

# International Prayer Connections

*A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World*



NOVEMBER 2018



Greetings!

We are pleased to bring you IPC Connections for December 2018 in its new format.

We have shortened the email, with brief introductions and links to each article on our website. For readers who prefer to scroll through the longer publication, the fully collated email can be downloaded by clicking the 'Download Full PDF' link above.

As always, please do let us know how you get on with this new design and layout.

This edition opens with a reflection on the story of International Prayer Connect, taking stock as to where we are now and our aspirations for the next chapter of our service to the worldwide movement for prayer. We would invite our friends across the various worldwide networks to respond with any comments, feedback and suggestions, by email to [office@ipcprayer.org](mailto:office@ipcprayer.org) We hugely value your input.

We also feature the World Generation Gathering – a United Prayer Rising event, taking place January 23-26, 2019 in Jakarta. **Possibly up to 3000** youth and young adult leaders from around the world will participate in a 3-day destiny-engaging convergence which will be held at the ICC-MGK in North Jakarta followed by an estimated 10,000 people, taking part in a Solemn Assembly. It's not too late to book!! See the article below.

International Prayer Connections is produced and distributed freely each month to inform God's praying people around the world. We are grateful to those who have given generously to enable this to happen and continue to need such support for this and our other transformational prayer initiatives.

If you would like to make a gift towards our costs by giving to our funding arm, please [click here](#).

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer in these crucial times.

**John D Robb – Chairman  
International Prayer Connect**

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## INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONNECT

### 01 Editorial: International Prayer Connect: Strategic Reflections

*Thankful to God for the Past, Anticipating His Wonders for the Future*

#### Some history

The International Prayer Council (leadership team) and eventually International Prayer Connect (network of prayer leaders, ministries and networks) came into being shortly after 9/11 in 2001 – when a simultaneous terrorist attack took place on the twin towers in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington – an horrific day which we all knew would go down in history. A few weeks later the IPC was formed in New York (close to what became known as Ground Zero), with prayer leaders from around the world pledging to work and pray together on a global level, over global issues.

Before that year many of us had begun to discover each other through fresh global initiatives, like the Lausanne Movement (formed in 1974), the first International Prayer Assembly in South Korea (1984) and through involvement in the AD2000 and Beyond Movement in the 1990's. The IPC as a prayer entity was to be both the successor to these initiatives and involve many of the key prayer leaders from within those structures. It was important for us to stay connected, find out more about what was happening in our world, and to pray more strategically about some of the pressing needs facing the world.

Our focus was to be the transformation of our world, encapsulated in our motto “Globalising Prayer, Transforming our World” and this was adopted at our first international consultation in South Africa in 2002. (Please see this video about its founding and early history [IPC Prayer Globalizing Prayer Transforming Our World https://youtu.be/5ZYVFLML1sU](https://youtu.be/5ZYVFLML1sU)).

Much of the experience of the church around the world was about praying for its work – its daily activities, including mission and evangelism. For many of us, however, **transformational prayer** became our work. Praying for mission in all its aspects was included, along with issues of international and national importance.

Networking with prayer leaders and their ministries both internationally and regionally was a priority. To that end global and regional consultations were held in many nations, including South Africa, Egypt, United States, Canada, England, Germany, Switzerland, UAE, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea, Kenya, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Cyprus.

The World Prayer Assembly envisioned and arranged by the IPC in partnership with the powerful Indonesian prayer movement (involving up to three million Indonesians in 380 cities as well as many others worldwide through satellite TV and internet) was in a sense the culmination of such networking and resulted in a further explosion of prayer ministry around the world that continues to grow, thanks be to God!

*“God by His Spirit was working so many agendas in the lives of those who took part that it is impossible to recount all that happened or was reported. So many said their lives and ministries would never be the same. We have received encouraging reports from a number of nations as participants have begun to*

*implement strategies of prayer mobilization and other actions that they were inspired to undertake during the WPA. Praise God for all He did and continues to do through this gathering!"*

Here is an inspiring video report about this great gathering that God used and continues to use so wonderfully to ignite so many other things: World Prayer Assembly <https://youtu.be/gmDeuokTQ7I> Prayer initiatives, with teams of intercessors, have been undertaken over strategic issues in many nations, especially those caught up in awful wars and ethnic conflicts. By the grace and goodness of the Lord, several hopeless wars have so far been ended, soon after national prayer initiatives (sometimes within a day or few days) that IPC teams were able to facilitate with local Christian leaders. In addition, three international initiatives were held within and for the United Nations with ambassadors, hundreds of prayer leaders and praying children from around the world as well as another arranged for Hollywood (the home of the film industry).

*Children in Prayer* has been an important part of IPC initiatives, with leadership being given from the United States, Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia, and more recently India, but including CiP coordinators from 70-80 nations. Consultations and leadership gatherings have been held in many nations along with three global CiP events that brought adults and children from scores of nations to pray, learn, and plan for the future of this movement.

The recent Youth-focused prayer movement called the *UPRising (United Prayer Rising)* developed out of the World Prayer Assembly in Indonesia in 2012 and has seen further prayer and worship events in many nations since 2016. Both of these key initiatives (Children and Youth) have produced another tier of leadership. The Global UPR called "*World Generation*" being held in Jakarta (January 23-26, 2019) is challenging the participants to find and engage in the unique missions the Lord has for each one, especially reaching the unreached with His Gospel in order to fulfil the Great Commission.

The *Global Issachar Group* developed out of an initial consultation in Cyprus, with its focus on the dark places and powers, and it too has held gatherings in several nations in N. America, Europe & Asia.

Each of these various above initiatives has developed out of or come under the umbrella of the IPC. But separately, and also strategic, have been a number of initiatives that others have spear-headed, and which have been incorporated into or led by those with close association with the IPC. Among these would be the emphasis on the 4/14 Window (led by Luis Bush) on mission to the generation included in that age range. This has focussed the minds of missiologists the world over.

The *Global Day of Prayer* ran annually out of a vision stemming from South Africa, and was led by Graham Power and Dawie and Isebel Spangenberg for great blessing to the international prayer movement and the many nations touched by it.

*Praying through the 10/40 Window* (led by Beverly Pegues) which originally emerged in the 1990's has continued to be featured in our communications.

The IPC has sought to reflect the importance of praying for the Persecuted Church, for Muslim nations, for Governments, for war zones, and on issues concerning historic sins and brokenness with the need for identificational repentance and reconciliation.

In short, the IPC started off as a networking structure, but it has developed into taking many initiatives as well. National Prayer initiatives have been undertaken in over 50 countries over the last 20 years, many in the really difficult nations on the planet. Generally, these initiatives have consisted of three days of prayer by local ministry leaders of all denominations in the spirit of 2 Chron. 7:14 led by John Robb with IPC colleagues on the ministry teams. It was discovered over and over again that as His people focused on repentance for corporate sins and reconciliation, God would bring about stunning breakthroughs, such as unexpected peace agreements ending wars, governments of national unity being formed, and spiritual revival happening among participating church and political leaders. Glory to the Lord!

The IPC has always sought to connect with and support other global initiatives - like *Ethne* - who are focused on Unreached People Groups and now we are focusing on the *Go 2020* initiative to see a billion unreached people reached with the Gospel by May 2020 and the raising up of hundreds of millions of additional intercessors to engage for the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission, even as early as 2025- <http://go2020.world>. We are interested to maintain a close connection between prayer and mission in the spirit of the Moravians as we describe in this video: "The Spirit of the Moravians" [https://youtu.be/VKlRe\\_VJUes](https://youtu.be/VKlRe_VJUes).

Links have also been maintained with the International Reconciliation Coalition, Global Church Planting Network, and prayer for the Persecuted church etc.

Our emphasis has always been on prayer for socio-political transformation and mission. We continue to be open to Spiritual Warfare, Spiritual Mapping, understanding the Spiritual Powers, Identificational Repentance and Reconciliation, on-site prayer, and governmental connections. We continue to have a deep desire for the unity of the Body of Christ and Word-based prayer.

### **Remaining challenges - unfinished business for the IPC and the international prayer movement**

- Identifying and developing prayer in and for the "global gates" (major international institutions like the U.N., World Economic Forum, etc.) and international cities.
- Seeking God's strategy and deliverance for the 'dark places' on planet earth.
- Developing technology and language translation in support of global prayer.
- Finance - raising more substantial support through the *Transformation Prayer Foundation* to meet ongoing costs of all we do and hope to do for the future.
- More effectively connecting prayer leaders, their ministries and networks in an ongoing way so that we can flow together, coordinating and supporting one another.
- Integrating more fully with the rising youth and children's prayer movements and co-working with the Lord to raise up the next generation of mighty men and women of God to lead His people and reach our world with the Gospel

### **Important questions to consider for the future**

1. Are we to be just a "network" of prayer movements, or are we called to do things together? Or both?
2. What else are we being called to be and do? What priorities should we focus on for the next 5-10 years?
3. How can we best steward the "New Wave" of transformational prayer and mission engagement coming out of the World Prayer Assembly and all that the Lord has done through the last couple of decades of various prayer initiatives seeking to unite Christ's global prayer movement and see His breakthroughs?
4. Finding a new wineskin for the global prayer movement. How can we best reflect the inter-generational nature of what God is doing in global prayer at the current time?

