

International Prayer Connections

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World



JANUARY 2019



INTERNATIONAL
PRAYER
CONNECT



Greetings!

We are pleased to bring you IPC Connections for January 2019.

We trust you will be blessed and encouraged as you read the editorial this month, that focuses on practical steps that we can each take to make our corporate prayer more impactful on our own lives, our communities and nations.

Later this month in Jakarta, Indonesia, two important events for the international prayer and mission movement will be happening. The Global UPR (United Prayer Rising) youth assembly will take place, January 23-26.

Please do pray for His strong anointing and guidance as hundreds of on-fire younger generation leaders gather to be equipped in prayer and for their unique life missions.

Also, the IPC Leadership will meet just before the Global UPR, Jan. 21-22, to make plans for the future and we would appreciate your prayers. **Please pray for an anointed, productive time of planning for the future by 16 of our various network and initiative leaders who are able to be with us.**

As we enter the New Year, let's join with many believers around the globe, who will be praying at sunrise on January 1st, for 'Souls to be Saved.' More on the New Year's Day Sunrise Relay is attached below along with articles and resources on the progress of reaching unreached peoplegroups around the world.

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 can make a gift towards our costs by giving to our funding arm, the Transformation Prayer Foundation, we would appreciate it. Please [click here](#).

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

Wishing you His continued blessings, equipping and guidance in 2019.

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

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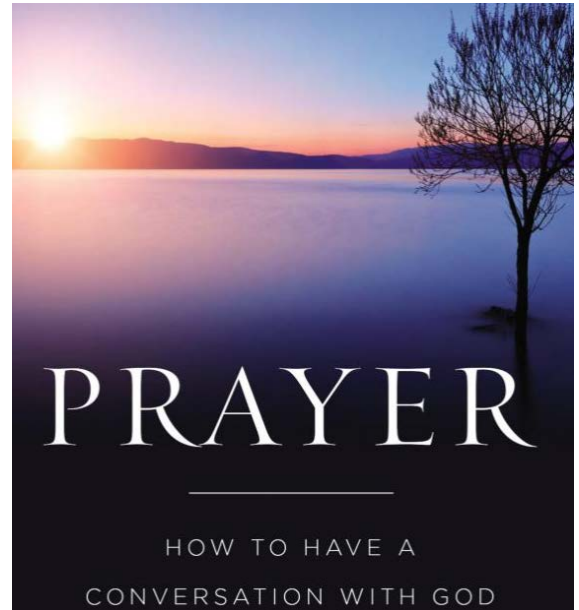
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01 Editorial: Making Corporate Prayer More Effective and Satisfying

As we move into a New Year as followers of Jesus Christ, presumably we want to see our lives make a greater impact for Him and our world. One of the most powerful, impactful things we can give ourselves to is praying with others for the changes we want to see in our lives, communities, and nations. I have been encouraged and stimulated by rereading a great classic on corporate prayer that I would like to share with you.

Rosalind Rinker, who served in China as a missionary from 1926 to 1940, wrote a provocative reflection on corporate prayer based on her own experience of learning to pray with others. She found herself bored and annoyed by the way prayer meetings were conducted each Friday night as the missionaries gathered to intercede. People would go on and on, touring the world in their praying, while other participants like her would try to stay focused but would wander mentally as they listened to what amounted to prayer orations.



A friend of hers and she later discovered the power of “conversational prayer” when two or more focus on the actual presence of Jesus Christ with them according to His promise in Matthew 28:20- that He would be with us “always”. Counting on His presence, they began to learn to speak to Him from the heart as one who was very much a part of their conversation and wanted to be included. They discovered that they did not need to use flowery, well thought out, theologically correct expressions, but rather like close friends would express their heart desires, questions, and concerns in natural, brief sentences, each giving attention to one subject at a time and then moving on to another when that subject had been covered enough.

Rinker opens her book with these words:

“Group prayer has lost its meaning for many of us, so that any excuse is a good excuse for not going to a prayer meeting. Praying conversationally (that is praying back and forth on a single subject until a new one is introduced by the Spirit) makes prayer such a natural means of “spiritual togetherness” that the healing love of God touches us all as we are in His presence. Meeting the Lord in this way brings us to the anticipated realization of what it means to be consciously with Him, and to belong to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.” (p.10)

Here are some vital principles that can be derived from Rinker’s book, ***Prayer: How to Have a Conversation with God***, that will make our times of prayer with others much more lively and exciting:

- 1) Count on the actual presence of the Trinity-Father, Son and Holy Spirit- when you come together to pray with others. Let the Triune God prompt you as to the things you should focus on together.
- 2) Don’t make prayer speeches but talk things over with the Lord back and forth, including Him in it as we do in human conversation.
- 3) Speak with the simplicity of a child talking to His Father. It is not the exact words but the heart attitude that God is attentive to.
- 4) Be aware of the others in this prayer conversation who have their own heart perspectives to share. Don’t pray a monologue (you can do that when you are alone) but let everyone pray what they are being led to articulate by the leading of the Spirit.

