

International Prayer Connections

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World



FEBRUARY 2018

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01 Prayer as a Strategic Resource in Mission

By John D. Robb

For today's hyperactive missions leaders, apart from opening and closing meetings, saying grace at the table or as a special consolation in time of emergency or stress, prayer is most often treated as a harmless pastime rather than a strategic resource. In our attitude we often relegate it to the likes of doting old ladies who have nothing better to do with the autumn time of life. Certainly, for most mission leaders, prayer does not seem to be where the action is, otherwise wouldn't we be giving it far more attention in our busy lives?



A Revealing Case Study

One of the greatest illustrations of prayer as a strategic resource in frontier missions is found in the experience of J.O. Fraser, the pioneer missionary to the Lisu tribe of southwest China. As a young missionary with the China Inland Mission in the early 1900s, he preached Christ for several years among the far-flung mountain villages of this people with almost no outward results, Fraser's few converts fell back into the clutches of demonism, and he himself, attacked by severe depression and suicidal despair, almost gave up his mission. Breakthrough occurred when two things happened:

1. The Spirit of God enabled him to pray "the prayer of faith" for several hundred Lisu families to come to Christ.
2. He succeeded in forming a prayer support group of eight to ten Christians in his home country to back up the work in ongoing prayer.

His wife later wrote about the difference this prayer effort made in Fraser's work: "He described to me how in his early years he had been all but defeated by the forces of darkness arrayed against him.... He came to the place where he asked God to take away his life rather than allow him to labor on without results. He would then tell me of the prayer forces that took up the burden at home and the tremendous lifting of the cloud over his soul, of the gift of faith that was given him and how God seemed suddenly to step in, drive back the forces of darkness and take the field"

Fraser himself said:

"Work on our knees. I am feeling more and more that it is after all just the prayer of God's people that call down blessing upon the work, whether they are directly engaged in it or not. Paul may plant and Apollos water, but it is God who gives the increase, and this increase can be brought down from heaven by believing prayer whether offered in China or in England.....If this is so, then Christians at home can do as much for foreign missions as those actually on the field. I believe it will only be known on the last day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home..."

Solid lasting missionary work is done on our knees. What I covet more than anything else is earnest believing prayer, and I write to ask you to continue in prayer for me and the work here."

"I used to think that prayer should have the first place and teaching the second. I now feel that it would be truer to give prayer the first, second and third places and teaching the fourth.... We are not dealing with an enemy that fires at the head only- that keeps the mind only in ignorance-but with an enemy who uses poison gas attacks which wrap the people around with deadly effect and yet are impalpable, elusive...Nor would it be of any more avail to teach or preach to Lisu here while they are held back by these invisible forces...But the breath of God can blow away all those miasmatic vapors from the atmosphere of a village in answer to your prayers. We are not fighting against flesh and blood. You deal with the fundamental issues of this Lisu work when you pray against the principalities, the powers, the world rulers of this

darkness, the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12)."

In the years that followed hundreds of families accepted Christ and ultimately a people movement involving tens of thousands of Lisus ensued. Today in southwest China and northern Burma they are a missionary tribe taking the Gospel to other tribes about them.

What would have happened if Fraser had not formed that prayer support group which he so faithfully kept informed with up-dates from the field? Would the breakthrough have occurred? In the decades since, how many potential breakthroughs among the unreached have not occurred because: 1) Prayer was not perceived and used as a strategic weapon. 2) Prayer supporters were not kept linked ongoingly to a particular unreached group or provided with a supply of up-to-date information? In relation to our society's theme for this year, could it be that prayer as perceived and practiced by "Great Commission Christians" is a crucial missing link in the accomplishment of world evangelization?

After dealing with the nature and importance of prayer briefly, I would like to enumerate some reasons from Scripture, history and current experience, why prayer may be the crucial link, the strategic weapon in frontier missions. Having demonstrated the importance of strengthening this link, we will then put our minds together in discussion to discover new ways we might operationalize the linkage of focused intercession and the unevangelized world.

Prayer at its very heart is a linking activity. First, prayer links us with God to receive His power and direction as we pray for the world and carry out our own ministries. Secondly, as we pray for the unevangelized world, it links us with particular unreached groups and the Christian workers laboring among them. It links our efforts and their efforts to God in His almightiness, without whose help all such efforts ultimately are in vain. O. Hallesby writes:

"The work of prayer is prerequisite to all other work in the Kingdom of God for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple (italics mine) the powers of Heaven to our helplessness, the powers which can turn water into wine and remove mountains in our own life and the lives of others, the powers which can awaken those who sleep in sin and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible.

