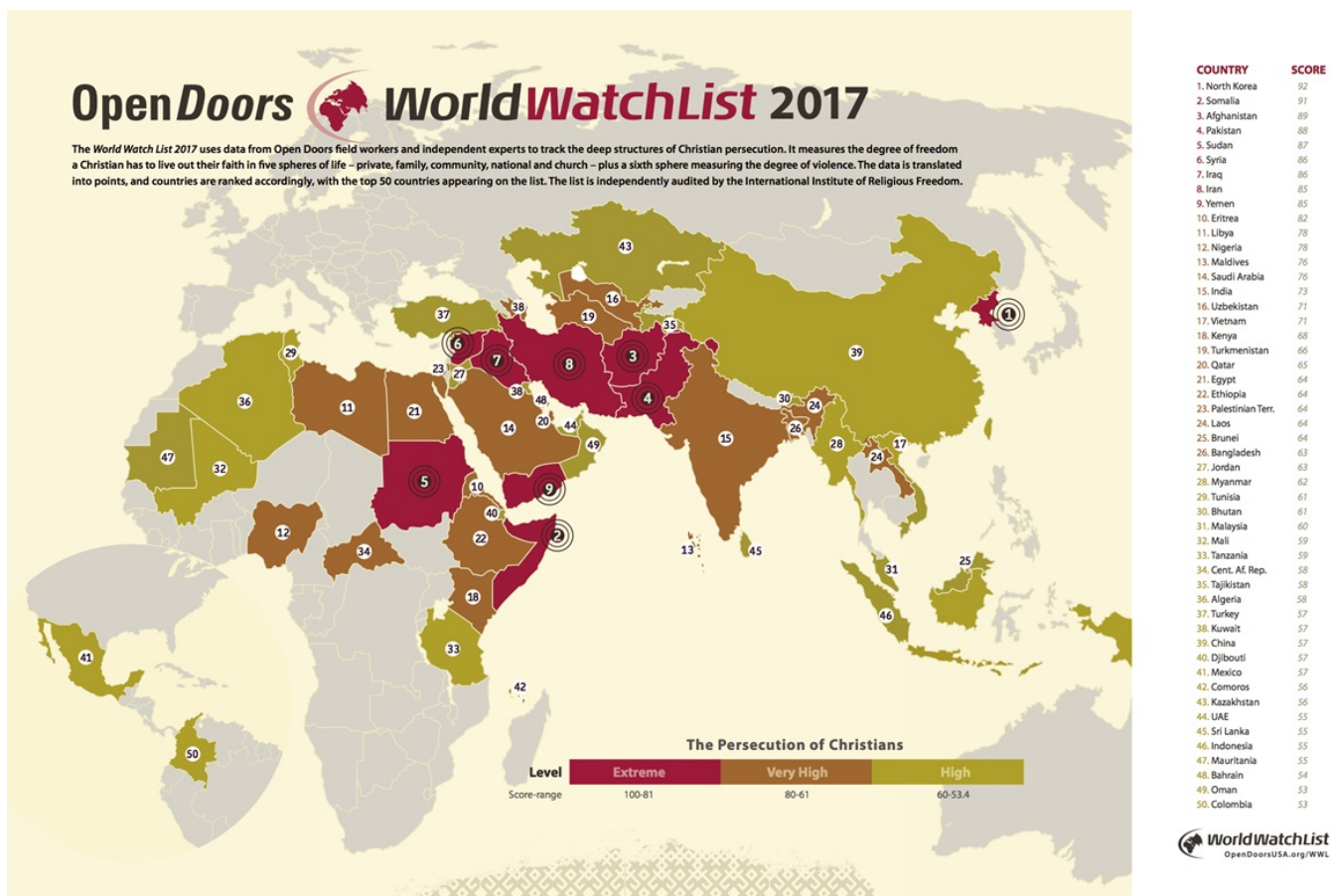
Christianity Today's coverage of recent WWL rankings noted how [North Korea was getting competition](#), as well as how the annual list [aims for effective anger](#) and shows persecuted believers that [they are not forgotten](#).

In 25 years of "chronicling and ranking" the political and societal restrictions on religious freedom experienced by Christians worldwide, Open Doors researchers identified 2016 as the "worst year yet."

"Persecution rose globally again for the third year in a row, indicating how volatile the situation has become," stated Open Doors. "Countries in South and Southeast Asia rapidly rose to unprecedented levels and now rank among such violent areas as the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa."

The [findings and trends](#) noted by Open Doors are stark:

- Approximately 215 million Christians experience high, very high, or extreme persecution.
- North Korea remains the most dangerous place to be a Christian (for 14 straight years).
- Islamic extremism remains the global dominant driver of persecution, responsible for initiating oppression and conflict in 35 out of the 50 countries on the 2017 list.
- Ethnic nationalism is fast becoming a major driver of persecution. "While this took an anti-establishment form in the West, in Asia it took an anti-minorities form, fueled by dramatic religious nationalism and government insecurity. It is common—and easy—for tottering governments to gain quick support by scapegoating Christians."
- The total number of persecution incidents in the top 50 most dangerous countries increased, revealing the persecution of Christians worldwide as a rising trend.
- The most violent: Pakistan, which rose to No. 4 on the list for a level of violence "exceeding even northern Nigeria."
- The killings of Christians in Nigeria saw an increase of more than 62 percent.
- The killings of Christians were more geographically dispersed than in most time periods studied. "Hitting closer to home, 23 Christian leaders in Mexico and four in Colombia were killed specifically for their faith," said Open Doors of the "rare" event.
- The worst increase: Mali, which moved up the most places on the list from No. 44 to No. 32.
- Asia is a new center of concern, with persecution rising sharply in Bangladesh, Laos, and Bhutan, and Sri Lanka joining the list for the first time.