- 5) Make use of sentence prayers, expressing just one angle of a subject. God knows more about the subject already, far more than we will ever understand anyway! "Now remember the Lord is here. We are speaking to him. Pray in short sentences and then let someone else have a chance. He will guide us." (p.26)
- 6) Keep focused on the same subject, taking turns to pray about it until there is a sense of completion and the Spirit nudges you to move on to another issue.
- 7) Be in tune with when you should jump in and pray, being patient and letting other members of His Body play their part, trusting God to move them to bring out other aspects that should be addressed.
- 8) "We don't learn how to pray in six easy lessons, we learn to pray by praying... Go ahead and stumble in your prayers, go ahead and cry. Out of your very weakness your brother is made strong. Out of your own weakness you are made strong by Christ. Out of the inadequacy of your prayer, the inability to express yourself, the shame of your tears, and the urgency of your need, you meet the Savior who understands you. You are comforted and your brother is strengthened." (p.47, 49)
- 9) Some things we can ask for by ourselves. Other things, she writes, are like great mountains and we need the faith and prayer of others to help us when we pray. "If two of you agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever (anything and everything) they ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:18-20, Amplified) (p. 63)
- 10) "Have faith in the One who is able to answer... God has given us power over our imaginations, so that by the positive use of that imagination, we can picture ourselves receiving the answer. This is the way to believe in one's heart, and to believe that what one has asked for, he will receive." (p.73)

Rinker concludes her short but profound exploration of united prayer in this way: "After all, prayer is conversing with God, and to converse with someone we must be with that person. And in His presence is fullness of joy." (p. 88)

If I may add to what Ms. Rinker has said, we in the IPC have also found how powerful, even history-changing, such united prayer orchestrated by the Holy Spirit can be. Let us all go deeper in this wonderful adventure of conversing with the Lord together and through united prayer watch Him bring His transformation into our hurting, problematic world!

John Robb
IPC Chairman

More: [Prayer: How to Have a Conversation with God](#) (Zondervan Publishing House, 1959)

02 New Year's Day Sunrise Relay

Dear Prayer Family

It was about this time in late December 2015 when God gave me a wild vision for a prayer relay on New Year's Day, the vision was of people holding 'Olympic Relay Torches' (flames) at seven high points around the Illawarra, the vision then zoomed out and I saw the flames spread across Australia, and then around the world, I immediately knew this was a prayer relay and I shared the vision with Warwick Marsh from National Day of Prayer (Australia). With only 12 days until New Year's Day 2016 we shared the vision and many believers



joined us to pray across Australia and around the world, then on New Year's Day 2017 believers prayed in over 23 nations, and on New Year's Day 2018 the relay continued to grow with believers prayed in at least 50 nations, including 172 public locations in Australia.

In November this year I completely laid this vision down at the altar and the Lord quickly told me to pick it up again with two fresh instructions; "SIMPLIFY" and "SOUL FOCUS", a couple of weeks later He gave me a sentence to help explain what this looks like practically;

"WHEREVER YOU ARE AT SUNRISE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, PRAY FOR SOULS TO BE SAVED."

So, I invite you to join me at sunrise on New Year's Day wherever you are around the world, to pray for souls to be saved, I am convinced that the number one priority of heaven is the salvation, and reconciliation of sons and daughters back into the intimate relationship with God that we were all created for. Jesus described in Luke 15:7 and 15:10, a joyous celebration in heaven when just one sinner repents, I believe that it is God's will for every person to be saved, our part to play in God's plan is to pray for souls to be saved, and to preach the good news so that people may hear, believe, and call on Jesus to save them (Rom 10:13-17).

You can organise to pray as a group at a public location lookout, landmark, or a church in your city or town, or you can also pray privately in your home, we suggest you start around 15 minutes before your local sunrise time and pray for around 30 to 60 minutes, or longer if you feel led.

Watch the latest video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAq7YT6eXoE>

We encourage you to pray 'The Lord's Prayer' (Matt 6:9-13) aloud as the sun rises, and make a declaration that Jesus is Lord of your life, your family, your region and your nation, then contend in prayer for souls to be saved, pray for our unsaved friends and family to know Jesus in 2019, you may also like to make a declaration over your nation like

"Australia for Jesus", or "America Shall Be Saved", these declarations are the cry of God's heart, He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9), so let's pray in agreement with His will and contend for our nations to be saved.

Your group might like to include praise and worship in your time of prayer, you could also include communion, a time of fellowship e.g. breakfast, and then go and share the good news.

To register your participation in the New Year's Day Sunrise Prayer Relay 2019 and receive the prayer resources, including prayer points, and info on how you can continue to pray daily for souls to be saved in your nation, and updates please visit <http://www.sunriseprayerrelay.org/registration>

This year WE WILL NOT BE PUBLISHING A LIST OF PUBLIC LOCATIONS, if you are hosting a gathering at a public location we encourage you to promote locally by inviting people you know and sharing in local churches, prayer groups and via social media, we also recommend that anyone considering hosting a public location make sure you have at least one or two people you know well that have agreed to be there with you for accountability and safety before you promote the location publicly.

Please post photos, videos, and testimonies from your location on social media and use the hashtag #SunrisePrayerRelay

Let's awaken the dawn together in 2019 with prayer for souls to be saved.

www.ipcprayer.org

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Now is the "right time", now is the time of salvation (2 Cor 6:2).