If you have any suggestions in this great task of transforming our world through united prayer, we welcome your getting in touch with us. Please write to us at: [office@ipcprayer.org](mailto:office@ipcprayer.org).

**Please also pray with us as our leadership meets to consider future directions and new leadership for the IPC just before the Global UPR youth prayer and mission event in Jakarta, January 23-26.**

**Brian Mills and John Robb**





# A MOVEMENT

Awaken the Dawn is a movement of worship, prayer, and missions. We are a mobilizing family of believers drawn together around the worth, presence, and power of Jesus. Our vision is to see a generation mobilized and galvanized with the glory of Jesus and the presence of God. Read more here.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## 02 USA - Awaken the Dawn

On September 27-29, coinciding with the Feast of Tabernacles, 'tent city' gatherings of worship, music, prayer, and gospel proclamation were held simultaneously in hundreds of locations throughout the USA. Every state capital city, over 100 college and university campuses, plus Washington D.C, Puerto Rico and Jerusalem all participated in Tent America. We are convinced that our nation will never be the same again.

God is truly raising up a family that is carrying His culture, a culture that will redesign our nation through the presence of God!

We are beyond grateful for all God has done in and through His beautiful people during Tent America, and we deeply desire to honor each and every one of you.

Awaken The Dawn would not be what it is -- without YOU.

Friends, your endless prayers, financial support, sacrificial laboring, vision casting, mobilizing and perpetual encouragement has moved His heart -- and the hearts of many.

Since Tent America, we've heard from multiple nations desiring to link arms!

The centrality of the presence of God is a revelation that is needed not only in our nation but in all nations!

### Your 'yes' is producing much fruit!

*After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."*

A quick update on testimonies:

We are currently in the process of organizing and cataloging both written and recorded testimonies.

### Here are just a few of many:

50 hours of worship at over 150 sites all over the nation. Such an honor to partner with Awaken The Dawn to host our NC capital gathering. Hundreds of worshipers and intercessors rallied from across our state for

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an amazing weekend. We prayed in unity for revival in our state and nation. Our hearts were bonded in love and divine connections. Hundreds heard the Gospel on the streets of downtown Raleigh along with multiple physical healings. We all encountered God's presence and will never be the same!!! Jesus is worthy!' - Matthew Lilley

We had 75 people hit the streets of Tallahassee tonight and share of the love of Jesus. At 25 people gave their hearts to the Lord and people were healed and set free! A team from Celebration Baptist prayer walked the streets and prayed for the ending of human trafficking. Tent America has been so awesome!  
**- Awaken The Dawn Florida**

'We had seventy total workers that went out during our three Tent America outreaches. Five people put their faith in Jesus for the first time!! Dozens of believers who had backslidden prayed a prayer of repentance. Around 350 people heard the Gospel! There were multiple physical healings - pain was instantaneously leaving people's bodies! One person's injured foot was healed. They felt heat on their foot as God was touching them. The heat was so intense that the person's shoe even got hot. God was moving miraculously! We are thanking God that a bluegrass festival was happening in downtown Raleigh the same weekend, which provided us hundreds of people on the streets to whom we could minister. May every seed that was sown bear fruit!'

**- Awaken The Dawn North Carolina**

So, again... Thank you for your heart for Jesus- and for your willingness to link arms with us in this hour.

**YOU are greatly, greatly valued.**

We believe 2019, 2020 and beyond will be just as historic as Kingdom family continues to form, impart, and unashamedly demonstrate the beauty and worth of Jesus.

More updates will be coming your way in the week's ahead, as we seek the Lord together in our next steps. Our goal is simply to hear His heart for His people, and obey! As we do so, your patience, feedback, and continued prayers are very much appreciated.

Looking forward to the miraculous things that God is going to do in this nation, and in the nations.

**Testimonies?** Please email [story@awakenthedawn.org](mailto:story@awakenthedawn.org)

**Questions?** Please email [info@awakenthedawn.org](mailto:info@awakenthedawn.org)

For the worth of Jesus,

**Awaken the Dawn**

### **03 Turkey – Prayer Requests**

**Muslim refugee had dream about God, found Him in Spain**

Fearing for their lives, Achmed and his family left Syria's raging civil war and managed to make their way to Madrid, Spain. Before they left Syria, Achmed had a powerful dream that God told him He wanted to know Him. He couldn't get the dream out of his mind, but he didn't fully understand it, so he continued to ponder it in his heart, according to a report by Christian Aid Mission (CAM).



European Union and Spanish authorities sent the family to the province of Cadiz in southwestern Spain, where a Christian ministry was helping to integrate refugees into society.

The ministry proposed putting refugees in apartments rather than camps, with the government subsidizing part of the cost.

Achmed was stunned that Christians would give so much time and effort to total strangers. One day he approached the ministry director, Pablo, with a question: "Why are you helping us in so many ways?" he asked.

"We believe in God, who loves people and wants us to help other people," Pablo replied. "Jesus Christ came to die for us, and He asks us to die for you."

His reply prompted even great curiosity about the Christian God, and he asked Pablo to tell him more. They had several more conversations, and soon Achmed began to attend Sunday worship services and some other activities. He began to read the Bible online.

One day he told Pablo, "All I have read, I believe. The only problem I have is God having a child."

Like many Muslims, he had trouble with the idea of God having a Son. But in spite of that difficulty, he confessed that he couldn't save himself from the death and eternal punishment that sin brings.

He confessed to Pablo his need for Jesus Christ, put his faith in Him as his Lord and Savior, and was born again.

Then God reminded Achmed of the powerful dream.

"He said that he remembered having a dream in Syria in which God told him He wanted him to know Him, and now he knew what it meant," Pablo said. "He became a believer three months ago."

"Thousands of such Muslim refugees are streaming into Spain as other countries of Europe turn them away, and many are coming to Christ every month," according to the report by CAM.

"The former Muslims face daunting pressures. Achmed's wife sought to divorce him after he became a Christian, and only after many talks with native missionaries did she and her mother accept Achmed – and Christ.

"Now they also come to church, and God is working in their lives," the ministry director said.

**Pray: that God would continue to reveal Himself with the dreams and visions among refugees, as promised in Joel 2**

**Pray: that those refugees who came to faith in Jesus Christ would grow spiritually in a local fellowship(church)**

**Pray: that the local fellowships and churches would be established and planted among those refugee believers. Send more workers to Your harvest field!**

**More:** <http://silkwavemission.com/board.php?board=english&command=body&no=1012>

## **260,000 Syrians returned to 'Euphrates Shield' operation area: Turkish defense minister**

A total of 260,000 Syrian nationals have returned to a swathe of land in northern Syria where Turkey carried out a cross-border operation dubbed "Euphrates Shield," Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said on Nov. 1.



Turkey launched Euphrates Shield in 2016 to drive away ISIL and YPG militants from its border with Syria. Ankara regards the United States-backed YPG as a terrorist organization due to its ties with the illegal PKK. The operation ended in 2017.

Turkey hosts more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees who fled the conflict in their homeland.

“As a result of the infrastructure work and the security and stability in the region provided by the Turkish Armed Forces, around 260,000 Syrian nationals have returned to the Euphrates Shield Operation area,” Akar told lawmakers at the planning and budget commission in parliament.

The defense minister also touched upon the Manbij deal between Turkey and the U.S., saying that “despite the promises” made for the YPG’s withdrawal from the city, the group was still deployed there.

“The terror group is digging ditches in Manbij as they have done in Afrin,” he said.

The YPG “should know it will be buried in the trenches it has dug,” Akar said.

The Manbij deal focuses on the withdrawal of YPG militants from the city to stabilize the region northeast of the Aleppo province in northern Syria.

**Pray: that God would open ways for those 260,000 to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ even after they return to their home.**

**Pray: that the on-going conflicts between Turkey and PKK and other groups of Kurds would find a peaceful resolution, and ultimately end in peace.**

**Pray: that the Prince of Peace and His Kingdom would come in power in those areas.**

**More:** <http://silkwavemission.com/board.php?board=english&command=body&no=1013>

**SILK WAVE MISSION USA**

[www.silkwavemission.com](http://www.silkwavemission.com)



## **04 Awakening Australia report back**

Many thousands of Christians came to Melbourne for ‘Awakening Australia’, as part of a mission to bring 100,000 Australians to Jesus. Leaders spent the weekend preaching the gospel, leading people to Christ, and commissioning them to share the love of Jesus with others.

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Participants included Bethel Music, Todd White, Heidi Baker, Jake Hamilton, Daniel Kolenda, and Bill Johnson.

‘Hundreds were born of God as they responded to Jesus. There is truly something remarkable happening in Australia! There is an Awakening, a sound in God's people here, that will shake the nation’, said Ben Fitzgerald, leader of Awakening Europe.

The weekend saw powerful moments of freedom, deliverance and salvation, followed by mass baptisms for those who gave their lives to Christ. Thousands proclaimed the gospel in the streets. ‘I can't believe this is happening in Australia,’ Fitzgerald said.

IPC colleague, Donny McGregor from Generation Fire, Sydney, was involved with a team who ran 100 hours of prayer in the lead up to the Awakening Australia event. Just that event saw 200 lives saved!