Yet having said this, prayer can often be the missing link in our efforts on behalf of the unevangelized world. As important as good organization, planning, and strategy are in world evangelization, in our busyness for God we may have neglected to link up with His power and direction to carry out that particular part of His mission given to us. And that is a crucial omission!

John D. Robb is Chairman of the [International Prayer Council and International Prayer Connect](#)

02 Pray for Yemen

Yemen has been undergoing a major civil war over the past three years. Cities are continuing to be bombed and the infrastructure is collapsing. The media reports that over 10,000 people have been killed with three million displaced from their homes. There is severe famine in parts of the country. Its few oil fields are not producing. Cholera is epidemic, the currency is collapsing, prices are soaring, and many in the public sector haven't been paid in over a year. There is also fear that school age boys will be recruited to fight for the Houthis who control large areas of the country.



7 Key Areas for Prayer for Yemen:

Please pray for the peace and the rebuilding of Yemen in these seven key areas:

Hunger: The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is severe as many are starving or on the verge of having nothing to eat. Malnutrition and infant mortality is becoming normal. Pray that food will be sent and arrive to those who must have it to survive. Pray that ships, airplanes and trucks will be given permission to bring an abundance of food and supplies. Pray that those who seek to exploit others due to high prices will be led by God to put aside greed and help the many who are battling poverty.

Cholera: Yemen currently has one of the world's largest epidemics of cholera. Pray that this illness will not spread, that medicines to help those suffering will become available, and that people suffering from it will get well. Pray that garbage will be picked up, that there will be fuel to boil water, and that the people will have clean food and water.

Bombings: Pray that those who are fighting one another will put aside their differences and go to the negotiating table. Pray that they will agree to work together for peace. Pray for the violence to cease!

Infrastructure: Roads, houses, schools, factories, oil fields, and hospitals have been destroyed. Pray that the generosity of others will flood this nation. Pray that peace will come so that rebuilding can begin.

Displaced people: There are three million displaced people in areas of the country which are relatively peaceful. Displaced families have moved there. Pray for those who are hosting them that they will have enough to meet their own needs as well as the needs of others. Pray for peace to remain in these areas. Pray that the displaced people will be able to return to their homes.

Trauma: Three years of war have created a nation of people who have buried family, been injured physically, and have suffered extreme mental trauma. Pray over them the words about Jesus in Isaiah 61:1 – “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

Yemeni believers: Thank God for brothers and sisters in Christ who continue to be a witness in Yemen. Praise Him for bringing many Yemenis to Himself! Pray that God will provide for their needs during this time of war and economic disaster. Pray that their numbers will increase and that they would be able to worship together. Pray that they would be mobilized to serve their communities and be a light that shines brightly in the darkness of this war. In addition, Yemeni believers suffer extreme persecution according Open Doors which has ranked Yemen as the ninth most difficult place to be a Christian on its 2017 Open Doors World Watch List. So not only is there a physical war, but a spiritual one as well. Pray that the believers would wear the full armor of God and stand strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Ephesians 6:10,11), serving and loving each other and their neighbors for Christ's glory in Yemen.

On the PTAP web site, you can also find a word.doc version of this and also a powerful PowerPoint about what is going on in Yemen. <http://www.pray-ap.info/yemen.html>

[WHO article about the relief efforts](#)

03 Afghanistan

You have probably heard about the massive attack on an international Hotel in the Capital City on Sunday, where a dear sister of us was murdered. Two days later a well-known NGO who worked the country for many years was attacked with many people killed.

This building up of armed aggression against foreigners and NGO's needs re-evaluation on our side. Please pray that we have wisdom how we can improve the safety of our workers and for much needed peace and security in the country.



There are serious differences between the governor in a Northern Province and the president. The tension is rising and there are fears for a feud within the government. Pray that this will be stopped.

TEAMS

The teams are quite shaken through the sudden death of our good friend. Continue to pray for protection and encouragement during these times of uncertainty.

CP

Despite this, one team could reach out to people who showed interest. Pray that they will continue to do so with much boldness and wisdom.

Pray for the local believers that they will be equipped and that doors may open into a neighbouring country in order to start regular training programmes there soon.