Thanks & Be Blessed
Pat Steele

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

03 Finishing the Task – Important Milestone Achieved

Important milestone achieved towards finishing the Great Commission and reaching the Unreached Peoples: Finishing the Task 2018



Finishing the Task

Aliso Viejo, CA: Finishing the Task (FTT) and The Issachar Initiative are delighted to report the achievement of a major milestone in the effort to fulfill Jesus' command to "make disciples of every nation." At this year's Finishing the Task Conference, every remaining known unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG) was adopted for gospel engagement in the coming two years. A UUPG is a group of people without a single known worker doing evangelism and church planting in their people groups. In many cases UUPGs don't have a single believer and have never had an opportunity to hear about Christ's love and forgiveness.

The conference started by presenting 343 UUPGs to those in attendance. Leaders asked the over 600 missionaries, strategists and pastors in attendance to "roll up their sleeves" and spend the week praying, planning and working to get laborers to each of the 343 UUPGs on the FTT list. "It's time for the Church to stop debating the Bible and start doing it," said Rick Warren of Saddleback Church. The mood in the room was one of action and urgency.

When final commitments were made, organizations and churches far exceeded the faith goals for the conference. In all, 603 unique people group adoptions were indicated. Many UUPGs were adopted twice, three times and even four times, increasing the likelihood of the people group receiving a team of missionaries soon, or even multiple teams of missionaries.

Those in attendance also experienced many moments of Spirit-filled unity. All-together 280 different organizations attended FTT, each coming in a spirit of cooperation and partnership for the greater glory of Christ. Perhaps the best illustration of this was when a young 30-something missionary from East Asia came to the microphone and said "I'm only one man. I don't lead hardly anyone compared to most in the room. But I would like to adopt all the remaining people groups in my country if you will help me." Four mission agencies followed this young man's faith and approached him to partner together to see every group in that country reached. The young man and the four agencies stayed overtime at the conference to continue praying and strategizing together.

Perhaps it was the increased focus on prayer and repentance that led to this unity. Within two hours of the event kicking off attendees spent an entire session praying through the Lord's prayer together. "Who have you harmed? Who do you need to forgive? What needs to be made right in your heart today?" the prayer leader asked. On the second day of the conference attendees removed shoes and walked on a near football field-sized map of the world to pray for every person in every nation. In some instances, pools of tears were seen on the map as God led people to cry out for those who've never heard of Jesus in their land.

The body of Christ will now take the next steps in the work; that of recruiting, training and sending nearby workers into these 343 people groups. The commitments of these first missionaries will begin the process of making disciples in those people groups, thus hastening the day when the Apostle John's vision of "a great number of people" "from every nation, tribe, people and language of the earth" "standing before the throne" of God is finally realized."

Dusty Hoffman dusty.hoffman@cru.org

For more information on the Finishing the Task effort, see www.FinishingtheTask.com

Please note: There are still over 5000 Unreached People Groups that are less than 5% Christian and a hard core group of about 4700 of these that are less than 0.1% Christian (one believer per thousand) that need our prayer and attention in mission outreach.

Please pray for the efforts of the FTT coalition of mission agencies and also that all the remaining UPGs will be adopted for prayer and mission engagement.

04 Pray for the Peace of Afghanistan

...one of the Longest-running conflicts in the world.

Afghan Forces' Losses May Not Be Sustainable, U.S. General Warns

"The death toll among Afghanistan's security forces will no longer be sustainable unless urgent measures are taken to address recruiting and training issues, a top U.S. general has said.



"They are fighting hard, but their losses are not going to be sustainable unless we correct this problem," Lieutenant-General Kenneth McKenzie said on December 4 at a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee amid frustration among Congressmen over a lack of progress in the 17-year conflict in Afghanistan.

McKenzie, who has been nominated to lead the U.S. military's Central Command that oversees wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, also warned against an abrupt withdrawal of American forces or change in strategy.

The Western-backed government in Kabul has struggled to counter attacks from the Taliban and other militant groups since the withdrawal of most NATO combat troops in 2014.

In October, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Afghan forces had more than 1,000 dead and wounded during August and September alone.

And Afghan President Ashraf Ghani last month said the death toll among Afghan security forces since 2015 was close to 29,000 -- a figure far higher than anything previously acknowledged...

McKenzie said that Afghan forces are still unable to effectively withstand the Taliban fighters, who now number about 60,000 in Afghanistan.

"If we left precipitously right now I do not believe they would be able to successfully defend their country," he said.

Some 14,000 U.S. soldiers are currently serving in Afghanistan, mainly training and advising the Afghan security forces, and McKenzie couldn't say how much longer the United States will remain in the country.

"I do know that today it would be very difficult for [the Afghan security forces] to survive without our and our coalition partners' assistance," he said.

"The operational military situation is largely stalemated," said the U.S. general, who also voiced optimism over invigorated U.S. efforts to settle the Afghan conflict...

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-forces-losses-may-not-be-sustainable-u-s-general-warns/29637684.html?ltflags=mailer>

05 Afghanistan – 'Moment of Opportunity' for Peace Talks

BRUSSELS - A senior U.S. diplomat has called on the Taliban to seize a "moment of opportunity" to open formal peace talks with the Western-backed Afghan government and negotiate an end to the 17-year conflict.