‘We experienced a change in the spiritual atmosphere during the 100 hours of Prayer’, said Donny. ‘Our prayer focus moved from targeting the strongholds to speaking open heaven, breaking discouragements and hearts to be receptive to the Gospel... and we saw God move! The hunger for God was off the chart!’

Awakening Australia saw an estimated 1,600 first time and renewed commitments and 250+ baptisms. Thousands of believers were involved in the witnessing around the city.

**Praise: God for the changed spiritual atmosphere in Melbourne; thank Him for breaking strongholds and opening hearts to respond to His truth. (John 8:32)**

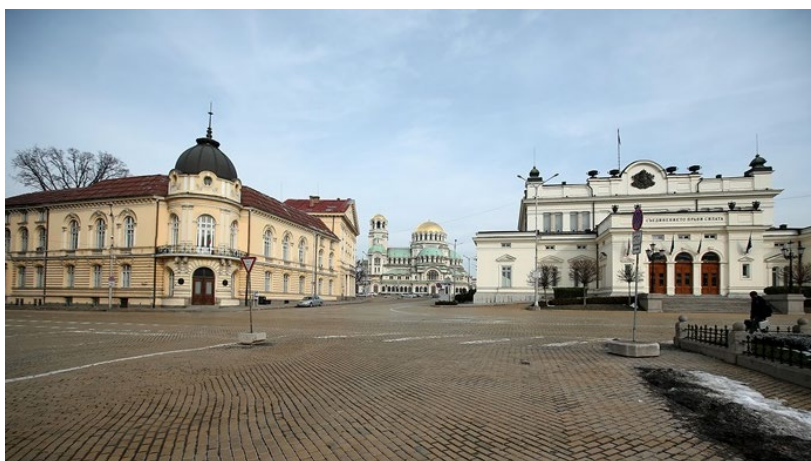
**More:** <https://www.awakeningaustralia.org/> AND [www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2018/november/i-cant-believe-this-is-happening-thousands-experience-gospel](http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2018/november/i-cant-believe-this-is-happening-thousands-experience-gospel)

## 05 Bulgaria Revises Proposed Church Restrictions

### Bulgaria Revises Proposed Restrictions on Churches

**Update:** After considering laws to halt training, foreign funding, and missionary outreach, the European nation eases its approach.

Following an outcry from evangelicals and other faith groups, Bulgaria opted to revise a controversial proposal to restrict religious activity before putting it up for another parliamentary vote.



The initial draft amendments to its Religious Denomination Act would have kept members of minority faiths, like Protestants, from operating seminaries, holding activities outside church, and obtaining legal status. It also regulated foreign missionaries and funding. (See CT's initial reporting below.)

The revised version adjusts the formula for state subsidies so that groups beyond the Bulgarian Orthodox and Muslims—which together comprise 95 percent of the population—are eligible, the Sofia Globe

reported. The adjustments follow a round of feedback from religious groups and discussion between two political parties in the legislature, after a November 16 deadline.

The updated law also would allow greater freedom to foreign missionaries than the first proposal; they could preach in the country as short-term residents or as visitors coming with advance notification. The new amendment also does away with a ban on anonymous donations by foreign groups.

As of Tuesday, the parliament had not yet voted on the restrictions, according to the Baptist Standard. Teodor Oprenov, a Sofia pastor and leader in the Baptist Union of Bulgaria, told the site that evangelicals expected “some softening” after the meetings.

Thousands of Christians have been gathering before the parliament building each Sunday to protest and pray against the restrictions. They plan to continue rallying this Sunday, November 25, Oprenov said.

Original post (November 16): A controversial new law before the Bulgarian Parliament would keep Protestants and other minority faiths from freely worshiping, teaching, evangelizing, and tithing in the southeastern European nation.

Today’s vote marks the legislature’s second hearing for amendments to Bulgaria’s religious denominations act, which were initially approved October 4.

Over the past month, leaders from all faith groups in the former communist country have condemned the proposed additions, which prevent minority religions from offering clergy training, restrict worship services to designated sites, and place new regulations on international missionaries and giving.

“Should the law pass, existing theological seminaries are at risk of shutting down, evangelical church pastors may no longer be able to conduct worship services, and the acceptance and use of donations will be subject to government approval and limitations,” stated the World Evangelical Alliance, which has joined with the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance to oppose the legislation.

About 2,000 Christians gathered at the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, on Sunday to pray and protest against the proposed amendments, The Baptist Standard reported, and they have continued smaller demonstrations in hopes that the law will be rejected.

Evangelical Protestants make up less than 1 percent of the population in Bulgaria, where about 85 percent of citizens consider themselves Eastern Orthodox and about 10 percent are Muslim. Because of their small size, Protestants—along with Catholics, Jews, and others—fail to meet the threshold for certain government recognition under the draft law, which legislators say is meant to protect against foreign threats but religious groups see as a threat to their own religious freedom.

Christian churches across the country—including the United Methodist Church, Bulgarian Baptist Union, Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance, Catholic Church in Bulgaria, and National Alliance United Churches of God—each released statements against the proposal, reported Vlady Raichinov, an evangelical leader and pastor in Sofia.

#### **The European magazine Evangelical Focus summarizes the biggest concerns with the amendments:**

Only Bulgarian citizens will be able to carry out liturgical activity if they have had theological training in Bulgaria or their foreign school is approved.

Only Eastern Orthodox and Muslim believers will be able to train clergy and run schools.

A foreigner will only be able to preach if doing so with a Bulgarian ordained minister.

Foreign donations will only be allowed for building construction or social aid and will need government approval. No salaries of pastors, for example, could be paid from abroad.  
No religious activities can take place outside of buildings designated for them.  
Only religious groups with +300 people will have legal status.  
Two years ago, Russia adopted similar restrictions on missionary activity and evangelism, also citing national security concerns. The 2016 “Yarovaya law” bars the non-Orthodox from sharing their faith outside of government-recognized church buildings.

Though only about 60,000 Protestants live in Bulgaria, according to 2011 census figures, the population has received vocal support from evangelical leaders in Europe and beyond.

European Baptist Federation general secretary Anthony Peck and Baptist World Alliance general secretary Elijah M. Brown wrote Bulgarian Prime Minister Boykov Borissov with concerns that “... the implementation of this law could lead to unintended restrictions on religious freedom and the direct persecution of churches and individuals of faith.”

“These efforts to interfere with theological education, restrict missionary and worship activity, and control international donations in fact wrongly extends government power into the internal life of Bulgarian religious communities,” they said. “No state, we believe, should be in a position to control the training and activities of ecclesiastic ministers, nor should a state favor one faith expression over another.”

The proposed law, opponents worry, would represent a step backwards for their country, which was under Communist rule until 1990.

“The legislative proposal is a sad reminder of a bygone Communist past, which we believed would no longer return,” Christo Proykov, Catholic bishop of Sofia and president of the Bulgarian Bishops, told SIR.

Bulgarian media report that larger religious groups have likewise condemned the restrictions. Orthodox bishops stated that the amendments are “ambiguous and will fail to deliver the expected results. They must be seriously reconsidered to shun any doubt on the consolidated, positive cooperation between the State and the Church.” Major Muslim leaders also met with the prime minister to object to the law, including the provisions against smaller faiths.

Protestants have had to fight for their place in Bulgaria, from being driven underground during Communist rule to fighting back against what Christianity Today called “a swelling wave of religious intolerance that includes government restrictions, vitriolic media attacks, and even violent assaults” in the 1990s.

A year before the 2002 religious denominations act was adopted in Bulgaria, Sofia-based religious liberty lawyer Viktor Kostov wrote for CT about the struggle to grow a healthy church in a country “stuck in a wounded culture” and “haunted by totalitarianism.”

**Pray: That the full freedoms of the churches and missionaries are protected.**

**Pray: That this legislation will be overturned.**

**Pray: For the protection of those who are campaigning and representing the church on these important issues at the highest level.**

**Pray: for the Spirit of Antichrist to be bound.**

**Pray: for Bulgarian Christians to have a voice, and to be listened to.**

**Pray: for better relations between the Bulgarian Church and Government.**

**More:** <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2018/november/bulgaria-religious-freedom-restrictions-parliament-evangeli.html>



## 06 Ukraine - Russia Conflict - PRAY

Ukraine will not allow Russian men aged 16-60 into the country following the imposition of martial law, Kiev says. An exception would be made for "humanitarian cases" such as those travelling to funerals. Russia says it is not planning retaliatory measures.

Martial law has been imposed in 10 Ukrainian regions until 26 December 2018.

The move came as Ukraine's president expressed fears of a Russian invasion after Russian forces seized three Ukrainian boats and 24 sailors.



Ukraine said Sunday's incident in the Black Sea was a flagrant violation of international law, while Russia says the vessels violated its territorial waters.

It is the most dangerous clash at sea off Crimea since Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in March 2014.

### What did Ukraine say?

The restrictions were announced after President Petro Poroshenko met the country's top security officials, including border guard chiefs, in Kiev.

The president tweeted (in Ukrainian) that the ban was designed to prevent the formation of "private armies" in Ukraine.

He was referring to Russian-backed separatists who formed units in April 2014 to fight Ukrainian government forces in eastern Ukraine.

Mr Poroshenko also said registration criteria would be tightened for Russian citizens in the regions under martial law.