**Thank for praying with us,
Your ElRock Team**

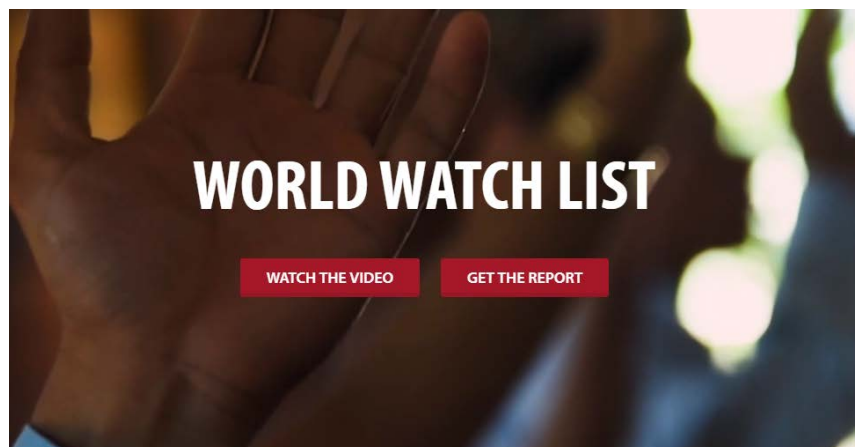
04 215 Million Christians Persecuted, Mostly by Muslims

by **Raymond Ibrahim** SEP January 21, 2018 at 5:00 am

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/11775/persecuted-christians-open-doors>

In short, the overwhelming majority of persecution that these 215 million Christians experience around the world — especially the worst forms, such as rape and murder — occurs at the hands of Muslims.

If time is on the side of Christians living under Communist regimes, it is *not* on the side of Christians living under Islam. The center of the great Christian Byzantine Empire is now an increasingly intolerant, rapidly Islamizing Turkey. Carthage, once a bastion of Christianity — where one of Christendom's greatest theologians, St. Augustine, was born and where the New Testament canon was confirmed in 397 — is today 99%



Muslim-majority Tunisia.

As what began in the seventh century comes closer to fruition and the entire world becomes more Islamic and "infidel" free, as in Iraq, confronting these uncomfortable facts is at least a welcome first step in countering the problem.

"215 million Christians experience high levels of persecution" around the world, according to Open Doors, a human rights organization. On its recently released World Watch List 2018, which ranks the world's 50 worst nations wherein to be Christian, 3,066 Christians were killed, 1,252 abducted, and 1,020 raped or sexually harassed on account of their faith; and 793 churches were attacked or destroyed.

The Islamic world had the lion's share of this persecution; 38 of the 50 worst nations are Muslim-majority. The report further cites "Islamic oppression" behind the "extreme persecution" that prevails in eight of the 10 worst nations. In short, the overwhelming majority of persecution that these 215 million Christians experience around the world — especially the worst forms, such as rape and murder — occurs at the hands of Muslims.

These Muslims come from all walks of life and reflect a variety of races, nationalities, languages, socio-economic and political circumstances. They include Muslims from among America's closest allies (Saudi Arabia #12 worst persecutor) and Muslims from its opponents (Iran #10); Muslims from rich nations (Qatar #27 and Kuwait #34) and Muslims from poor nations (Afghanistan #2, Somalia #3, and Yemen #9); Muslims from widely recognized "radical" nations (Pakistan #5), and Muslims from "moderate" nations (Malaysia #23 and Indonesia #38).

But if the World Watch List ranks North Korea — non-Islamic, communist — as the number one worst persecutor of Christians, why belabor the religious identity of Muslims? Surely North Korea's top spot suggests that Christian persecution is not intrinsic to the Islamic world but is rather a byproduct of repressive regimes and other socio-economic factors that proliferate throughout the Muslim world?

There are some important distinctions that need to be made. While Christians are indeed experiencing a "life of hell" in North Korea, overthrowing Kim Jong-un's regime could not only lead to a quick halt to this persecution but also to a rise of Christianity — as has happened recently in Russia. Under the Soviet Union, between 12 and 25 million Christians were killed for their faith[1], and approximately 153,000 churches were shut down.[2] Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, about a thousand churches have been (re)built every year, and, according to a 2014 Pew report, between 1991 and 2008, Russians identifying themselves as Orthodox Christian rose from 31% to 72%. That "South Korea is so distinctively Christian" reflects what could be in store — and creating fear for — its northern counterpart.

In the Islamic world, the fall of dictatorial regimes rarely seems to alleviate the sufferings of Christians. On the contrary, when secular dictators fall — Saddam in Iraq, Qaddafi in Libya, and attempts against Assad in Syria — persecution of Christian seems to rise as a grassroots byproduct. Today, Iraq is the eighth worst nation in the world in which to be Christian, Syria is fifteenth, and Libya seventh. Under dictators, these countries were significantly safer for religious minorities.