Alice Wells, the U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of South and Central Asian affairs, told RFE/RL that the "door had opened" for a possible peace settlement with the Taliban following President Ashraf Ghani's offer of unconditional talks in February and an unprecedented cease-fire in June.



"The Afghan government is ready," Wells told RFE/RL on November 29 in Brussels, a day after she attended a UN-sponsored two-day conference on Afghanistan in Geneva. "The Afghan people, and by that I mean the Taliban also, are ready. It's a question of whether the Taliban leadership is prepared to take up this offer."

ZalmayKhalilzad, an Afghan-born former U.S. ambassador to Kabul and Iraq, was appointed in September to the U.S. State Department team that is leading the reconciliation effort and peace talks with the Taliban.

Khalilzad, who has held several rounds of preliminary talks with Taliban officials in Qatar, told reporters in Kabul this month that he was optimistic a peace deal with the militants could be reached before the presidential election in Afghanistan in April 2019.

Moment of Opportunity

Wells, who met with Taliban representatives in Qatar in July, said there was no deadline but "there is a sense of urgency because we think this is a moment of opportunity."

Ghani, speaking in Geneva on November 28, said his government had formed a 12-strong team to negotiate peace with the Taliban, but he warned that any deal must fulfill certain conditions, including respecting the constitutional rights of women.

In February, Ghani offered to allow the Taliban to establish itself as a political party and said he would work to remove sanctions on the militant group, among other incentives, if it joined the government in peace negotiations. In return, the militants would have to recognize the Kabul government and respect the rule of law.

The Taliban has refused to deal directly with Kabul, saying they would negotiate only with the United States. The militants have also said NATO forces must withdraw from Afghanistan before negotiations can begin.

Wells said the militants were "suffering enormous casualties" and "there's war fatigue among the Taliban."

In June, the government and Taliban declared a three-day cease-fire coinciding with the Eid al-Fitr holiday, the first ever cessation of hostilities between the warring sides.

Wells said the cease-fire demonstrated that the sides want to "find a way to live in peace."

"They've always said publicly that they seek peace and they don't seek to dominate Afghanistan as they did in leading up to 2001," said Wells, referring to the Taliban, who were in power from 1996 until the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. "Let's test that proposition about whether or not they're prepared to actually sit and negotiate a political solution."

Efforts to open peace talks with the Taliban come as Afghan security forces struggle to fend off attacks from the militants, who control more territory than at any time since 2001.

Afghan forces are suffering record casualties, with Ghani saying that nearly 29,000 Afghan police and soldiers have been killed in the country since the start of 2015 when Afghan troops took over primary responsibility for security.

During the same period, 58 American had been killed, he said."

<https://www.rferl.org/a/senior-u-s-diplomat-calls-on-afghan-taliban-to-seize-moment-of-opportunity-for-peace-talks/29628847.html?ltflags=mailer>

The recently concluded negotiations in the UAE were promising according to the US Afghan envoy. Let's pray that this war-weary land will finally find peace and that both the Afghan government and the Taliban will be able to negotiate directly with one another at this pivotal point in this longstanding conflict.

06 Pray for Iraq's continued restoration and for His Church there

Prayer Topics

- Pray that God would protect all Christians in Iraq with His divine grace, so that they would persevere these hard times for His glory.
- Pray that the rights of Iraqi Christians would be voiced and improved in every area of Iraqi society through



education and political changes.

- Pray that all evil spiritual forces that are attacking to kill and destroy all Iraqi churches and Christians would be bound on earth as they are in heaven.

SILK WAVE MISSION USA

<http://silkwavemission.com/en/index.html>

07 Chinese Church Thanks God for Persecution

Following the [detention](#) of its pastor and about 100 members earlier this week, a Christian church in Chengdu, China, is thanking God and preparing for even more hardships. Overnight on December 9 and 10, government officials arrested leaders and members of Early Rain Covenant Church, one of the country's most prominent unregistered churches. Since then, some people have been released, while others are being closely watched. Some members report rough treatment while in custody. (December 13, 2018)



“God has given us a reward”

“Shortly before his arrest, elder Li Yingqiang wrote a [letter](#) to his church from a hiding spot. Describing the “large-scale persecution” as a “reward,” Li expresses confidence that the detainees are within God’s “sovereign providence” during their trials.

Citing [1 Peter 4:12-14](#), Li asks his fellow Christians, “Are you rejoicing in the fact that you are suffering with Christ because of this church? Do you know that we are blessed?”

He then thanks God for being present during the ordeal, “for training us through these days of hardship,” and “for sculpting us through today’s persecution.” Though the future is uncertain, Li says, he expects the crackdown on Christians to “become the status quo for us in the future.”

The Church Plans to Stand Firm

In his letter, Li relays the church’s contingency plans, urging elders who haven’t been detained to continue leading the congregation. No matter what happens, Li says, Early Rain must not alter its faith statement or its “path of openness.” He writes, “We will not register with the Religious Affairs Bureau.”

China has been [cracking down](#) on churches, requiring them to register and [submit to government control](#). Most of the country’s Protestant house churches remain underground, but Early Rain operates and evangelizes openly. Earlier this fall, it received a warning from authorities.