Open Doors noted that India rose to its highest rank ever, No. 15, amid the continued rise of Hindu nationalism. “An average of 40 incidents were reported per month, including pastors beaten, churches burned and Christians harassed,” stated Open Doors. “Of the 64 million Christians in India, approximately 39 million experience direct persecution.”

In Central Asia, persecution spread due to both Islamic extremism and government attempts to restrict it. “In many countries, governmental raids of suspected Christian households increased, certain Christian books have been banned,” stated Open Doors, “and the membership requirement to remain a legal church doubled, resulting in many churches to be deemed illegal overnight.”

The top 10 nations where it is most dangerous and difficult to practice the Christian faith are:

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Somalia
- 3 Afghanistan
- 4 Pakistan
- 5 Sudan
- 6 Syria
- 7 Iraq
- 8 Iran
- 9 Yemen
- 10 Eritrea

Yemen was the only new country in the top 10, replacing Libya.

Over the past 25 years, only three countries have topped the list: North Korea (2002 – 2017), Saudi Arabia (1993 – 1995; 1998 – 2001), and Somalia (1996 – 1997).

The top 10 nations over the 25-year span are:

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Saudi Arabia
- 3 Iran
- 4 Somalia
- 5 Afghanistan
- 6 Maldives
- 7 Yemen
- 8 Sudan
- 9 Vietnam
- 10.China

Six countries appear on both lists—a sign of the concerning stability of persecution, noted Open Doors. The WWL data is compiled from reports spanning November 1, 2015, to October 31, 2016. The annual list is [audited](#) by the International Institute for Religious Freedom. Open Doors defines persecution as “any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ.” “Christians remain one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world,” it stated. “Christians throughout the world continue to risk imprisonment, loss of home and assets, torture, beheadings, rape and even death as a result of their faith.”

“The Open Doors World Watch List is the most accurate, thorough and intensive research available on the persecution of Christians,” said David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA. “It calculates not only deaths reported in the news, but also persecution at a grassroots level, where family-to-family persecution is tracked. The 25-year research shows where the most unstable areas for Christians have historically been and, in many countries, remain.”

Christianity Today previously reported the WWL rankings for [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), and [2012](#), including a spotlight on [where it's hardest to believe](#). CT also recently compiled 2016's [12 most-read stories of the persecuted church](#).

<https://twitter.com/CTMagazine>

Pray: Please remember to keep the over 200 million fellow believers living in areas of high or extreme persecution in your regular prayers that they will be encouraged in their faith and victorious.

Pray: that the Gospel will powerfully flow through their lives and words to those around them, resulting in the conversion of even their harshest persecutors.

08 George Soros, the Most Evil Man in the World?

George Soros. Who are we dealing with? By some he is described as a wealthy philanthropist and others say he is “the most evil man in the world” and that Satan is using him around the world.

Numerous people from India, Europe, South America and North America say, “This is one of the worst men being used by the evil one to bring down our countries.”

We know his history. He was born a Jew in Hungary. His family survived World War II by changing their name. He ended up in England going to school and then working in banks; then moving on to the United States.



His life continued to change as he was influenced by many demonic influences, some of them world religions.

He is a well-known supporter of the American Progressive movement, American liberal politicians, and liberal politicians worldwide. His clear purpose is to bring down Christian America (and other countries around the world) and turn them in to Liberal Communist /“Progressive” societies. (For those of you in Europe, [Read more](#)). Consider some of the consequences of Progressive political activism over the past eight years:

These were summarized by those who have studied this in depth. They pertain to both the United States and the world.

1. A growth industry trafficking in human baby organs and body parts – funded and defended by the Democratic Party.
2. The abandonment of a biblical view of marriage that protected and liberated children and adults from centuries of pagan slavery, poverty, polygamy and non-life-giving sexuality.
3. The Transgender agenda imposed by Obama-government edict, including gender re-education to be forced on our citizens, businesses, schools, military and churches.
4. Doubling of our national debt, economic stagnation and increased welfare dependency.
5. Increased minority unemployment, poverty and violent inner-city lawlessness, with an accompanying loss of opportunity, self-determination and family stability.
6. Heightened racial division and tension, and the growing phenomenon of paid demonstrators being recruited and dispatched to instigate protests that often become riots.
7. Open borders and ‘sanctuary’ cities increasing drugs, disease, crime, gangs and terrorism.
8. Forced refugee resettlement in hundreds of American cities without citizen consent, mandated by the federal government in collusion with the United Nations. “Refugees” are primarily non-assimilating Muslims, while authorities reject persecuted Christians.

9. Hostility towards Judeo-Christian religious liberty in our courts, media and universities including the suppression of conservative speakers, free thought and moral education.