A militiaman from the Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU) walks through a destroyed church on November 8, 2016 in Qaraqosh, Iraq. The NPU is a militia made up of Assyrian Christians that was formed in late 2014 to defend against ISIS. Qaraqosh is a mostly Assyrian city near of Mosul that was captured by ISIS in August 2014, and liberated in November 2016. (Photo by Chris McGrath/Getty Images)



Similarly, the only countries that were part of the former Soviet Union that still persecute Christians are, rather tellingly, the Muslim-majority ones of Central Asia. These include Uzbekistan (#16 worst persecutor), Turkmenistan (#19), Tajikistan (#22), Kazakhstan (#28) and Azerbaijan (#45).^[3]

The "extreme persecution" of Christians throughout the Muslim world is part of a continuum begun nearly fourteen hundred years ago. The same patterns of persecution are still prevalent — including attacks for blasphemy and apostasy, restrictions and attacks on churches, and a general contempt for — followed by the vile treatment of — "subhuman infidels."

Unlike the persecution of Christians in Communist nations, rooted to a particular regime, Muslim persecution of Christians is perennial, existential, and far transcends any ruler or regime. It unfortunately seems part and parcel of the history, doctrines, and socio-political makeup of Islam — hence its tenacity and ubiquity. It is a "tradition." That those persecuting Christians come from a wide variety of racial, linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds — from African, Arab, Asian, and Caucasian nations — and share little in common with one another, except for Islam, sadly only further underscores the true source of the persecution.

If time is on the side of Christians living under Communist regimes, it is *not* on the side of Christians living under Islam. The center of the great Christian Byzantine Empire is now an increasingly intolerant, Islamizing Turkey. Carthage, once a bastion of Christianity — where one of Christendom's greatest theologians, St. Augustine, was born and where the New Testament canon was confirmed in 397 — is today 99% Muslim-majority Tunisia. Centuries of persecution and forcing non-Muslims to live as barely-tolerated third-class residents are responsible for the demographic shift that Tunisia and other formerly non-Muslim nations are experiencing.

Long after North Korea's Kim Jong-un has gone, tens of millions of Christians and other "infidels" will still suffer persecution. As what **began in the seventh century comes closer to fruition** and the entire world becomes more Islamic and "infidel" free, as in Iraq, confronting these uncomfortable facts is at least a welcome first step in countering the problem.

*Raymond Ibrahim is the author of **Crucified Again: Exposing Islam's New War on Christians** (published by Regnery with Gatestone Institute, April 2013).*

^[1] James M. Nelson, *Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality*, 2009, p. 427.

^[2] Paul Froese, "Forced Secularization in Soviet Russia: Why an Atheistic Monopoly Failed," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Volume 43, Number 1, March 2004, p. 42

^[3] While Open Doors ascribes the persecution of Christians in these five nations to "Dictatorial Paranoia," considering that they are all overwhelmingly Muslim majority, it seems reasonable to conclude that Islam is at least partially responsible. Open Doors itself notes that "There is a grassroots revival of Islam in Central Asia, and that means more pressure from the nationalist pro-Islamic governments and within society—causing increased persecution levels on two fronts."

The 50 worst places on Earth for Christians

'They will just execute somebody who commits their life to faith'

<http://www.wnd.com/2018/01/the-50-worst-places-on-earth-for-christians/>

215,000,000 Christians Persecuted, Mostly by Muslims

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/11775/persecuted-christians-open-doors>

05 Highway 19 Prayer Summit 2018

If you are in prayer ministry and care about the work of the Lord in the Middle East region, this event is for you. You are invited to participate and to contact the organizers at the email or phone below.

Date: Feb 28 - March 3, 2018

Theme: RESET: 'Remaking the Beginning'

Isaiah 12:5 for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Yerevan, Armenia

The Ark Hostel

Contact: evantagana@yahoo.com



06 NORTH KOREA - Danger of War: Keep Praying!

The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains critical.

We would highlight the following articles and encourage our prayer partners to continue to mobilise prayer across your networks, into this tense standoff.

[See our recent articles HERE](#)

North Korean leader: The launch button is on my desk - Israel National News.
Kim Jong Un warns his country has developed the capability to hit the entire U.S. mainland with nuclear weapons.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/240081>

Kim Jong Un orders up larger missile with re-entry ability: The Asahi Shimbun

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201712310019.html>



Kim Jong-un is 'setting a trap for the US and South Korea' | Daily Mail Online

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5237979/Olive-branch-booby-trap-N-Koreas-new-tone-divides-analysts.html>

KIM JONG UN ARMING, TRAINING CHILDREN FOR WORLD WAR 3

'North Korea is very militarized, far beyond any imagination of western powers'

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/903145/North-Korea-latest-world-war-3-children-Kim-Jong-un-usa>

Russia Warns World Faces War Worse Than Any Other In Human History

<http://allnewspipeline.com/War-With-North-Korea-Worse-Than-Any-War-Prior.php>

07 A New Wave of persecutions against the Church in Algeria

Many Churches have been ordered and faced closure of their meeting places. These pressures signal a coordinated campaign of the intensified action against Churches by the governing authorities.