Saying Early Rain “will not easily relinquish our church building,” Li urges worshipers to return to the sanctuary. If necessary, he says, worship will be held at a rented location or even outdoors. The “last resort,” according to his letter, is meeting in small groups.

“We are willing to pay an even greater price to bear witness to the...gospel,” Li writes. “We are willing to have 200, 300 or 500 people arrested and imprisoned.” He encourages [Chinese Christians](#) to “welcome, filled with hope, the even heavier cross and more difficult lives that lie ahead.”

Early Rain's Pastor Wang Yi Faces Charges of Subversion

Wang Yi, pastor of Early Rain, is being charged with "inciting [subversion](#) of state power," according to documents his mother was shown. Wang hasn't been allowed to meet with lawyers or relatives, and his wife's whereabouts are unknown.

The couple's 11-year-old son is staying with Wang's mother, who says officials are constantly stationed outside her home. "They follow us whenever and wherever we go," says Chen Yaxue, adding that officials are urging her to send her grandson to a local school rather than Early Rain's primary school.

[Wang](#), a human rights activist and scholar who converted to Christianity, wrote an open letter to church members in September, giving instructions in case he went missing. He emphasized that he'll employ non-violent means to oppose crackdowns against his faith. "My Savior Christ also requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked law," Wang wrote.

[Stephanie Martin](#), ChurchLeaders.com

https://churchleaders.com/news/339593-wang-yi-chinese-church-thanks-god-persecution-hand-of-government.html?utm_source=outreach-cl-daily-nl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=text-link&utm_campaign=cl-daily-nl&maropost_id=&mpweb=256-7496753-744075199

Let's continue to uphold the Christians in China in our prayers as they seek to bear the increased surveillance and persecution of their government.

Pray for those that are being held in prison to be released and that the authorities there will realize that followers of Christ are actually the best citizens they will ever have. May China be liberated from this anti-Christian spirit that has recently reemerged so strongly!

08 Pray for the Youth of India!

We appreciate your prayer for Gujarat Christian Youth Festival that was recently concluded in Ahmedabad. We could see God's presence moving in a big way throughout the conference. This time we prayed and focused on North Gujarat where the Christian population is less than 1%, churches are very small and there are two district (Pathan and Mehsana) without any Christian witness.



There were 940 participants that came from 26 Districts of North Gujarat, 110 Group Leaders and around 150 Volunteers, out of these total 513 committed their lives for the ministry. All glory to God alone for moving the hearts of the youth.

- **Kindly continue to pray that these 1200 people should bring at least 4-5 non-Christian friends to Christ and out of these they should invite at least 2-3 friends to Vision India Youth Festival in 2020.**
- **Kindly uphold 513 youth as they have committed to serve the Lord, that they will remain faithful in their call.**
- **Kindly pray that at least 200 will complete the five modules of follow-up training.**
- **Also Please continue to pray for the remaining programs...@ 1000 youth in each program, that God will provide all that is needed resources to accomplish the remaining programs for His glory. We are focusing on the geographical area where there is less Christian population in North India...**

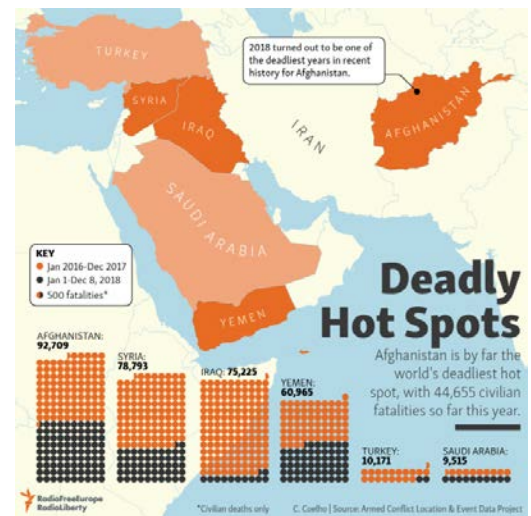
09 Deadly Hot Spots for our prayers

December 13, 2018 14:57 GMT

Afghanistan is by far the world's deadliest hot spot, with 44,655 civilian fatalities so far this year.

Yemen- pray for an end of civil war that has cost lives of tens of thousands and endangers millions

"The agreed cessation of hostilities in Yemen, beginning today [December 20th], comes at a crucial moment when an entire country is on the brink. Humanitarian agencies warned today that should the ceasefire break down again, as previous ones did, the consequences would be catastrophic.



This last year of escalated violence has meant that each day, around 6610 people were forced to flee their homes and around 25 civilians are killed or injured. A school or hospital has been attacked every three days. The number of children dying daily from preventable diseases has risen to 137, an additional 28 a day since the start of the war. More than 82 per cent of Yemenis, or 21.2 million, now depend on humanitarian aid.

In just the last two months, more than 325,700 people were displaced by the conflict, raising the total number of displaced to a staggering 2.75 million.

"The peace talks and subsequent discussions must also provide an opportunity to plan for early recovery needs as part of addressing the humanitarian crisis and paving the way for facilitating durable solutions for the affected populations," said Lisa Piper, Danish Refugee Council's Country Director in Yemen.