On Tuesday, he warned there was a threat of "full-scale war" with Russia.

"The number of [Russian] tanks at bases located along our border has grown three times," the president said.

Five of the 10 regions border Russia while two are adjacent to Moldova's breakaway Trans-Dniester region, where Russian troops are stationed. The other three regions border the Black Sea or Sea of Azov close to Crimea. (See article image courtesy of BBC)

The BBC's Jonah Fisher in Kiev says the ban could have a devastating impact on cross-border travel as the holiday period approaches. Many Russians have relatives living in Ukraine.

Reacting to the Ukrainian ban, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Moscow was not planning "mirror" measures as this "could result in full madness".



Russia earlier said the 30-day martial law in Ukraine had been declared in order to potentially suspend presidential elections set for 31 March.

It said President Poroshenko - whose approval ratings have plummeted - would then be the main beneficiary.

Mr Poroshenko denies the claim, saying the polls will be held as scheduled.

**Please Pray:**

**That the situation does not escalate.**

**That this long running situation can be diplomatically resolved.**

**That people will be able to travel freely across the border again, especially looking forward to Christmas.**

**For peace in the region.**

More at: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-46397644?intlink\\_from\\_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/crr7mlg0d21t/ukraine-conflict&link\\_location=live-reporting-story](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-46397644?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/crr7mlg0d21t/ukraine-conflict&link_location=live-reporting-story)

## **07 Stop Child Witch Accusations Report**

It's so uplifting to see more and more people engaging with the issue of children accused of witchcraft, and resolving to take action. We are not yet a 'great multitude'. But our experience in the last few months has been that God is gathering people from all over the world, with many different backgrounds and areas of expertise; gathering them to fight for the cause of persecuted children.



It's a glimpse of heaven and the unity and justice that awaits us there. That glimpse of heaven, illustrated by some of the stories below, inspires us to persevere in this work. We hope it inspires you too. Joseph's story

Last year, Joseph took part in a training event in Goma, DRC, using 'The Heart of the Matter' to unpack how to respond to accusations of witchcraft against children. Joseph has benefited hugely from this training. For example, he has been able to help one particular family:

'The head of the family died, and this was followed by four accidents to other members of the family. The death of the head of the family and the accidents led the family to believe that their misfortune was being caused by witchcraft. The family looked for the source of the witchcraft, and they concluded that one of the children wanted to exterminate the whole family.

'The whole family was ready to burn the child, because they had taken him to many prayer and deliverance rooms and he had refused to admit that he was a witch.

'When I heard about this, I spoke to each member of the family in turn and I showed that the child was innocent. Finally, I spoke to the child, who told me after several conversations that all the adults in the family hated him and that he was whipped night and day, and that as a result, he was excluded from the family, and they began to accuse him of being a witch.

'I involved a few others, who helped me to teach the family of this child until they were able to recognise that what they were doing was wrong. We were able to create a new harmony with this family, and now peace reigns there. The boy is at school and the adults have changed the way they behave towards all the children in the (extended) family.'

**Please pray:**

**Praise God for the impact 'The Heart of the Matter' is already having on how churches address accusations of witchcraft against children in their communities. And let's pray for an even greater impact as more church leaders and members interact with the resource.**

**Welcome Ken**

We are delighted that Ken Dachi of the Bible Society has joined the SCWA Steering Group. Ken has an extensive network of contacts and, among others, he has connected us with the Bible Society in Nigeria. We are hoping this may prove to be a way in to churches in that nation, which is an epicentre for accusations.

Thanks to Ken's introduction, Carolyn Gent (of BCT) and Jean-Paul Aruna (of LVLE, BCT's local partner) have also had a meeting with the Bishop of Goma, which looks set to lead to opportunities to train all 55 of the Anglican church leaders in the city, many of whom have not received extensive training before, in both child protection and 'The Heart of the Matter', with the potential for that to go on out to other dioceses.

**Please pray:**

**Give thanks for Ken's energy and enthusiasm for SCWA's work, and for the fruit which is already coming from the Bible Society's membership of the coalition. And let's continue to pray for our network of influence to grow.**

**Witchcraft and Human Rights Conference**

10-11 January 2019 will see a conference on Witchcraft and Human Rights at Lancaster University, focusing on how witchcraft accusations and beliefs related to them are generated, understood and addressed.

This event furthers the discussions begun at the UN workshop on the same subject, last year in Geneva. It is encouraging to see engagement with the issue progressing.

It is also encouraging that members of the SCWA Steering Group have been invited to address the conference: Carolyn Gent will outline how the Church is a vital part of the solution to accusations of witchcraft against children, illustrating that with reference to 'The Heart of the Matter'; and Stephanie Mooney will profile the audio resources Feba is producing in Kinshasa, and how these resources will promote engagement with the issue.

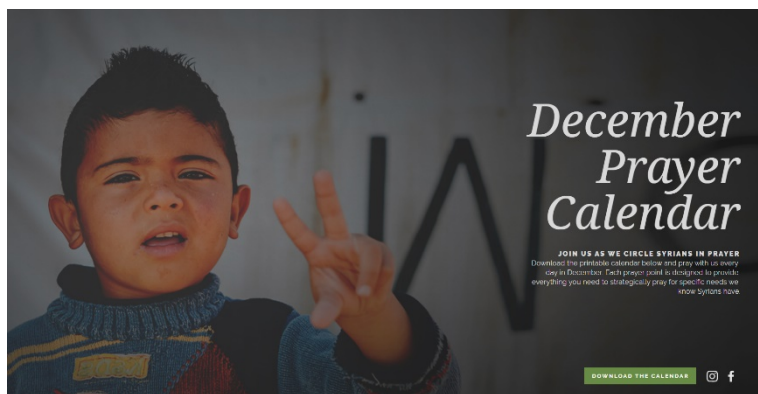
**Please pray:**

**Give thanks that child witch accusations are being taken seriously by influential organisations and that discussions are progressing. And please pray that Carolyn and Stephanie's contributions to the conference will be received well, in an environment which can tend to be wary of faith groups.**

**More: <https://www.stop-cwa.org/>**

## 08 Syria: 31 Days of Prayer - December 2018

It's easy to master the art of ignoring other people's pain when we don't recognize their faces, and the chaos is not right IN our face. You didn't ignore the pain of the Syrian people or the opportunity to join us, stepping into the gap 4 years ago this month with a 31 Day Prayer Focus.



Together we answered the call to what we sensed God asking, "If not you, who, and if not now, when? What are YOU waiting for?" Together we took action because a more urgent and radical response to the situation was needed from Christ's Church. We believed God had dislodged something in the hearts and minds of Syrians, and it was now time for them to hear the good news afresh, like no other time in history.

It's still their time NOW, and we can't miss it. The Church can't miss it. Or, is it another tragedy of neglect and callousness toward God himself?

What God has done in the intervening years is another whole story. Within 2 weeks, over 1,000 people were praying from over 100 Nations. We're not sure how all that happened so quickly. We can only attribute that to the more than 200 of you who said you would become a Circle Starter -- and gathered groups of friends and family to pray with you.

Several 1,000's were activated through the prayer initiative to go work among the refugees in the harsh camps, tent settlements, and cities of Europe, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Many have come to faith along the journey and in new host countries. Many dollars were given for relief, evangelism and church planting efforts, as well as training new believers to reach their own people.

We're convinced there is a future story too. In some ways, a lot has changed, but many things have not.

**What has changed? Many have come to faith and are now being discipled and discipling others.**

These are estimates since the violence erupted:

- 500,000 have been killed (Total population in 2011 before the war was 21 million)
- 1.8 million have been injured
- 5.6+ million have fled the borders
- 6+ million are internally displaced

What has NOT changed?

- They have no guaranteed safety
- They're still victims of other people's wars.
- For most, they still haven't been integrated into their host nations - many without jobs or warmth during winter, and some still hungry.
- Most children are still not being educated 7 years later.

**Yet -- GOD is still drawing many to Himself in the midst of the loss, pain, and chaos. He's not asleep, distracted or off duty.**

Now is not the time to give up. Will we let the hope of future generations dissipate because we stopped praying? We must persevere and capture the lessons we've learned and press into the future with fervent prayer for the Syrian people and the region. We believe there is too much still at stake.

Will you prayer-push with us once again a few minutes each day this December?

There is no better time than when it's no longer in the news, and many have forgotten! Fire up those "prayer circles" once again. We will send out revised and daily prayer prompts and also have available a downloadable 31-Day prayer guide.

### **31 - Day Prayer Guide and Flipboard Magazine**

You can click on the link here: <https://thesyriancircle.com/> to download a printable pdf of the guide.

We launched a Flipboard Magazine to curate articles on the crisis. Click on the link here: <https://flipboard.com/@thesyriancircle/the-syrian-crisis-gbcn36hry>

### **The Syrian Circle Team**

## **09 MUSLIM WILLING TO SACRIFICE 'MILLIONS' OF LIVES TO RETAKE 'PALESTINE'**

Sermon by imam demands 'liberation'

### **Muslim willing to sacrifice 'millions' of lives to retake 'Palestine'**

"Palestine" must be retaken by Muslims even if it costs "millions" of lives.

That's the opinion of an imam in Florida whose recent sermon on the topic was uncovered by the [Middle East Media Research Institute](#).