10. The widespread, political use of the IRS to intimidate conservative, patriotic and Christian groups that disagree with the current political establishment.

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION

His work is carried on through the [Open Society Foundations](#) and Aspen Institute. OSF is his own creation; he did not create Aspen, but he has pretty well dominated it in recent years. Each is used in a different way. These are not only in United States but spread out around the world. (See Open Society around the world) If the two institutions are in the same city, like New York City or Washington D.C., they will often be adjacent to each other. He disperses a lot of his donations through his foundation Open Society Foundations. A look at some of these gives you a quick idea of some of the evil that he supports. I have listed just a few from the website.

He is involved in funding 206 organizations in the United States. [See List](#)

One of the best critiques of Soros is a video explaining him and what he does. I would suggest you watch this. See video.

To accomplish the downfall of America he has said, ([from the video](#))

THE KEY A well-organized minority to overwhelm the unorganized majority

..... hostile to society and the Church.....

“How do arrogant global elite control a free people?”

Destroy the foundations:

1. Christianity and the value of the human person
2. The family, children and education
3. Private property and national sovereignty”

End goal - Demoralize the once strong America.

OVERTHROW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND TRUMP

To overthrow our American government and Trump we are seeing demonstrations on the streets, destruction of property, university rioting and the list goes on. To some of us it seems more like what we have

seen overseas than a “democracy.” Millions of dollars are given towards this to support this destructive activity. A video of man who once had a good job and is now being paid by a Soros group describes how this happens. Each day he gets up in the morning, reads his email of where he is to go to lead demonstrations or carry out some other activities. Ask around and you will see this repeatedly. Detailed directions are sent out for each demonstration on where to meet, what and how to carry out activities, a buddy system, even down to where to get medical help if needed. “A well-organized minority overwhelms the unorganized majority.”

For example, in March Soros gave \$246 million to groups participating in a [Day Without Women](#) protest. Paid workers to bring down society and the government, and bring in their own socialist progressivism.

Another thing he is using is “Indivisible – A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda.” This is one of the scariest, most well-written documents that I have seen. Written by congressmen, staffers, etc. who understand how the government works. It is a manual on how to defeat President Trump on every move he makes. And how to pressure your congressmen and senators to change their minds and vote for something they may not even want to do. It is masterfully written and organized. They state, “Together, we have the power to resist—and we have the power to win.” No wonder we cannot get agreement in Congress.

As the “watchman on the wall,” prayer leaders, intercessors and Christians, the time for bickering is gone. We have to come together in UNITY under God’s leadership, or in the “blink of an eye” our nation will

be taken from us and we will lose everything. This means revival, or for us to be put on the persecution list. I do not say this rashly but out of experience of living in two countries where this has happened.

As God’s watchman we have the authority to overcome and see God have the victory through UNITED prayer. (Mt 28:18)

Please Pray:

1 We must pray that George Soros is changed and brought to Christ or brought down.

2 He has two sons, Robert and Alex. His son Alex is expected to take his place. Both need to be prayed for that they be changed or brought down.

3 Pray against demonstrations he organizes and particularly those who are paid demonstrators.

4 Pray against “Indivisible” and the work that it does to destroy the American Government.

5 Pray down his financial supply lines.

6 Pray into the 206 organizations he supports. See List

Written by a concerned prayer leader

09 Film: The Heart of Man



The Heart of Man” is a story inviting us to leave behind our broken, moralistic and religious way of thinking and relating to God and to others.

Once we begin to know who God is (and as a result who we are), we have something to invite the world into.

Freedom from performance.

Freedom from managing our behavior so we appear acceptable to God.

Freedom from our addictions, compulsive behaviors, secrecy and double lives.

This film tears the veil of confusion over the church's current identity crisis and enables it to invite the rest of the world to the banquet God is throwing all of us.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZPy_WRywyY

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Heart-Man-William-Paul-Young/dp/B0771X3LRH>

The Heart of Man is a cinematic retelling of the parable of the Prodigal Son, intertwined with contemporary and poignant true testimonies of sexual brokenness.

These genres are combined to reveal the compassionate heart of God the father for his sons and daughters illuminating an age-old truth: Shame is not a barrier to God's love, but a bridge to absolute transformation, freedom and hope.

Netflix: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80220646>

10 Study: *Youngest children face worst sex abuse*

A shocking study reveals youngest children face worst sex abuse

'We are also speaking about ... babies who are just months old'

Bob Unruh joined WND in 2006 after nearly three decades with the Associated Press, as well as several Upper Midwest newspapers, where he covered everything from legislative battles and sports to tornadoes and homicidal survivalists. He is also a photographer whose scenic work has been used commercially.



A new analysis of an international database of child sexual-abuse cases found that the victim in 5 percent of the cases was an infant or a toddler, and a surprising percentage of the abusers were women.

The study, “Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material,” was done by EPCAT International, a global network of 102 civil societies and organizations in 92 different nations. Funded by the European Union, it analyzed photos and videos in INTERPOL’s International Child Sexual Exploitation database.

Disturbingly, the study found that the younger the victim, the more severe the abuse was likely to be. The study looked at ages, ethnicity and the likely location of the filming of the abuse.

It found that the vast majority of online child sexual abuse material is made by those in the victim’s circle of trust.