"Commitments toward restoring livelihoods and diminishing the vulnerabilities of households brought on by the devastating conflict must be considered so that Yemenis can begin to restore their lives, livelihoods, and dignity," says Lisa Piper, Country Director for the Danish Refugee Council.

"This is a moment of truth for Yemen's millions of civilians. A real ceasefire could be the first step towards ending this staggering yet forgotten crisis," said the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland. "If it doesn't hold, those breaking it must be held accountable for the bloodshed. The figures speak for themselves. Every day of war is another day of massive death, displacement and despair." While an immediate cessation of hostilities is essential, it is just the first of several measures needed to stop the crisis and pave the way for long-lasting peace and recovery.

"The widespread destruction of Yemen's houses, factories, schools and hospitals will require decades to rebuild; the destruction of Yemen's social fabric and the trauma millions of innocent people are suffering will take even longer to heal," said Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Oxfam's Country Director in Yemen. "In the more than three decades that we've been working in Yemen, we have never witnessed a crisis of this scale. The blockade, war and now a looming banking crisis risk pushing millions into famine."

The humanitarian agencies reiterated their call on international governments to fully fund the humanitarian response so that millions of civilians receive essential aid and services like food, water, medicine and housing as an immediate priority. Parties to the conflict need to allow aid agencies to reach

those most in need caught in the fighting, and the most vulnerable to reach the services they need. The commercial blockade needs to be lifted so that commercial supplies are allowed into Yemen.

Save the Children's Country Director in Yemen Edward Santiago said: "As long as parties to the conflict continue to wage war and obstruct aid, millions of children will continue to go hungry or without healthcare, clean water and education. Yemenis must not be let down yet again, with more empty promises of ceasefires that fail to stop the killing. Yemeni children need more than words this time, they need action and a genuine commitment to end the violence once and for all."

The agencies warned that the upcoming UN-sponsored peace talks, due to start on 18 April, are the only real opportunity to end the suffering. Long-term solutions however must include the voices and concerns of Yemeni civil society in a representative and inclusive process.

"All Yemenis need their voices to be heard if there is any hope for these peace talks to be sustainable," said Daw Mohammed, CARE Country Director in Yemen. "Women, youth and minority groups must be included because they will be critical to rebuilding Yemen in the years to come."

<https://drc.ngo/news/news-archive/yemen-ceasefire-must-hold-or-thousands-more-will-die>

Please pray for the ceasefire in Yemen to hold and that it will lead to successful peace talks to end this awful conflict.

10 Watch and Pray about the Dangers of Globalization

"Last year facing the UN, President Trump spoke of nationalism over globalism. This year he spoke of patriotism over globalism –essentially the same concept.

Are we for globalization? We certainly believe in an age of world peace as described in Isaiah 2 and Micah 4. Yet we know that this will only take place when the Messiah returns and rules and reigns from Jerusalem in the Millennial age.

In the meantime, and even into the Millennium, there is a purpose for nations staying separate. Trump spoke at the same time as the Torah portion *Ha'azinu* was being read in Jewish synagogues: **"When the Most High gave inheritance to the nations, in separating the sons of Man, He established boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel"** (Deuteronomy 32:8).

The global national boundaries are seen as a parallel inheritance to the Israelite ownership of the land of Canaan, in accordance with, and as an extension of, God's covenant multiplication of the people of Israel.

The peoples, or nations, are defined by tribal distinctions, physical boundaries, and language (Genesis 10). The apostle Paul expands on the verse from Deuteronomy when preaching in Athens: **"He made from one man, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation"** (Acts 17:26).

Thus, according to the Bible, it is God's will and plan that there should be borders and distinctions among the nations, to preserve order and to protect each one's unique inheritance.



Aligning with His Plan

We are for a vision of global Messianic peace and for a spiritual global family among believers of every racial background. However, we are against globalization in terms of a one world government, religion, or culture.

Nationalism, in the here and now, is **not** meant to be nations trying to conquer other nations, but rather each nation **respecting** one another's borders and rights. It is the opposite of colonialism, Nazism/fascism, communism or radical Islam.

Most of the prophetic books in the Bible include descriptions of an apocalyptic world war immediately before the coming of the Messiah. All the nations will be united in an attack against Israel. At that moment God will intervene to stop the war and establish the Messiah's kingdom on earth (Zechariah 14, Ezekiel 38-39).

In order for a united attack to take place, there would have to be at least two elements:

1. An organization of some sort uniting the nations of the world with a bent against Israel.
2. A worldwide philosophy or religion inciting people to try to destroy Israel.

In our day, the UN seems to be fulfilling the first, and radical Islam the second. The bizarre partnership between the radical Left and radical Islam is a dangerous, yet biblically coherent, combination.

Power tends to corrupt. Therefore, God has designed a system of division of spheres of authority, with checks and balances between family, business, religion and governments. When one tries to take over the other, there are usually destructive results.”