The Oct. 12, 2018, message was from Hasan Sabri of the Islamic Center of South Florida in Pompano Beach.

He said a "believing Muslim's" position is that Palestine is "Islamic waqf land that was occupied by force" – and that it should be liberated "even if this leads to the martyrdom of tens of millions of Muslims."

MEMRI reported Sabri also said, "Allah wants each and every one of you to be a man with a cause ... for which he lives and dies," noting that the Palestinian cause "is being plotted against" with "the Deal of the Century."

The research organization explained, "According to Pompano Beach elected officials, Sabri has recited invocations annually at Pompano Beach city meetings since 2005, and the ICOSF has had a peaceful, 25-year presence in the city, even serving as a polling station. In September 2017, Imam Sabri was a panelist at 'Interfaith and Race Relations Peace and Acceptance Conference' at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Florida."

But the building that is listed as the address of the ICOSF is owned by the North American Islamic Trust, which was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest terrorist financing case in America history. The case, U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation, resulted in convictions and imprisonment of several U.S.-based Hamas leaders.

Sabri said: “Take the Palestinian cause, for example. It is now being plotted against with a deal they call the ‘Deal of the Century.’ Why do they call it a ‘deal?’ Because whoever is involved in this treason is not a man of principles. These are peddlers, not men with a cause. All they want are positions and jobs. That is why for them, the cause is nothing but a deal, a matter of give and take. For them, it is nothing but a deal.”

He continued: “But what is the position of a believing Muslim about the Palestinian cause? That Palestine in its entirety is Islamic land, and there is no difference between what was occupied in 1948 and 1967. There is no difference between this village or that village, this city or that city. All of it is Islamic waqf land that was occupied by force. The responsibility for it lies with the entire Islamic nation, and the [Palestinians] should benefit from this land. If a land is occupied or plundered, it should be liberated from the occupiers and plunderers, even if this leads to the martyrdom of tens of millions of Muslims.”

He added, “This is the ruling, and there is no room for discussion or concessions.”

He also said: “[Atheists] always belong to minorities – national minorities, religious sects or minorities, and they have an agenda of destroying this Islamic nation, so they adopt atheism, not because it makes sense, but because it serves their approach. That is why you find most of these people, like I said, calling for goals that are opposite from the general goals of this nation. Our goal is to unite people, to unite Muslims. Their goal is to fragment Muslims even more. Wherever there is an opportunity to split a Muslim country into two, or three, or 10 parts, you will find that they are for it. What does that have to do with atheism? It has to do with an agenda. That’s all.”

Article printed from WND: <http://www.wnd.com>

URL to article: <http://www.wnd.com/2018/11/muslim-willing-to-sacrifice-millions-of-lives-to-retake-palestine/>

**Pray for the peace of God to reign over the Middle East and especially over those radical Palestinians who want conquer the land of Israel by violence and even the cost of millions of lives.**

**Pray that many of them will come to Jesus, the Messiah, who alone can help them make sense out of their great sense of disenfranchisement.**

## **10 Prayer Update from Israel**

**UNPRECEDENTED ROCKET ATTACK, GOVERNMENTAL RESIGNATIONS, A GOVERNMENT POISED TO FALL—RECOVERED, BUT HOLDING ON BY A THREAD.**

Hamas rained down almost 500 rockets on Southern Israel over a two and a half day period. Netanyahu sat 7 hours with his cabinet discussing whether or not to go to war.





Some of his cabinet felt there was no other choice except to go to war, as these last months of terrorism - sending fiery balloons over the border burning up farmland and forest areas, hordes of Palestinians trying to break through the border, etc., etc., etc. were bringing a living hell to the Israeli citizens in the south.

Others believed that because of the certain loss of many lives in the IDF that would occur, and the world's condemnation that would surely come, if Egypt could help put together a cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas, that would be the best direction.

Netanyahu chose the latter. Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman was furious and resigned, taking his party of 7 Knesset seats with him. That left Netanyahu with 61 Knesset seats in his coalition. Netanyahu needs 61 out of 120 to lead the nation.

Naftali Bennett, who also felt the nation must go to war to defeat Hamas and give relief to the hundreds of thousands of Israelis in the south, told Netanyahu he wanted to take Lieberman's place as defense minister - or he would leave the government with his 8 Knesset seats. Netanyahu refused and Bennett says he is also leaving the government. That means elections are here.

It would seem logical that Netanyahu believes he can win a snap election, or he would not have let his government fall. He would have given Bennett the job.

Netanyahu is the most popular politician in Israel. The issue is that he has the entire group of ultra-Orthodox parties in his coalition, as he bends towards the religious. That means the Haredim (ultras) have tremendous power in Israel. They basically let Netanyahu do whatever he wishes to do, as long as he fills their coffers with shekels to support their men of whom the majority won't work or serve in the army. Aside from the harassment and persecution against Messianic Jews and Messianic congregations, the Haredim take far more than their share of finances, and give back little to Israeli society.

Yet, there is no other strong leader in any of the other parties that stands out who the Israeli public have faith that he or she can keep Israel in survival mode. Israel lives in the most dangerous neighborhood in the world.

**So let us pray for God's will to be done in this upcoming election (2019).**

***Lord, we pray, in the awesome Name of Yeshua, that You will hear the prayers of Your people who have a personal relationship with You and Your Son, and give us relief from the Haredi persecutors. We pray that You will put together the coalition that You desire. Hear the words of our hearts, because we don't know who we should pray for or how to pray. But You have a plan. You have a plan to save all Israel and to bring revival to the nations of the world.***

***Use Your people here in Israel that love You. Give us opportunities and freedom to spread the Word of God more and more here in Israel.***

SHIRA SORKO-RAM

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\* That God will “redeem Israel out of all of his troubles” (Psalm 25:22). That a government will be put in place which is not out of alignment with those redemptive purposes!**

**\* That while it is time for the present government to stand, it will stand; when it is time for it to be replaced, that it will fall.**

- \* That with the resignation of Defense Minister Lieberman, a man or woman of courage, integrity and wisdom for that job will be chosen to take his place.
- \* That, as Shira mentions above, the ultra-Orthodox members of the present government (or one which may arise in its place), will not be allowed to work injustice nor take unfair advantage of their positions to coerce the government in a direction which is unrighteous and unjust.
- \* That God minister strongly to Prime Minister Netanyahu during this time. That he humble himself before his God, and allow himself to be led in ways which are truly aligned with God's purposes for Israel *this year*. That he fulfills the length of days God has ordained for him to lead. That a godly, strong God-fearing leader be being nurtured to be raised up to take his place.
- \* That the warm, strong relationship between the governments of Israel and the United States which God has brought into place during this season would not be threatened or adversely effected by a shake-up in the Israeli government outside of God's timing.

Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem

## 11 Prayer for Bosnia

### Your Peace Returns to You

Our last prayer topic was praying about finding a house where your peace would remain. In that house was a person of peace who would be key in moving

forward the Good News in their family, with their friends and in their village. This prayer topic is about giving wisdom and freedom to the pioneer missionaries to move on to another village, town or city. Jesus tells His disciples,



"But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'" Luke 10:10-11

### Pray for pioneer missionaries to grow in knowing the Lord's peace

**Pray for them to know when that peace has not returned to them as a sign to move on to the next village.**

**Pray for the disciples advancing the Gospel to have much wisdom in all of this.**

**Pray for cities to desire to repent.**

Readers are invited to consider praying for a special project that will kick off on Monday, December 3rd. If you'd be willing to intercede for Bosnia for 31 days from December 3rd to January 3rd, please print the ATTACHED PDF and put the 31-day guide with your quiet time or Bible study materials.

Prayer is such a crucial component in the breakthrough work we are asking God to do.

On December 4th, we will once again begin using social media to creatively find spiritually seeking people in two Bosnian cities, Sarajevo & Tuzla. As you know, we tested this media approach last May and we were greatly encouraged by what God did in that 30-day test run. As our team begins to talk with people online, our goal is to move the conversation offline and meet them for face-to-face discipleship.

Please print the PDF on the link below and join us as we pray over the different facets of this initiative. There is great potential for Kingdom expansion!

**PDF LINK:** [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/04082d070bdc4d800eb8e81dc/files/3967eab1-b13b-4606-80d2-3b87715a2fd8/M2DMM\\_Launch Prayer Guide.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/04082d070bdc4d800eb8e81dc/files/3967eab1-b13b-4606-80d2-3b87715a2fd8/M2DMM_Launch_Prayer_Guide.pdf)

Thankful for your partnership in prayer for Bosnia,

## Pray4Bosnia Team

**Email: [prayer@p4bih.com](mailto:prayer@p4bih.com)**

## 12 Afghanistan - ongoing prayer needed

There is very serious and heavy fighting going on in many areas in the country. The defense minister Tariq Shah Bahrami said that battles are ongoing in at least ten provinces in the country and that the level of threats are beyond the capabilities of government. The battles are currently simultaneous going on especially in these provinces: Ghazni, Uruzgan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Kunduz, Badghis, Baghlan and some other areas.



On Wednesday Afghanistan's Lower House of Parliament summoned the heads of the security institutions for the second time in a week on the situation in the country, particularly on Ghazni and Uruzgan provinces (where many Hazaras live).