So far, two Churches, the House of Hope and the Church in the south have been closed for meetings and activities. Nine others have been visited by local authorities and it seems like this is their first step before ordering of their closure.

All the accusations leading to the Church closures have been unfounded. The arguments of the authorities are that the local Church buildings are inappropriate for worship and the Church licences that was granted in 2011 are incompatible to the 2012 new law concerning the different associations, and that includes the EPA (The Algerian Protestant Church Association). They seem to be trying to weaken the Church and render it ineffective. Pastor Mourad of the Church in the south which was recently closed said, "The Church of Jesus is not the walls or the roof, but it is Jesus' people, His living Body!"



Algeria

Pray: that 'no weapon that is formed against God's people will prosper; and every tongue that rises against them in judgment shall be condemned.' (Isaiah 54:17)

Pray: for persecuted Christians in the Algerian Church – that they may remain steadfast in their faith despite these challenges.

Pray: strength and wisdom for Pastor Mourad as he continues to lead, teach and nurture his congregation as the 'Living Body'. (Psalm 17:8)

[PrayerCast Video and Profile on Algeria](#)

08 Pray for the Defunding and Closing Down of Planned Parenthood

While everyone was preoccupied celebrating the New Year, Planned Parenthood hoped nobody would notice that they released their 2016-2017 annual report to little fanfare.

Planned Parenthood committed 321,384 abortions last year alone – nearly identical to the number of lives they ended through abortion each of the previous two years.

Not only that, but Planned Parenthood raked in \$1.46 Billion in revenue including over \$543 million from U.S. taxpayers.

Despite the fact that Americans elected a pro-life Congress and president who pledged to defund Planned Parenthood, you and I are still being forced to funnel our money to the nation's largest abortion vendor.

But there's one more thing that scares me about this annual report.

It's that Planned Parenthood states they received nearly \$87 million more in "Private Contribution & Bequests" from their previous report – a whopping 20% increase!

After Congress' failure to live up to their promises to defund Planned Parenthood, the abortion lobby now believes the political winds are shifting in their favor.

So it's more important than ever that we double down on our efforts in 2018.

Pray: Ephesians 6:12 into the fight to end abortion. Let's call upon God to grant us powerful prayers over the evil of abortion.

Pray: positive impact and success for Students for Life of America and other campaigners and advocates – that God's will is done through their efforts.

For Life,

Kristan Hawkins

President, Students for Life of America

Students for Life of America

[4755 Jefferson Davis Highway](#)

[Fredericksburg, VA 22408](#)

Office: [540.834.4600](#)

09 Parents sound alarm over mad rush toward transgender children (and the "progressivism" that pushes this distortion)

Friday, January 05, 2018 by: Ethan Huff

([Natural News](#)) A mother from New York is taking a bold stand against the LGBT mafia and its relentless and demonic war against innocent children. Kristie Sisson says that transgender activism and its youth-centric indoctrination agenda ultimately led her daughter, Danielle, to want to transition into being her "son" – and she isn't going to stand for it.

[According to Sisson](#), it all started when the family decided to move from Long Island down to North Carolina after



Danielle graduated from public middle school. The adjustment process for Danielle was rough, which led her to seek acceptance from whoever would give it.

This led her to a friend who happened to be a lesbian, and who apparently convinced Danielle that she, too, was a lesbian – even though she had always grown up liking boys. After being enrolled in a private high school in North Carolina, Danielle encountered several biological girls who were in the process of trying to transition into boys, to which Danielle also jumped on the bandwagon.

In the fall of 2016 things got really ugly, as Danielle informed her parents that she wanted to start dressing like a boy and would soon [pursue surgery to become a “male.”](#) This took Danielle’s parents completely off guard, as they were unaware at the time that Danielle was being so innately influenced by her new friends.

“It took us completely by surprise,” Sisson told *Breitbart News*, “because Danielle had a normal childhood, did all of the typical girl things – from dressing up like the princesses, to playing with dolls, to wearing make-up, perfume, and jewelry.”