Asher Intrater,

<https://tikkun.tv/globalization/>

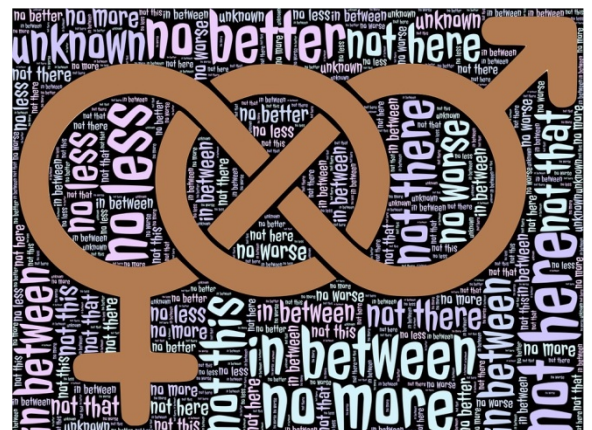
Please keep the United Nations and other international organizations in your prayers. There are very subversive elements at work in them that want to bring about a “New World Order” that will be a fitting control mechanism for the one the Bible calls the Antichrist. Totalitarian regimes in which power is concentrated in the hands of an elite tend toward dominating and reducing their populations to slavery. How much more awful will be a world-controlling dominion of the kind that the globalists have in mind! Pray that totalitarianism in whatever form, whether from the socialist/communist Left or radical Islam or other such ideologies will be resisted and overcome.

11 Transgender Ideology: People needing Christ's deliverance

“Every once in a while, we’re offered a peek behind an ideological curtain. That’s what happened last week in the New York Times.

If you were a surgeon and someone asked you to perform a surgery that would not heal, would not help, would not make them feel better, and would leave the patient with a permanent wound, would you do it? Is there any area of medicine where such a request would even be considered?

The answer to the first question is, of course, no. No one should perform a surgery that does not help, does not heal,



does not make someone feel better, and that would leave a permanent wound. The answer to the second question – does any field of medicine perform such surgeries—is yes. One. Only one.

In the case of gender dysphoria, doctors perform a surgery that, in effect, amputates perfectly healthy body parts. This kind of surgery is not performed in the case of any other type of what's called "body dissociative disorder," cases in which patients believe they were born into the wrong body. For example, there are those who believe they should be without an arm or a leg. But their requests to become an amputee are not honored, nor even taken seriously.

However, in the case of gender dysphoria, amputative surgery will, we're told, "align someone's physical body with their internal sense of sex and gender." We are told that without this surgery, they'd be a high risk of suicide and other mental health risks.

At best, this is pseudo-scientific. Dr. Paul McHugh, longtime chair of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical School, has argued for years that such procedures ignore and may even aggravate underlying psycho-social troubles. In fact, those who undergo sex-reassignment still have a suicide rate nearly twenty times that of the general population. That's why McHugh famously called transgender medicine "cooperating with mental illness" and that's why he put an end to surgeries at Johns Hopkins.

So why should these surgeries proceed? Andrew Long Chu, in a stunning, must-read piece in the New York Times, ventured an answer. Chu is a man who identifies as a woman and is currently raising money for sex-reassignment surgery. In his Times piece, he says that he knows the transition won't make him happy. "Until the day I die," he writes, "my body will regard [the result of this surgery] as a wound... (that) will require regular, painful attention to maintain."

Chu even admits that the transition process and treatments have made him more miserable. "I was not suicidal before hormones," he writes. "Now I often am." And yet he insists that he has a right to the surgery—and that no doctor should refuse. Why? Because, it's what he wants. That's it.

This deeply troubling opinion piece reads like a cry for help. In fact, more than a few transgender advocates have condemned it. And to be clear, not everyone who pursues gender reassignment surgery reports being as miserable as Chu. But his story is revealing something very important. Already, this is the only type of surgery that amputates fully-functioning and otherwise-healthy body parts for no physically necessary reason. The justification has always been emotional and psychological health. Now we have an individual admitting that it won't help him emotionally or psychologically either, but that he still wants the surgery anyway. If that's all it takes, then it's clear: Transgender ideology isn't really about health or scientific reality at all. What we're doing is aiding and abetting serious problems, not helping.

As hard – brutal even – as this piece is to read, please do. It's a look behind the curtain of a harmful ideology to which our entire culture is currently bowing down. Anyone who disagrees is a bigot. Well, read this piece, and then read Ryan Anderson's important response to it, and see who's being hateful and who's being loving. As Ryan writes, the New York Times just "revealed painful truths about transgender lives."

John Stonestreet with Shane Morris colsoncenter@colsoncenter.org

Please pray for the overthrow of this destructive ideology that has possessed the minds of many, not only those wanting to change their gender, but also increasingly those in politics and the media. This is a prime example of how Satan seeks to pervert and destroy the goodness and wholesomeness of God's creation.

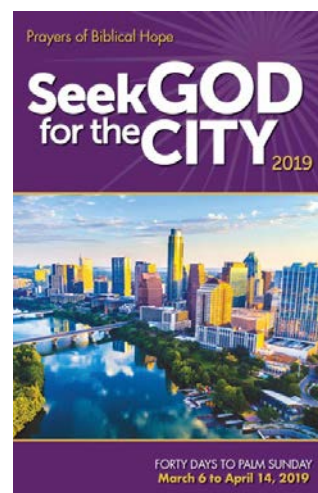
Pray too that those afflicted by this false ideology will be set free to become all that He wants them to become, accepting themselves and their gender identity that was given to them at birth.