The defense Minister made this sad statement: “To be honest, the level of threats is very high and the current facilities available to security and defence institutions is not enough to repel these threats. Afghanistan’s enemies are plotting to bring us to our knees. The enemies and supporters of enemies (neighbouring countries etc.) of the people of Afghanistan including the backers of terrorists have made their final plots to break our back.”

Another statement from the Minister of Interior Mr. Barmak shows their desperation: “the minister of defense and myself remain busy on the telephone until 2am and 3am (daily); we call here and there to this and that commander and get updates on the situations, and the commanders shout for help.”

The Taliban have attacked and conquered several areas of the minority Hazara Shia community and it is feared that they will commit many atrocities there. Often the Taliban killed Hazaras and even targeted their mosques and schools. Thousands of Hazaras are fleeing their villages and many have come also to the capital.

This situation is like a desperate cry, from the ministers and commanders on the field and the people that are suffering and we are wondering that how long the Army is able to push back the Taliban.

**Please pray with us urgently and strongly**

**For the Lord to intervene in this very desperate and increasingly hopeless situation.**

**That the Taliban Forces would be defeated soon and that the government troops will be able to defend their country.**

**Especially now that they will be driven out of the Hazara areas and for protection of these vulnerable community.**

**For wisdom for the government and especially the Defence Ministry and Army and that they will receive**

all the help they need.

Thank you for standing in the gap for this embattled country. This has gone on for so long but we believe that as we earnestly pray for this country, once again we will see a breakthrough and a defeat of this that try to destroy this country.

We believe that even this situation will turn around as we pray!

### 13 Bolivia: 'Spiritual Revolution'

Intercessors for Bolivia - "En la brecha por tu Nación" "In the gap for your Nation"

After Uprising Bolivia (Nov 29 – Dec 2, 2017) we have witnessed a spiritual revolution and a tsunami of convocations for fasting, praying and spiritual warfare training nationwide. In order to maximize this amazing momentum and pray to God for a National Strategic Prayer Plan, we called the leaders from the different prayer networks

that have attended these convocations and trainings during this year for a national unified gathering : "En la Brecha por tu Nación / In the gap for your Nation", the summit took place in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia from November 8 to 10, 2018 .



This convocation gathered 230 prayer leaders from 28 different congregations and denominations representing six cities : Cochabamba, La Paz, Sucre, Oruro, Tarija and Quillacollo . We also had a delegation of 5 leaders from Calama, Chile.

After a time of waiting on God's presence, and praying over the words that God spoke to many during this year and during the meeting a Prayer Plan for Bolivia was structured, believing that God will help the nation to enter in a new time of changes in all sectors of society.

#### Prayer strategies and Action plan:

- Continue with the 24/7 prayer covering in the 9 departments of Bolivia
- Prayer Vigils focused on the Unity of the Body of Christ
- Fasting and Prayer Journeys in the 9 departments of Bolivia
- National Altars of Worship and Intercession nationwide
- Training more people to become involved as intercessors of the nation.
- Identification of prayer efforts of distinct institutions to unite common points and bring solutions to Bolivia problems
- Simultaneous Intercession in some strategic points in several cities of Bolivia.
- Continue with the training of spiritual warfare and mapping of strongholds in the seven mountains of the Nation.
- Bolivia - Plan for Identificational Repentance and Forgiveness
- Prayer Guide indigenous groups : Aymaras & Quechuas
- Cooperate with the UPRISING Latin American movement

#### Prayer points:

- **Unity of the Body of Christ in Bolivia**
- **Uprising of a Kingdom Army of prophetic warriors, intercessors, worshipers , missionaries in Bolivia**



- Pray for a spiritual and comprehensive reformation movement in Bolivia that includes the transformation of social, political, and economic spheres.
- Pray for understanding of the church and national leaders about the destiny of the nation.
- Pray for the reduction of the statistical indices of: violence, poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, infant mortality, demographic situation, fiscal and tributary problems, unemployment, social marginalization
- Pray for an increase of the statistical indices of: housing, education, labor, social welfare, infrastructure, communications
- Pray that Bolivia will experience an atmosphere of peace, security, political, social and religious freedom and prosperity.
- Pray that God releases a spirit of reconciliation, adoption, repentance, confession, and restitution among the Bolivians .
- Pray for the healing of the land.
- Pray that Bolivia will be part of the GO2020 initiative.
- Pray to reverse governmental laws supported by anthropologists, leftist politicians, Catholic priests that prohibit outreach of indigenous tribes: Aymaras & Quechuas.
- Pray for "Transformation of the Holy Spirit" in the 7 areas of Bolivian culture: government, family, education, church, arts and entertainment, economy, and the media.

Judith Yanira González  
 International Prayer Council  
[judithyanira.gonzalez@gmail.com](mailto:judithyanira.gonzalez@gmail.com)

## 14 Europe - Blasphemy laws

Islam, Christianity, and Free Speech

We think of Europe as secular, progressive, and confidently post-religious. But try criticizing Islam.

Should governments be in the business of protecting people's feelings? Most Americans, I think would say no. The European Court of Human Rights, however, thinks otherwise. In a historic move last month, the international court affirmed a conviction by a lower court in Vienna against a right-wing speaker who criticized the prophet Muhammad.



Identified only as "E.S.," the woman, at a seminar in Vienna in 2009, described the founder of Islam as a "pedophile." According to Islamic tradition, Muhammad was in his fifties when he married his third wife, Aisha, who was six years old at the time. Tradition also says Muhammad waited to consummate their union until the girl was nine.

For describing this relationship in direct though accurate terms, "E.S." was reported to Austrian authorities, who charged her with "publicly disparaging religious doctrines," which, believe it or not, is illegal in that country. The Austrian court convicted, describing her statement as "a malicious violation of the spirit of tolerance," which was "capable of hurting the feelings" of Muslims, and of putting religious peace in Europe at risk.

After a lengthy appeal, the European Court of Human Rights reaffirmed this troubling verdict, ruling that the speaker's remarks about Muhammad were not only "without factual basis," but went "beyond the permissible limits of an objective debate," thereby putting religious peace in jeopardy. So, peace is in jeopardy because Muhammad is critiqued, and not because of how his followers react to the critique?



Set aside for a moment the factual basis of Muhammad's treatment of his nine-year-old child bride, and the fact that child brides are still shockingly common throughout the Muslim world. The rationale behind these rulings is genuinely scary for another reason.

This idea that speech should be illegal because it threatens "religious peace" is a capitulation to religious violence. Islamic extremists are well known for rioting and even killing whenever they believe someone has "insulted" the prophet Muhammad.

Exhibit A: Asia Bibi, the woman who was just acquitted by the Pakistani supreme court and taken off death row, where she sat for eight years after an alleged slight against the founder of Islam. Bibi now faces the very real possibility of retaliation or assassination by Pakistani radicals and remains trapped in the country.

What the European Court of Human Rights has essentially done is enact a blasphemy law like Pakistan's, only in the West! Extremists who get violent over perceived insults have been granted veto power over citizens' free speech. This, just a few years after the Charlie Hebdo massacre in which twelve people—including journalists—were gunned down in Paris over cartoons mocking (ironically!) the violent tendencies of Muhammad and many of his followers.

If guarantees to freedom of speech—which Europe has—do not include the right to say offensive things about religion, such guarantees are not worth the paper they're written on. If anyone can shut someone else up simply by complaining of hurt feelings, your society is a dictatorship of the easily offended, not free. Caving to the threat of violence will ultimately embolden the violent, not appease them.

Protecting members of a minority religion from hurt feelings is unique to the West. Islamic extremists take advantage of Europe's indulgence, demanding legal penalties against anyone who criticize Islam. They won't, of course, ever return the favor. In countries like Saudi Arabia—the birthplace of Islam—a Muslim who converts to Christianity still, to this day, faces the death penalty.

Of course, religious tolerance and free speech arise historically from only one religion, and it isn't the one founded by Muhammad. Those who think giving up freedom of speech will preserve peace in the long term aren't insulting our religion. Just our intelligence.

**More:** [http://www.breakpoint.org/2018/11/breakpoint-blasphemy-laws-in-europe/?utm\\_source=Colson+Center+Master+List&utm\\_campaign=cbe2533bb0-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_07\\_17\\_08\\_49\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_84bd2dc76d-cbe2533bb0-8581285](http://www.breakpoint.org/2018/11/breakpoint-blasphemy-laws-in-europe/?utm_source=Colson+Center+Master+List&utm_campaign=cbe2533bb0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_17_08_49_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_84bd2dc76d-cbe2533bb0-8581285)

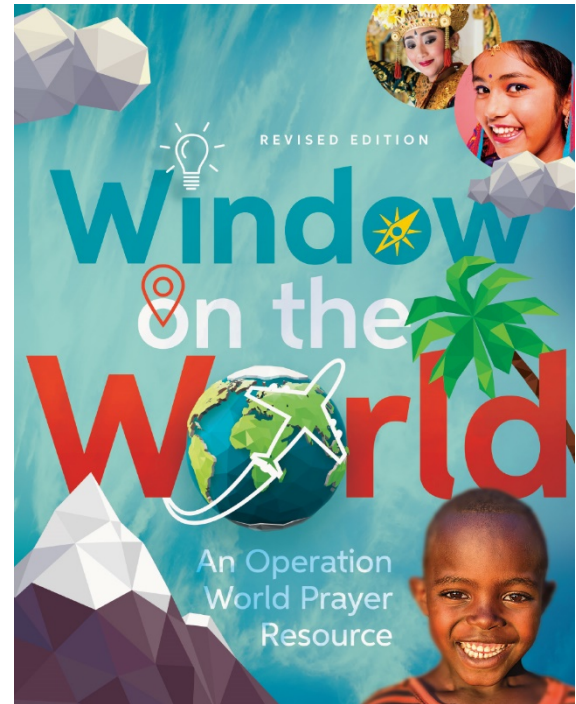
## Resources:

### 15 Children's version of Operation World

God is raising up prayer all around the world - and He is clearly using children in prayer to make an impact on a scale never seen before.