Sisson says transgender activists actively recruit young children on the internet and social media

While Kristie Sisson and her husband say they never prohibited their daughter from interacting with lesbians and transgenders prior to this drastic change in Danielle’s mindset, they very quickly became the victims of LGBT assault simply for trying to advise their daughter on a better path.

Danielle was sent to a therapist who had promised her parents that she wasn’t going to just affirm Danielle’s desire to transition to being a “male.” But this turned out to be a lie, upon which the Sissons sent their daughter to another therapist who, in effect, did the exact same thing – after just 30 minutes of speaking with Danielle.

“I feel like it’s the parents against the world,” Sisson lamented. “The therapists, the doctors, the schools – everyone is pushing this very liberal agenda and this transgender movement, and it’s harming our children.”..

Many prominent organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES) that once recognized transgenderism as the mental illness that it is are now endorsing “gender changes” as well, which is making it that much harder to protect children from this onslaught of perversion.

“Transgender ideology is not just infecting our laws,’ writes pediatrician and researcher Dr. Michelle Cretella, a mother of four and president of the American College of Pediatricians (ACP). “It is intruding into the lives of the most innocent among us – children – and with the apparent growing support of the professional medical community.”

The ACP is bold in asserting that one’s biological sex is a permanent fixture, and that it can’t be changed as the LGBT mafia claims. And to subject children to such lies represents [a form of child abuse](#) that parents need to put a stop to by joining together and fighting back.

Pray for the overthrow and rejection of this perverted and satanic effort to harm our children and youth.

[Breitbart.com](#), [NaturalNews.com](#)

10 Bolivia: Urgent Prayer Request

We extend greetings and blessings from the Christian church in Bolivia. We are very grateful for your prayers in favor of our continent. Those who could participate in the UPRISING organized in Bolivia in November 2017, now understood in greater depth the role of prayer to transform a nation and now we can see many results of those days of UPRISING, since the prayer in Bolivia has risen a lot.



On January 10, 2018, the Extraordinary Assembly of the National Association of Evangelicals of Bolivia (ANDEB) was held, with the participation of different denominations, missions, evangelical organizations, and some Evangelical United Departmental and Regional Churches to analyze the situation of the country and draw conclusions and determinations regarding the enactment by the President in exercise of Law 1005 of the Code of Procedure of the Bolivian Criminal System, as according to this Code, our country faces the possibility that as of 2019, evangelism activities are punishable by law.

In this sense, we request you to pray for our country, with the following prayer requests:

- 1. Pray for the ABROGATION of the aforementioned Law 1005 of the New Bolivian Penal Code.**
- 2. Pray for the unity of ALL the Evangelical Church in Bolivia through its National, Departmental and Regional representation bodies in such a way that we are one voice, according to the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ "So that all may be one ... so that the world believes that you sent me."**

Cochabamba, January 18th, 2018

Asamblea General Extraordinaria
Asociación Nacional de Evangélicos de Bolivia (ANDEB)
Iglesias Evangélicas Unidas Departamentales (IEUD)

11 Nigeria: Urgent Call to Prayer

Pastor Austen Ukachi, Lagos, Nigeria | IPC Leadership Team

You are probably as shocked as I was to learn of the spate of attacks and deaths that greeted the New Year in Nigeria.

Worshippers who had just had Crossover Service in their church in Omoku, Rivers State, were gruesomely murdered by heartless cultists. Over 15 people, including innocent women and children, were cut down in a hail of bullets. As if that was not enough, the following day, we heard how Fulani Herdsmen invaded villages in Guma and Logo Local Governments in Benue State and killed several people (some speculate over 50!) and destroyed houses and properties.

The government seems to be powerless and have been accused of being impervious to the sufferings of the people. The security agencies appear to be so desensitized that you wonder if they still have value for human lives. But we cannot fold our hands and let this continue, it's time to rise as intercessors and pray.



The following prayer points are only a guide. May the Lord bring us to the depth of prayers that will stem this rising tide of violence in our nation.