That means “identifying the victim is a priority, because as well as providing an opportunity to remove the child from harm it is often the first step in identifying the offender.”

It noted that there are limitations to the conclusions, because about half the world’s population lives in nations that are not connected to the database yet.

The analysis found 65 percent of the victims were female, 31 percent male and the rest of the offending material depicted both male and female victims.

“When boys were depicted in the abuse, it was more likely to be severe or involve paraphilic themes,” the report said. “It is often considered that most victims of sexual abuse and exploitation are girls. However, the significant proportion of boys depicted in unidentified images and videos in the ICSE Database invites closer attention to this group.”

More than three-quarters of the victims analyzed were white children, 10 percent Hispanic or Latino, 10 percent Asian and small percentages black, the report said.

“The ethnicity may be a proxy indicator for the location of the abuse or exploitation.”

On ages: “Where the unidentified victim’s age could be determined, 56.2 percent of cases depicted prepubescent children, 25.4 percent were pubescent children, and 4.3 percent were very young children (infants and toddlers),” the report said. “When victims were younger, the abuse was more likely to be severe.” The report said it is “often assumed that victims of sexual abuse are older children.

“This may be due in part to increased media attention and public awareness surrounding the risks associated with young people’s use of technology and the internet, including the production of youth-produced material, but it may also be due to the fact that most people find it hard to imagine the extreme sexual assault of an infant. While the victimization of any child of any age is inexcusable, over 60 percent of unidentified victims in this study were prepubescent, including very young children (infants and toddlers). This finding highlights the need to reflect and potentially prioritize this age group in policy and programming.”

In cases in which the gender of the offender could be determined, 92.7 percent were male, and female offenders often were depicted with a male.

“It was almost always the males who recorded the sexual activity, while the female offenders were actively involved in the abuse of the child(ren),” the report said.

“In cases where females abused a child on their own ... these lone female offenders appeared younger in age (some apparently in late adolescence or young adulthood) than those depicted abusing a child together with a male.”

The report said the role played by females “is apparently complex, particularly in terms of distinguishing females who act as proponents or facilitators of this crime, or both.”

The report also noted that experts could determine that 72 countries were identified as locations for the abuse.

INTERPOL officials said there are more than 1 million media files of child sexual exploitation and abuse in the group’s database.

The extremes reviewed in the study included gross assault, sadism, bestiality and even necrophilia.

“Unfortunately, most people do not realize that when we talk about child abuse, we are also speaking about very young children, babies who are just months old, being the victims of extreme sexual assault,” said Bjorn Sellstrom, INTERPOL’s Crimes Against Children unit coordinator.

“Victim identification is at the core of INTERPOL’s work in connecting global investigations into online child sexual abuse. This report underlines the need for more countries to connect to the ICSE database and become part of this important network of investigators dedicated to rescuing child abuse victims,” he said.

WND.com

Pray for the protection of the children from those who want to abuse them in this frightful manner. Pray for the authorities to take strict, harsh action against those who mistreat the children in their nations. Pray: that the media will begin to cover the plight of such children and that authorities in the USA and other nations where this is a problem will be moved to take action against pedophiles and pimps who engage in sex trafficking. Pray for a huge socio-political revulsion and that this kind of abuse of children, teens and young adults will be stamped out through strong action by our governments.

11 Invitation: 24:14 Prayer Task Force



24:14 is a global coalition praying and working together to start kingdom movement engagements in every unreached people and place by 2025.

An invitation to participate: 24:14 vision to see all unreached people groups engaged with a Kingdom movement

We would like to ask for your prayerful consideration and help, to widen the canopy of prayer over the 24:14 vision. Please could you take a look at the attached information about “1 Partner 1 Day” which aims to have 24/7 prayer cover each month? A day a month being covered by different organisations.

This opportunity will help each of us focus on intentional prayer times in our organisations, pray for our ministries focus on the unreached and support the CPM teams who are working across the regions of the world to see all peoples with a CPM engagement. (see the attached document for details)

We are asking for each of you to consider committing each month to a particular day (of your choice), preferably a 24-hour period. This will enable us all to participate in the 24:14 vision, and join with others to cover the year with prayer 24/7.

Here is a brief summary of the 24:14 vision which you might find helpful for your ministries to look at:

24:14 Prayer Task Force

“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” – Matthew 24:14

24:14 is a global coalition praying and working together to start kingdom movement engagements in every unreached people and place by 2025.

We are a global coalition of individuals, teams, mission organizations, church networks, mission networks, and church planting movements fully submitted to Christ and devoted to seeing His Name worshipped in every corner of the world. To see this come to fruition, we are unified in commitment to three priorities:

REACHING THE UNREACHED We are trusting God to use our generation to fully reach multitudes from every tribe, tongue, people and nation with the glorious news of Jesus Christ. This is an ambitious, God-sized goal and we're relying on Him to see it to fruition.

CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS

We see God at work in the world through movements and are joining Him in launching kingdom movements in every unreached people group and place. We define a "kingdom movement" as reproducing disciples, churches, leaders and movements.

URGENCY

"It's all about Jesus' glory and He is being robbed of worship in thousands of places." –Steve Smith

We are catalyzing these kingdom movements with wartime urgency to reach every unengaged, unreached people group and place with the gospel by December 31, 2025 ... no matter the cost. Together, we are mobilizing prayer, resources, manpower and more to this end.