The Operation World team have released a new prayer resource for the world aimed at informing and mobilizing families and children - Window on the World. Although it's full of colourful photos and interesting facts, the purpose of this resource is to nurture in kids a spirit of prayer and a missional vision for God's world.

There are over 100 two-page spreads sharing stories and prayer needs of various countries, people groups, and religions around the world. It rests on Operation World's foundations of solid research, relational networks with Christian leaders all over the world, and a Biblical worldview in step with the Spirit.



This new edition (the previous one being published in 2001) includes a number of new entries in keeping with the needs of our world in 2018 - nations like Syria and South Sudan, peoples like the Rohingya and Somalis, and issues like Third Culture Kids. But beware: using with children might lead to them becoming intercessors, missionaries, or both!

If you have any specific ideas about movements and countries that might be interesting in larger scale purchases, I would expect that we might be able to negotiate special prices, or possibly even local print runs in other countries. One of the design elements was the ability to publish in full colour or in black and white if necessary. We're very keen to see it translated into other languages and printed and distributed where those other languages are spoken, for prices in keeping with those local economies.

Window on the World was Edited by Jason Mandryk and Molly Wall.

**Order Window on the World:** <https://www.ivpress.com/window-on-the-world>

**Contact Jason Mandryk / Operation World:** <http://www.operationworld.org/jasonow-team>

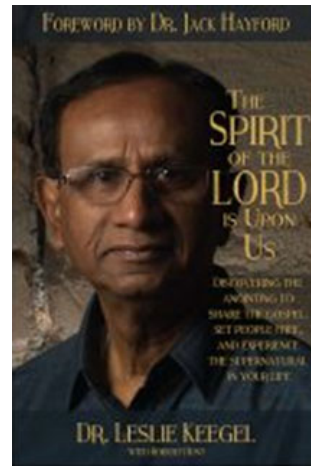
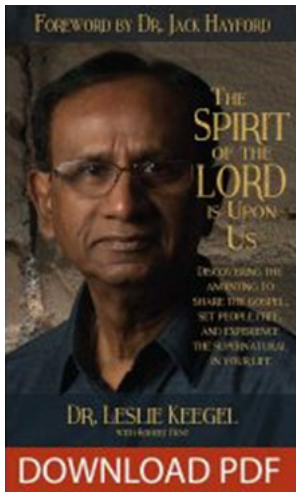
### 16 The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Us

**Awesome new book on prayer and mission by an IPC leader**

“Dr. Leslie Keegel’s new book is full of signs and wonders and reads like the book of Acts!” - John Robb, IPC Chairman

[PDF - Digital Download \\$8.00](#)

[Softcover \\$15.00](#)



## 17 A Window on the Darkness: Brian Mills

### *A new “must read” book for praying people*

Have you ever wondered just why the darkness in the world today seems to be getting darker, and what can be done about it?

This book sheds fresh light on this topic, and on the spiritual nature of this darkness. It shines the light of Scripture on the evil one and on the way in which so many have become bewitched. This is a clarion call to the church and individual Christians to get ready to do battle with the powers of darkness, and to shine Christ's light more powerfully.

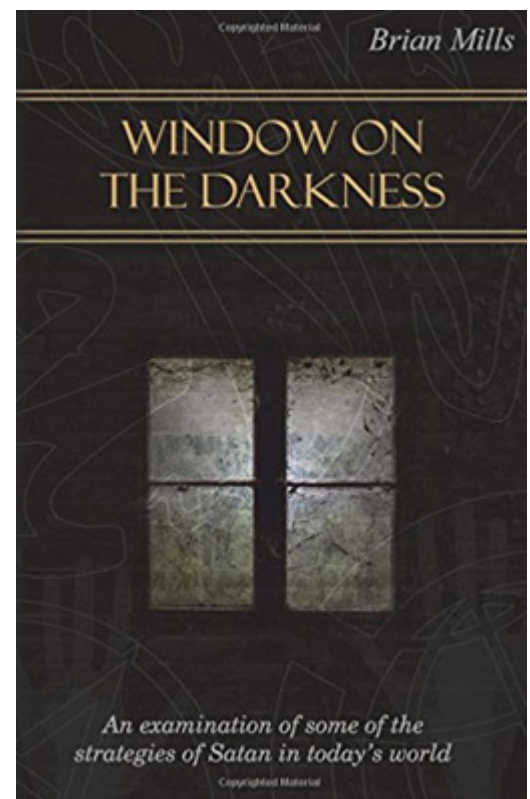
Brian Mills writes out of many years of experience in international prayer ministry. He is a senior advisor in the International Prayer Council and is one of the leaders in the International Reconciliation movement. He has ministered in over 75 nations and authored nine books to date. He is also part of a global group that is seeking to understand more about the dark spiritual powers at work in the world.

*"The most informative book for our times I've read for a long time."*

Order 'Window on the Darkness' by Brian Mills in print or Kindle formats from

Amazon USA <http://a.co/7zeqIKd>

Amazon UK <http://amzn.eu/0BMEL6I>



## Movement for Prayer News & Events

### 18 Australia Calls the World to Pray 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019



#### Australia Calls the World to Pray

##### Sunrise Prayer Relay - New Year's Day 2019

Australia Christian prayer leaders invite their brothers and sisters in Christ, prayer groups, prayer networks and churches to join with them all over the world to pray at sunrise on New Year's Day 2018 at a public location such as a hill, lookout or landmark in your city or town. Already we have registrations from USA, South Africa, Namibia, Pakistan, Japan, United Kingdom, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand, and Australia.

See 2019 short promo video: [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=LSTHRAixKOQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=LSTHRAixKOQ)

Warwick Marsh, coordinator for Australia's National Day of Prayer & Fasting said, "David said in Psalm 108:2, "I will wake the dawn with my song." During this time of prayer we want to focus on giving great praise to God. We also want to pray for revival and transformation, that God will bring healing to each of our nations: 2 Chronicles 7:14. Let us all pray for a great harvest of souls for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Marsh continued, "In declaring Jesus Christ as Lord at this worldwide Sunrise Prayer Relay we are circling the globe with prayer, praise and worship and surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ for the glory of God. Psalms 113:3 says, "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be [www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)



praised.” Use the prayer resources on the website and social media and register your location at: [www.sunriseprayerrelay.org](http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org) Our prayer is that with your help, this worldwide Prayer and Praise Relay will go viral.”

Pat Steele, a prayer and worship leader in Wollongong Australia, said, “We encourage you to pray the Lord's Prayer together aloud as the sun rises and make a declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, your family, your region and your nation. At your location we encourage you to include praise and worship, prayers, and scripture readings. We suggest 30 minutes, but you can pray for longer. You could even take communion, shine a torch, or light a candle. What you do for your sunrise celebration is up to you.”

**Share photos and videos from your location on social media.**

**Use the hashtag: #sunriseprayerrelay**

**Website:** [www.sunriseprayerrelay.org](http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/sunriseprayerrelay](http://www.facebook.com/sunriseprayerrelay)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/sunriseprayerrelay](http://www.instagram.com/sunriseprayerrelay)

**Longer Video:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FybiSXbl6Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FybiSXbl6Q)

**Contact:** Warwick Marsh +61 418 225212 or Pat Steele by email: [info@sunriseprayerrelay.org](mailto:info@sunriseprayerrelay.org)

**19 WORLD GENERATION GATHERING: Jakarta, 23-26 Jan 2019**





The theme of this international assembly of on-fire Millennials and youth along with those from other generations will be - *“Receiving the Moravian Lampstand: Prayer + Missions.”* The organizers are envisioning to bring together a projected estimate of 4,000 youth and young adult leaders for a 3-day destiny-engaging convergence which will be held at the ICC-MGK in North Jakarta, and an estimated 10,000 for the Solemn Assembly which will be held at the Stadium Area in Senayan.

Like the first global gathering in Korea, we believe that this will awaken the young “Davids” to fight against their generation’s “Goliaths,” and against the injustices in the nations. It will provoke them to wake up and do something. And we believe that the greatest injustice today remains to be this: that JESUS is not worshipped in the nations. We know that only Jesus can bring true justice. So, the UPRISING will not just be a call for the youth to gather in prayer, but it will be a call to battle from a place of extravagant worship and united prayer as we launch a global generation to a global harvest, all unto the hastening of the return of the Desired of nations: Jesus Christ!