- 1. Fulani Herdsmen are rated as the 4th most deadly terror group on the Global Terrorism Index, yet the government does not seem to be concerned about the daily destruction they cause to lives and properties. Let's pray that God will stir up a national and international outcry against this group.**
- 2. Ask God to release His plans to reverse wicked evil political actions that have led to the murder of innocent lives across the nation (especially government's inaction concerning the destruction of lives and properties by the Fulani herdsmen)**
- 3. People in Guma and Logo Local Government in Benue State have been thrown into mourning following the invasion by the herdsmen, which led to the death of tens of people. Let's pray that those who carried out this attack will be caught and judged.**
- 4. The activities of the herdsmen now extend to virtually every part of the country. There are speculations that it is a modern form of jihad. Let's pray that God will expose community leaders in the South who are conniving with them**
- 5. Let's pray that the Middle Belt states would be undeterred in implementing the anti-grazing bills that have been passed in some of the states. Pray that they will not be intimidated by the antics of the herders**
- 6. Pray for the prosecution of the leaders of Miyetti Allah in Benue State who promised to cause mayhem in the state. Pray that the government will be bold enough to bring this man and his group to justice**
- 7. Let's pray that the National Assembly will now see the need to pass laws that will curtail the activities of the Fulani herders. Pray that the Open Grazing Bill will be frustrated and thrown out.**
- 8. Let's pray that these communities will not be intimidated. Rather, may the Lord strengthen their resistance against the Islamic agenda**
- 9. Pray concerning the state of insecurity in Rivers State, especially Omoku and its environs. Let's pray that the group that carried out the recent massacre will be arrested and judged**
- 10. These were people returning from Crossover service in a church. Let's pray that God will arise and judge those who perpetrated this mayhem on innocent worshippers**
- 11. The violence in Omoku (and most of Rivers State) has their root in cult conflicts. Let's pray that God will rain judgment on these cults and those behind them**
- 12. The acrimonious politics of Rivers State has created an environment that engenders violence. Let's pray that God would restrain Governor Nyesom Wike and Hon Chibuike Amaechi, that they will begin to work for the peace and welfare of the state**
- 13. Let's pray that God will comfort and encourage families who lost loved ones in the carnage. Let's pray that God would use this situation to bring salvation to the community.**

More at www.pray4nigeria.org

Pastor Austen Ukachi

12 Sunrise Prayer Relay Catching on Around the World

See some of the [USA testimonies](#) from Florida, South Dakota and Tennessee.

We are cheating a bit to say 50 countries because Puerto Rico is part of USA but they seem to regard themselves as another country. These countries included in the 50 are Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Liberia, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Russia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, USA and Vanuatu.



Check out more testimonies at http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org/2018_testimonies.html and there are many more still to come.

Suffice to say from small beginnings in 2016 the New Year's Sunrise Prayer Relay is exploding. There were 23 NATIONS where locations were confirmed in 2017 for the New Year's Day Sunrise Prayer Relay, so we have had a huge multiplication of people, locations, and nations praying in 2018. We believe that when people pray God moves and we are expecting Him to move powerfully in 2018 in EVERY NATION as we continue to pray for awakening, revival, and transformation in the name of Jesus.

This year we had 141 REGISTERED GLOBAL PUBLIC LOCATIONS with hundreds more that are private. This was an increase from around 100 on New Year's Day 2017, we are still going through the global registrations to confirm but at this stage we can say there were over 400 valid registrations worldwide this year, it was very difficult to confirm some of the locations and we are currently looking into more effective ways to register locations globally.

We also know of many locations globally that were not registered, or informed us via email or message that they were praying with us, we did not count these. We believe that the number of unregistered locations is greater than the number of registered locations. We need to simplify to multiply in other nations, and we would love to get prayer networks in nations like USA, UK & South Africa more involved to help with getting the word out and administration in their countries the way National Day of Prayer & Fasting has done for Australia.

The beauty of the New Year's Day Sunrise Prayer Relay is that it is short (30 MINs), easy to do, easy to promote, requires minimal effort, is organic in nature, rides on an existing established event (New Year's Day Sunrise) and has a proven track record of encouraging and reproducing more daily, weekly and monthly prayer events.

If you would like your country or ministry to participate in the future, please contact [Warwick Marsh](#)

Much Love

Warwick Marsh & Pat Steele

Global Coordinators Sunrise Prayer Relay

www.sunriseprayerrelay.org

13 Prayers for Iran and Kurdistan

IRAN

Since December 28, tens of thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets in huge numbers of towns and cities to demand better economic conditions and freedom from their oppressive religious government and the bad. Prices of basic goods had, in the past year, increased by roughly 40 percent. The protests began over Iran's stagnant economy and the rising cost of living but quickly have developed into a broader outcry against the oppressive government. These demonstrations have become the most powerful challenge to the Iranian government's authority since mass demonstrations in 2009.



At least 20 people have since been killed in clashes with security forces, and more than a thousand of mostly young people have been arrested.

The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that the anti-government protests were over now as the government very violently cracked down on them.

KURDISTAN

We thank the Lord that we can continue to work in Kurdistan and for the family that will soon go there.