JOIN THE COALITION

Interested in joining 24:14? Contact us online at www.2414now.net/contact-us.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- > Read more about 24:14 <https://www.2414now.net/articles>
- > Sign up to join the 24/7 canopy of prayer supporting the 24:14 vision and receive weekly prayer emails (contact prayer@2414now.net).
- > Sign up to learn more about how to partner in prayer with a specific DMM team who are seeking to reach UPGs in their location (contact pairingproject@2414now.net).
- > Set a 24:14 alarm on your phone for 12:14 pm each day, to remind you to pray for fulfillment of Matthew 24:14.
- > Join a Geographic Stewardship Team (GSTMs) which will identify and/or train implementers who will seek to multiply disciples and simple churches within their focus People Group or geographic area. We need a huge number of volunteer GSTMs in many locations, to ensure the entire world is being covered. For more information, contact GST@2414now.net.
- > *24:14 Coalition 1 Partner/1 Day Initiative*
- > 24:14 Coalition: A network of organizations, networks and churches which are all committed to the 24:14

vision of praying and working together to start kingdom movement engagements in every unreached people group with urgency by 2025.

To this end, we, the 24:14 Prayer Task Force are seeking to develop a 24/7 canopy of prayer that will pray into this vision of seeing every U/UPG engaged with a team focused on seeing a movement of multiplying churches and disciples. We would like to see 31 organizations, prayer networks from existing movements, networks and churches commit to cover in prayer one day per month every month.

NEXT STEPS: YOUR RESPONSE To join the 24:14 1Partner1Day Initiative then please email to prayer@2414now.net,

1 Please let us know the **day of the month** that you can commit to as an organization and **how many hours** in that day you are committing to pray and fast.

2 Please let us know **the name and email of the prayer coordinator** *Our thanks on behalf of the 24:14 Prayer Task Force.*

- A monthly prayer guide of informed prayer points that are specific, measurable, and Bible-based.
- Regular praise reports in order to encourage groups as they pray.
- Monthly or bi-monthly communication with a member of the 24:14 Prayer Task Force. This will be for the purpose of encouraging, informing, identifying gaps and challenges, etc.

Thank you for your partnership in sharing the Gospel to all peoples,

Jenny Oliphant
WWW.2414NOW.NET

12 Pray for Christians in China



For decades we have strived to openly share news and prayer requests from Asia, as we seek to help God's people extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

In this newsletter we have a deep burden to share with you, and we ask for your fervent prayers and intercession for our brothers and sisters in the Chinese house churches. They are now undergoing a fiery trial that is more fierce than anything experienced in China since the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s.

In the past 18 months, **the situation for Christians in China has dramatically worsened.** At the start, we hesitated to publicly share new information from China for a few reasons. Some of the news we have received from church leaders is so dire that most believers around the world simply wouldn't believe it if we told them. We also wanted to make sure these things were not part of a short-term crackdown, as over the years we have seen numerous seasons of persecution come and go in China. However, we believe it is now time to present the known facts, to help people understand what our fellow believers are experiencing right now.

We have also shared several links to web pages in this message, to help people learn more about the situation from other sources. Please take the time to read these articles.

* President Xi Jinping—who is about to have the constitution amended so he can remain in power for as long as he wishes—first raised concerns among Christians about three years ago when he spoke about the need to control "illegal religion". Persecution has markedly worsened since then, and hundreds of house church pastors have vanished over the past few years. Many are assumed to have been killed. Others may be held in "black jails" — secret facilities where they are tortured mercilessly. **When someone enters a black jail they are usually never heard from again.** Their families have no idea of their whereabouts, and all communication ceases.

* You are unlikely to hear much fresh information from the Church in China, because most mission organizations working in China have been targeted in recent years. Thousands of foreign Christians have been expelled from the country, while the large 'persecution' ministries have seen their Chinese contacts arrested. The result is that news about the Church in China is becoming difficult to access. The government appears to be **trying to throw a blanket over the Church**, so that the rest of the world can't see or hear what's going on inside the country.

* Christian activity in China has been strictly monitored, due to the presence of tens of millions of facial-recognition cameras that have sprung up in every city and town, and now even in villages. The data from these cameras is fed into a massive computer network around the clock. Using 'artificial intelligence', alerts are sent to the police if the computers detect any suspicious activity, such as a group of Christians gathering at a location for worship or Bible study. **We encourage you to watch the following short video** from the BBC. It is sobering, but will help you understand the challenges facing our brothers and sisters in China:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-china-42248056/in-your-face-china-s-all-seeing-state>

* For decades, most members of Three-Self churches in China thought they were safe because they had registered with the government. Many looked down on the illegal house church networks and chided them for not "obeying the laws of the land." The distinctions between the two groups are now blurred. Hundreds of Three-Self pastors have also been arrested in the last few years, and church buildings have been demolished by special paramilitary forces. The largest single worship center in China, the Golden Lampstand Church in Shanxi Province, had a congregation of more than 50,000 members. The building, which was constructed with official permission, was recently blown up by the Chinese authorities and is now a pile of rubble:

<http://www.dw.com/en/in-xi-we-trust-is-china-cracking-down-on-christianity/a-42224752>

* Last year the **government announced draconian new laws** designed to punish "illegal religion" (i.e. all worship or activity outside the control of the atheistic Communist Party). These new laws, which came into force last month, include fines of up to US\$30,000 for holding prayer meetings or Bible studies, while Christians who travel out of the country (including to Hong Kong) to attend conferences or other Christian events may be arrested and fined up to US\$50,000. These amounts are more than a lifetime's income for many Chinese believers. Pressure is also being applied to those who associate with Christians. For example, landlords face heavy fines if they rent a property to any believers who subsequently use it for meetings.