We will also be locking arms with Indonesia as she is being released to her destiny at this hour. We will join her in contending for the ancient doors to open up, as we believe that it will be the key for the other ancient gates in the nations to open too, toward taking the gospel back to Jerusalem, and preparing the church to welcome the King of glory (Psalm 24:7-10)!

The Moravians once cried, *“may the Lamb who was slain receive the due reward of His suffering.”* In the spirit of the Moravians, we long to see the Church prepared for His coming again. It is our prayer that this gathering in Indonesia in January will be catalytic in awakening a generation in the nations to have a deep longing for Jesus’ return, and thus, align their lives unto that.

God is releasing a new wave of the Jesus Movement, of the Azusa Street Revival, of the Wales Revival, of the Moravian Revival on steroids... another great awakening is being sparked! This is the Psalm 24 generation that God has been waiting for. We hope you can join us in catalyzing these waves of youth-led global prayer and mission movements at the **UPRISING**, and together, let us labor for the Lamb to receive His inheritance in the nations.

**Here is the latest video about the Global UPR which we would appreciate your sharing with your various networks and constituencies, especially the younger generation, encouraging them to take part in this life-changing, world-impacting gathering; all are welcomed to take part. UPRising promo video --**  
<https://youtu.be/3xrEl4UdsTE>.

**Preview YouTube video World Generation Gathering:  
Global UPR 2019 Indonesia**



## 20 World Youth Day: Panama City Panama. January 22-27

Expecting 500,000, Ages 15-35. They want to keep the attendance down since the country itself is only 2 million.....But in the past they have far exceeded 1-2 million. It was begun by Pope John II in 1984. He imagined the youth encountering Christ, being introduced to Christ, and and learning from Christ how to be "bearers of the Gospel".



The Jesus Film will be represented during the conference as a tool for sharing the Gospel.

### History

#### Perspective:

An outside glance of an international World Youth Day would spark a bystander's curiosity as massive crowds of young people flood the city streets. Some might cringe at the thought of those words, wondering what delinquency is in store, but to witness *this* gathering would end those fears. The happenstance observer would witness not angst and malice, but smiles and joy, singing and dancing young people, culture upon culture and nation upon nation, proudly holding their flags high (or wearing them), greeting one another in peace, trading their tokens, humbly realizing how small they are in a world of people, and strengthened to witness so many who share their convictions. How did it all begin?

#### Beginnings:

In 1984 at the close of the Holy Year of Redemption, over 300,000 young people from around the world responded to the invitation of His Holiness John Paul II for an International Jubilee of youth on Palm Sunday in St. Peter's square. Looking out to the crowds who answered his invitation he said, "What a fantastic spectacle is presented on this stage by your gathering here today! Who claimed that today's youth has lost their sense of values? Is it really true that they cannot be counted on?" It was at this gathering that the Holy Father entrusted to the youth what is now known as the World Youth Day Cross, to be carried throughout the world as a symbol of the love of Christ for humanity.

#### First WYD:

The following Palm Sunday, coinciding with the United Nation's International Year of the Youth, Our Holy Father took the opportunity to welcome the youth of the world to Rome again. Later, announcing the institution of World Youth Day on December 20, 1985, and the first official WYD was held in 1986.

#### International WYDs:

The following year brought about a new tradition when the second event and first international WYD took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Every Palm Sunday has since been designated as a World Youth Day, alternately celebrated at the diocesan and international levels. There have been 12 International World Youth Day celebrations, where the youth continue to answer the invitation of the Holy Father in staggering numbers and carry home the message received there to be Christ's light to the world. While these events are organized by the clergy and laity of the Catholic Church, youth of all faiths are invited to attend and encounter Christ, making this gathering truly universal.

## Reflection:

In Toronto, the last International WYD in which JP II was present he told the 800,000 gathered with him at the vigil, "When, back in 1985, I wanted to start the World Youth Days... I imagined *a powerful moment* in which the young people of the world could meet Christ, who is eternally young, and could learn from him how to be *bearers of the Gospel to other young people*. This evening, together with you, I praise God and give thanks to him for the gift bestowed on the Church through the World Youth Days. Millions of young people have taken part, and as a result have become better and more committed Christian witnesses."

John Paul II left a legacy for the youth in his institution of World Youth Day, which Pope Benedict XVI has faithfully continued, carrying on the hope of His predecessor for the youth of the world, inviting them and commissioning them as Christ's disciples to be faithful living witnesses.

More: <http://worldyouthday.com/>

Let's pray for this huge gathering of young Catholics that they may encounter Jesus Christ Himself through what happens there and for the Jesus Film team that will be reaching out to them.

## 21 IPC Calendar

Americas National Day of Repentance

<http://www.dayofrepentance1.org>

Nigeria: Year of Prayer – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

<http://www.pray4nigeria.org/>

Ethne18 - a missions gathering in the Mediterranean December 3-7, 2018

Email [ethne@2414now.net](mailto:ethne@2414now.net)

New Year's Day SUNRISE PRAYER RELAY 1 Jan 2019

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

Witchcraft and Human Rights Conference, Lancaster University, 10-11 Jan 2019

<https://www.stop-cwa.org/>

IPC Leadership Team Meetings - Jakarta, 21-22 Jan 2019

[www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)

World Youth Day: Panama City, Panama, 21-22 Jan 2019

<http://worldyouthday.com/>

Go 2020 May 2020

<https://www.go2020.world>



## 22 United Prayer Rising Events:

UPRISING Global: Jakarta, Indonesia - January 23-26, 2019 (WYPA)

<http://unitedprayerrising.com>

### World Generation

Jakarta, Indonesia, January 23-26, 2019

Please pray for and consider taking part in this world youth prayer assembly in January. Here is a video and details to register. You will want to forward this to younger generation believers but anyone is welcome.

<https://youtu.be/3xrEI4UdsTE>



## 23 Pray for Go 2020!



**GO 2020** is a global vision to activate the whole Body of Christ – millions of individual believers, churches and large global ministries - to pray and share the Gospel all over the world in a joint effort of evangelism during the month of May 2020.

### THE CALLING

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Mt 9:37

The Great Commission is not an “optional assignment” for the Church. Yet 93% of church members never share the Gospel with others. GO 2020 aims to turn those numbers upside down ... to pursue the following:

### VISION

To activate and train every Christian believer, everywhere to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through a unique partnership effort involving many different denominations and parachurch organizations, this massive moment is meant to train and inspire every believer to live a lifestyle of evangelism.

### GOALS

Mobilize 100 million Christians to share the Gospel during May 2020.

Reach 1 billion people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

[www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)

1 million new churches, faith communities and small groups.  
Disciple 20 million new believers and integrate them into existing and new churches.

## **HOW?**

Through a strategic partnership network built over nearly a decade, GO 2020:

Encourages ordinary believers to share the Gospel through personal conversation and to demonstrate God's love through prayer, caring, and sharing in numerous different ways.

Equips Churches with training and materials in evangelism, discipleship and church planting (see Resources).

Promotes Kingdom partnership as churches, denominations and ministries from many different backgrounds work together to reach the world (see Partner).

Invites every church to be part of a church planting initiative during the year 2020. Every church is planting a church – together we can establish 1 million new faith communities.

Makes the Gospel visible through thousands of "Jesus Celebrations", GO 2020 Events, March for Jesus and more.

**GO 2020** is a special edition of Global Outreach Day, which has been taking place every last Saturday of May since 2012. On this day, every year, believers worldwide have stepped out together in faith to share the Good News.

25 million believers have already participated in Global Outreach Day. To see what God has done, view Global Outreach Day testimonies.

**«Every believer is a witness and a disciple maker – Every church is planting new churches»**

**More at:** <https://www.go2020.world/explained>

### **Prayer Points Suggested for GO-2020:**

1. **Pray that as the call to GO-2020 goes out, every believer wakes up to fully seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, realizing the time is short. (Rom. 13:11-14; Luke 19:13; Psalm 90:12)**
2. **Pray that every follower of Jesus is BEING a disciple who fully follows Jesus in loving God, loving others and making disciples that make disciples. (Acts 1:8; Matt. 22:37; Prov. 11:30; Matt. 28:18-20)**
3. **Pray that believers see the hearts of those the Holy Spirit has prepared to hear and that they share in a way that can be understood and responded to. (John 4:36; John 6:44; 2 Tim. 4:2)**
4. **Pray for every people group with little gospel witness to be adopted for prayer and outreach then engaged with a Kingdom multiplication strategy, so that there will be no place left without gospel witness in every tongue, tribe and nation. Currently ¼ to 1/3 of the world has little to no gospel witness (Unreached people groups) and 401 people groups over 500,000 in population have less than .1% Christians among them (these represent 88% of the remaining task. (Matt. 9:37-38; 2 Cor. 10:16; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev. 7:9)**
5. **Pray for access to the entire Word of God in every language since at present only 7% of the world's languages have a full Bible and only 1 in 5 Bible Translation Projects focus on translating the Old Testament. (Matt. 9:37-38; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 10:17-21)**
6. **Pray for the Body of Christ to recognize our call to see His Kingdom coming and His will being done (not building our own kingdoms) and that we work together in the unity of the Spirit keeping the bond of peace for His glory among the nations. (Matt. 6:10; Eph. 4:3; Matt. 12:22-26)**



## About IPC

### 24 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

### 25 Credits

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