The Kurdish Pastor who was for nearly two years imprisoned in Kurdistan and has moved with his family to a neighbouring country, finally after about 5 years got residency for this country.

The strong tensions between the government of Iraq and Kurdistan has not been resolved. The tension is still there and the possibility of fighting breaking out between the Iraq and Kurdistan. Also it seems clear now that the Iraqi government will continue to ban direct flights into Kurdistan (Erbil & Sulaymaniyah).

PLEASE PRAY for

IRAN

- For this difficult situation in Iran. Only God can cause the leadership of this nation and their severe oppression of its people to change.
- That many of them would hear the Good news and that all these difficulties cause even more Iranians to accept the Lord.
- Protection of our brothers and sisters in the country and courage to reach out with wisdom and boldness to the Iranian people.

KURDISTAN

- For a good settlement between the Iraqi and Kurdistan governments and that the airports would soon open up again.
- That all the preparations for the couple that plans to move to Kurdistan would be completed soon and that they would be able to move there in the next few weeks and build up our work and ministry in the country.
- For the Kurdish church to grow throughout all the Kurdish regions.
- The Kurdish Kanal Hayat TV Programs to be watched by millions of Kurds! For more presenters for these programs.

Thank you for your prayers for these countries and the challenges they are facing and for believing with us that in the midst of these difficulties God expand His kingdom.

14 South Sudan Needs Our Prayers!

An Urgent Request to keep those in South Sudan in our daily prayers with those on the ground there has been requested.

You may remember recently a new ceasefire was put into place. PRAY it holds. Join with them, in prayer. “We are persuaded that it is the prayer of God’s children that is keeping this nation”. *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, and all who live in it.”* Psalm 24:1.



- **PRAY** for the Intercessors worldwide to catch the **urgency to pray for the stability of South Sudan.**
- **PRAY** that the **Almighty God** will divinely and quickly **intervene** in the situation of the nation.
- **PRAY** and **ASK** the Father to send His angels to **defend the nation** against internal conflicts and instability.
- **ASKING** all Intercessors to **pray prophetically over South Sudan.**

We are persuaded that it is the prayer of God’s children that is keeping this nation. *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, and all who live in it.”* Psalm 24:1.

South Sudan is on a serious spiritual battle field, please cover us daily with your prayers. Jesus reigns over the earth including South Sudan.

Please forward this mail to urgently mobilize prayers for this nation.

15 UPRISING GLOBAL 2018 – Indonesia (WYPA)

Members of the IPC Leadership Team joined Pastor Jerome and Mrs Abel Ocampo and the organisers of regional United Prayer Rising events in Jakarta on 23rd and 24th January 2018 for a summit.

The purpose of the meeting was to report back on the recent events and plans for forthcoming gatherings. In particular, the group prayerfully explored the possibility of organizing a Global Uprising event in Jakarta during October 2018. The vision is to see 2,000 Indonesian young people meet up with a further 2,000 youth from the other nations of the world.

A recurring theme during the times of prayer and worship was Isaiah 43: 9-10 - “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” During a visit to the Sentul International Convention Centre Prayer Tower, the leaders had a sense that something extraordinarily new and exciting was about to happen that would blow our minds!



The group of young leaders agreed to form part of an Indonesia Dream Team that would input to the program planning processes for the Global Uprising. The provisional date of October 24-26 and the venue will be confirmed shortly.

Pictured below are all the attendees with Pastor Niko from the Sentul ICC.



Please pray:

- > For protection, wisdom, and for the right doors to continue to open for these young people who have dedicated time, energy and skills to the United Prayer Rising Events.
- > For Pastor Andy Tjokro (Jakarta) as he co-ordinates the various planning teams for the Global Uprising.
- > For substantial funds to be released to undergird the regional and global events planned for the next few years. (Mal 3:10)
- > For the Manilla based team who support and direct the events under the leadership and guidance of Pastor Jerome Ocampo.

16 IPC Calendar

Highway 19 Prayer Summit 2018 - for the Middle East
Feb 28 - March 3, 2018. The Ark Hostel, Yerevan, Armenia
Contact: evantagana@yahoo.com

New Year's Day SUNRISE PRAYER RELAY 1 Jan 2019
<http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org/>

United Prayer Rising Events:
UPRISING Chennai, India - March 2018

UPRISING Toronto, Canada - August 8-11, 2018
www.uprisingcanada.com



UPRISING Ashburnham Place, East Sussex, UK - June 2018

www.uprisingeurope.org

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

UPRISING Global: Jakarta, Indonesia - October 17-20 2018 (WYPA)

17 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.

18 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

19 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](#)

20 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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