* As a result of this massive suppression, in the past year almost all house church networks we serve have stopped holding large gatherings, and most have broken down into **tiny groups of no more than 4 or 5 believers**. Even small meetings like this carry risk of detection and police action, so great is the control being exerted.

* In some parts of the country, thousands of Chinese Christians have been arrested. The worst of all is in northwest China, where the government has cast a wide net to demolish the threat of Islam, with at least 120,000 people currently believed to be held in concentration camps in the region:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/25/at-least-120000-muslim-ughurs-held-in-chinese-re-education-camps-report>

Many Christians in Xinjiang, both Han Chinese and ethnic minority believers, have been rounded up and **sent to the same concentration camps**. Church leaders we work with have told us things there are "worse than during the Cultural Revolution." <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/china-100-christians-sent-re-education-camps-xinjiang/>

* **The supply of Bibles to Chinese Christians has been severely reduced.** The house churches have never been officially allowed to access Bibles, but now the registered churches are also reporting a great shortage. Last year, the few remaining Bible courier ministries that were operating from Hong Kong also closed down. A decade ago, Asia Harvest was one of about a dozen known ministries providing Bibles to the house churches of China. Most of those groups have since been forced out of the country through threats, intimidation, seduction, and other means.

We have received reports of some who carried Bibles into China recently being stopped at the border. In the past, officials would confiscate the Bibles and allow the person to continue on their journey. Now, those caught with Chinese Bibles have been interrogated for up to 12 hours, expelled from China, and banned from coming back for 10 years. We believe the overall purpose is to isolate the children of God in China **by strangling the supply of God's Word**. Many Chinese Christian websites, Bible apps and other resources have also been blocked by the government.

* **China is also extending its anti-Christian influence into neighboring countries.** We have received reports of believers in Nepal, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam being warned not to spread the Gospel across their borders into China, or they will face severe consequences.

Summary: Few Christians around the world imagined that China would ever return to its intense anti-Christian persecutions like during Mao's rule, but things are lining up for a brutal and prolonged period of struggle for Christians in China. In many ways, because of new technology, believers face an even greater challenge than during the dark days of the Cultural Revolution. Many in the West thought that Communism collapsed with the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Politicians were certain that free market reforms would

cause China to open up and embrace democracy. They were wrong. The dark forces of aggressive, God-hating atheism are alive and well in China, North Korea, and other parts of the world.

Please Pray for China

* **Praise God** that He has done a wonderful work of grace in China during nearly 70 years of Communist rule! Today there are at least 100 million Christians in the country, many of whom love the Lord Jesus with all their hearts and are willing to lay down their lives for the Gospel. Pray this persecution will cause the Church to **rise up and claim even more of their country for the kingdom of God.**

* **Please pray the kingdom of Jesus Christ would be strengthened and would grow** even larger as a result of the current anti-Christian campaign. Pray that Satan would not have his way, but that God's children would be covered by the Blood of Jesus and would come through the tribulations refined like pure gold.

* Ask God to glorify His Name once again among the people of China, and that by breaking down into tiny groups of believers, the **churches will get back to the basics of the faith** and introduce more people to the Lord than ever before.

* Most of the younger generation of Christian leaders in China have never experienced severe, physical persecution. Understandably, many are nervous. Please pray our **Heavenly Father would reveal Christ's all-sufficiency to them**, and they would come through to the other side closer to God and better equipped to lead His people.

* **Pray the Holy Spirit would give His children heavenly wisdom** and strategies to know what to do in this crisis, and that the transformative power of the Gospel will continue to be shared to the one billion people in China who have not yet bowed their knee to the Lord.

* By God's hand, Asia Harvest has provided almost 11 million Bibles to the house churches in China over the years. We wish it was many millions more! The pressure is intense, but **please pray the Lord will continue to hold open the door for us to continue. Please intercede for our Chinese co-workers** who oversee the projects. As long as there is a slight opening, we want to faithfully continue to obey what God first called us to do 30 years ago.

* Satan and wicked men have continually tried to destroy God's people in China over the centuries, but God's plans have progressed regardless. **Pray the King of Kings would confound the present generation of rulers**, and they would learn the lesson that many before have discovered, dating back to the time of Pharaoh's persecution of God's children, when the Bible says, **"The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites"** (Exodus 1:12).

Please feel free to share this message with any concerned believers, or to post it on social media etc.

Until All have Heard of Jesus,

The team at Asia Harvest

www.asiaharvest.org

13 Pray for Iraq and its Elections

Our nation has come out of the dark tunnel of ISIS with a heavy burden of mass corruption and many political parties.

The nation is heading for an election mid of May, we need a Divine intervention to choose the right person that will bring the ship to the right shore.

PM EL-Ebady has proven to be a godly person who is clean and sincere to the nation. I have called many to agree with us to pray that he will win the seat for PM for a second term.

Thus, kindly agree with us for this.

Unemployment is very high; education and health services are the lowest in 50 yrs. I am very optimistic that should Mr. EL- ebady win, then many positives then take place.

Blessings and thanks,

A Prayer Leader friend in Baghdad

14 Pray for Nepal

Greetings in the name of our mighty Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we had blessed prayer meeting in House of Prayer. Yes, God is continuing His works in Nepal through His people.

Please pray for our newly formed central government and the 7 states of Nepal, very small country but more states.

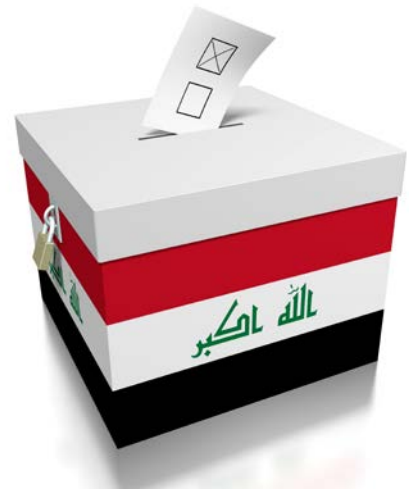
Pray for rain in Nepal now very much dry all over the Nepal.

Please pray for sustainable country of Nepal and good government.

Please pray for God's hand for prosperity and blessing upon our country.

We are so much thankful to your regular prayer and love for Nepal. We honor your heart for the Lord!

Thank you for loving us and praying for us and investing us for His Kingdom.



May the Lord bless you

Govinda and Sujita

15 USA Mid-term Elections and the Need to Pray

By the year 2020, 40% of the electorate will be Millennial. According to recent surveys almost 70% of Millennials said they would vote for a socialist. The good(?) news is that they couldn't accurately define what socialism is. Lots of room for education. So little time. Unless the Lord intervenes, losing this country may not wait until the 'next' generation. They are here. And given the special elections we are losing around the country, it looks like they have already kicked in. It is critically important to pray against the work of the enemy to deceive America's youth – especially women.



Women outvote men in America by a lot. They tend to vote significantly to the left of men - especially younger women. That's what the 'War on Women' was all about - appealing to under-informed women. Again, it is critically important to pray against deception.

Democrats need to win 23 seats to take control of the House. In the past 20 mid-term elections (40 years) the party in control of the White House has lost an average of 24 seats, with the exception of Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs, and George W after 911 when the party in power in the White House actually gained seats.

Here is the prayer challenge: 24 Republican members are running for re-election in districts that Hillary won. This is going to take as big a prayer push as the 2016 elections did. If we lose the House or the Senate, the freedom agenda will be blocked and impeachment proceedings will commence immediately.

BOTS have been launched to deceive corporations into thinking that there are 10's of thousands of people swarming for change. Case in point: with the recent school shooting, BOTS have swarmed corporations that affiliate with the NRA. Citigroup and MetLife just discontinued their relationship with the NRA due to 'public pressure' not understanding that the pressure is the result of a few very adept social media manipulators. Also, the MSM has published lists of businesses who are affiliated with the NRA.

Can't emphasize enough how important to pray against the work of the "Liar and Father of Lies".... especially in media (social and otherwise). More than almost anything, we need to pray that God will awaken the electorate to the truth, and destroy the enemy's attempts to deceive. Jesus referred to the "Prince of the Power of the Air". The airwaves have been dominated by deception for decades.

We need to break the strongholds of deception over media, education, entertainment and the church. Yes, the church. Soros has invested heavily in seminaries in an effort to put a leftist spin on scripture. It was a brilliant strategy. The church is confused, dis-unified and unaware. The Catholic Church, for instance, is basically split right down the middle. If we can turn the church back to truth, we can turn the country.

(A concerned prayer leader)

Let's do join in prayer that deception will be overthrown in the upcoming mid-term elections (November) and that people with Socialist and Leftist views will be hindered from being elected. Pray that the "swamp" of Washington DC will be cleansed from those who have selfish and wicked motives and that those the Lord has chosen will be put into power to lead the USA forward and in order to become a blessing to the rest of the world.

16 Australia Calls World to Pray & Fast for USA

For the sixth year in a row, Australia is calling the nations of the world to join with them to pray and fast for four days for the United States of America, from 30 April – 3 May 2018.

May 3 is America's National Day of Prayer. The theme is "Pray for America - UNITY" Ephesians 4:3. <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.
April 30 is America's National Day of Repentance.
<http://www.dayofrepentance1.org>



Promo YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B5nFcDBMOA>

Facebook Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanberraDeclaration/videos/2081577435200931/UzpfSTM1MTc4OTk3NDg5NjY1MDoxNjg5NDYyMjExMTM1NDEz/>

Commissioner James Condon, a member of the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team, said, "God has done remarkable things in America since we began to pray and fast, but God can do greater things yet! We in Australia believe it is our turn to stand in the gap for the nation of America and pray for revival and transformation for the USA through prayer and fasting according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Whilst America has a new administration, the need for a new National Awakening has never been more apparent.

Commissioner Condon from Salvation Army continued, "We in Australia are grateful for the protection that America gave Australia and the nations of the free world during World War II. The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought by USA in 1942, was the turning point in the Second World War for Australia. America continues to be a blessing to the world. Even to this day the USA is the largest contributor of foreign aid among all the countries of the world. Thank God for America!"

President Reagan renewed the call for a National Day of Prayer in 1982 and said, "National prayer is deeply rooted in our American heritage... The first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed in 1775 by the Second Continental Congress. As thousands gathered in prayer in places of worship and encampments throughout the new land, the dispersed colonists found a new spirit of UNITY and resolve in this remarkable expression of public faith."

Sue Tinworth, a member of the National Day of Prayer and Fasting team, talking about the history of prayer in the USA said, "President Abraham Lincoln, on 30 April 1863 called for a Day of 'Humiliation, Prayer and

Fasting' at a time of great national crisis by Governmental decree which said, "We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God... It behooves us then, to humble ourselves... to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness". Unfortunately, today America is again in a dangerous predicament because it has forgotten God. Sadly the situation in Australia is very similar. We in our nation have forgotten God and we are in danger of paying the price for our sin."

Ps Warwick Marsh, also from the National Day of Prayer and Fasting team said, "We are thankful for America's strong Christian heritage, but this will not save America, only the blood of Christ can. America and Australia need revival and reformation, as does the whole world. We all need more of God. We invite you and the nations of the world to join with us in four days of prayer and fasting for the USA."

James Condon / Sue Tinworth / Warwick Marsh

National Day of Prayer & Fasting. www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nationaldayofprayerandfasting>

17 IPC Calendar

New Year's Day SUNRISE PRAYER RELAY 1 Jan 2019

<http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org/>

Americas National Day of Prayer – 3 May 2018

<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

Trumpet Call – Birmingham, UK Sat 9 June 2018

<http://www.worldprayer.org.uk>



United Prayer Rising Events:

UPRISING Canada - August 8-11 2018

UPRISING South Africa, Johannesburg – October 4-6, 2018

UPRISING Sao Paulo, Brazil - October 10-13, 2018

UPRISING Global: Jakarta, Indonesia - October 24-26, 2018 (WYPA)

18 The IPC Website

The IPC website is part of a hub that aims to equip and inform the Church worldwide. We run it as a service to our partner organisations and ministries to help them to publicise their prayer alerts, news, events and resources. We would invite you to get involved.



www.ipcprayer.org

If you have:

1. News / Events: news of international prayer-related interest such as upcoming initiatives and conferences
2. Regional Prayer Requests: strategic prayer requests and alerts for your nation or region
3. Resources: teaching articles, media or testimonies

... we can, in most cases add them to the website. Please send copy along with images and hyperlinks to any existing online content that we can point people to for further information.

Articles for inclusion should be submitted to the IPC administrator at office@ipcprayer.org.

19 About International Prayer Connect (IPC)

OUR VISION:

"Compelled by God to seek Christ's glory worldwide for the blessing, healing, and transforming of the nations, International Prayer Connect exists as a coalition of prayer networkers and mobilizers working together to motivate, develop and equip national movements and local churches to fill all nations with prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commandment and the completion of the Great Commission."



HOW WE OPERATE:

The IPC is not an organization as such. We are a fellowship of people involved in mobilizing prayer throughout the world. We function as an international "network of networks", connecting international, regional, and national prayer ministries and networks. We also arrange or support special prayer initiatives that bring prayer leaders together from time to time to pray for matters of regional and global concern to the Body of Christ. Regional prayer summits have been arranged or supported by the IPC in most regions of the world as well as international prayer initiatives for the United Nations, Hollywood, and other issues.

The IPC is led by an international leadership team, now called the International Prayer Council, is composed of twenty leaders who coordinate regional prayer networks or international prayer initiatives of various kinds. We seek to be catalysts and connectors within the global prayer movement towards the fulfillment of Habakkuk 2:14- that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

We do not have an official membership but connect with individuals and networks through IPC Connections, a periodical newsletter distributed via e-mail to give prayer information to interested people. Please share this newsletter with prayer coordinators, prayer network leaders, and others who have an interest in the global prayer movement so that they can be informed about different prayer initiatives, existing prayer networks, and how to participate in them

20 Donations

PayPal is an online banking service that can receive donations from over 30 currencies worldwide through automatic draft and credit cards. It is safe and secure.



International Prayer Connect is a non-profit ministry funded through the Transformation Prayer Foundation and relies on individual donations to keep the work going. If you are willing to provide support, please click below.



Thank you for your sacrificial gift to IPC!

[Click Here to Donate](#)

21 Contacting the IPC Office

IPC Office Email: office@ipcprayer.org

IPC Connect Comms Team: editor@ipcprayer.org

IPC Website (free resources and information for all ages): www.ipcprayer.org

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/ipcprayer>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ipcprayer>

NOTE: Constant Contact is our mass e-mail service. If you have unsubscribed from the newsletter through Constant Contact, you will not be sent other information you might be expecting from IPC. To get back on specific database mailing lists, you will need to sign up again at www.ipcprayer.org.

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