Resources:

12 Prayers that anchor your hope in God.

Seek God for the City is designed to mobilize many to pray with united, sustained vision for people of your community. The daily prayers are all new and different from last year's prayer guide. The scriptures and topics help God's people pray with passionate, full-hearted hope. This timely guide will help God's people in your congregation to pray beyond themselves with confidence and clarity.

We will Seek God in two simple ways: First we will seek God's face and then we will seek His kingdom. And as we come to God, seeking His face, then He comes to us bringing His kingdom. These are prayers you don't want to pray alone. Invite your whole congregation to pray along with you. Even better, think about joining your prayers with a few other churches in your community.



The forty days to Palm Sunday makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer. Dated March 6 – April 14, 2019.

We are able to offer a complimentary review copy to leaders in recognized positions of pastoral or prayer leadership for a limited time. Call us now at 800-264-5214 or 512-419-7729.

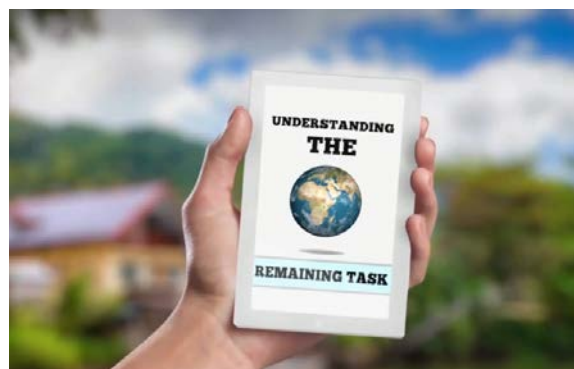
Also available as an app that makes it possible to help many to keep their prayers rolling in the midst of busy lifestyles and schedules

ORDER ONLINE NOW - <https://waymakers.org/product/seek-god/>

13 The Rest of the Unfinished Task: Recent Research and Data

The animated version of UNDERSTANDING THE REMAINING MISSION TASK is now finally available! Please post and pass it on to others.

You will be able to see a much clearer picture of where the greatest needs are in terms of those still waiting to hear about Jesus. It will make the urgency and importance of your task much clearer. [The youtube link to the non-animated 3 minute version:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLADjrnCuDs&feature=youtu.be>

Here are the drop box links to the 6 minute animated version (in AVC or in MP4 formats) which you can download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z3qh670xm9s886g/Remaining%20Task%20Dec%2011%20AVC.mp4?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tambqr86jvdgphk/Remaining%20Task%20Dec%2011%20MP4.mp4?dl=0>

All the maps are available at www.joshuaproject.net/frontier

And here is the link to the Mission Frontiers that will be handed out at URBANA that is focused on **Frontier Peoples: Still Waiting to Hear About Jesus**: <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/current>

Thanks for helping in this great endeavor to ensure that all the families of the earth are blessed by Jesus!!
And that the next generation pick up the vision!

PS: FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE DATA: Clarifying the Remaining Task which explains the new pie chart in detail and has all of the details of data (the rest of the issue is also good reading):
http://www.ijfm.org/PDFs_IJFM/35_4_PDFs/IJFM_35_4-Lewis.pdf

For more information, please contact Rebecca Winter Lewis at rjwinterlewis@gmail.com

14 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>

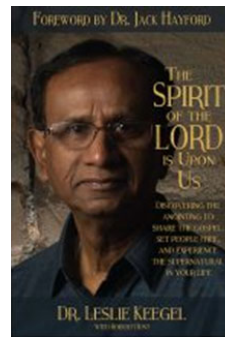
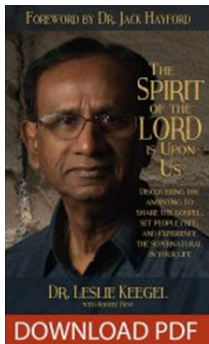
15 The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Us

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!" -
www.ipcprayer.org

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

[Softcover \\$15.00](#)



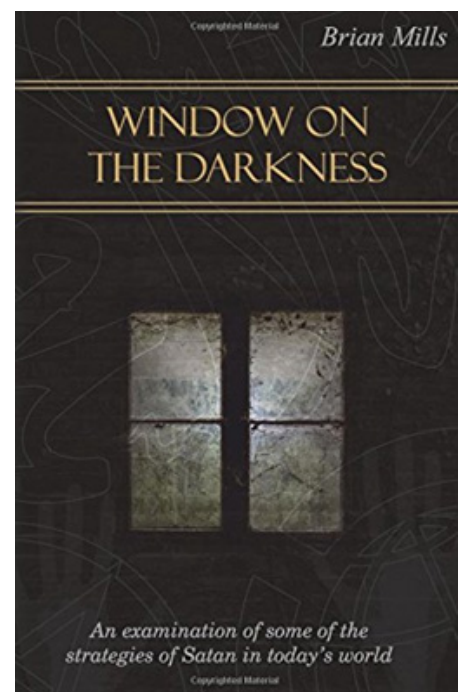
16 A Window on the Darkness: Brian Mills

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/0BMEL6l>

Movement for Prayer News & Events

17 United Prayer Rising – World Generation Gathering – Jan 23-26 2019



Towards the end of January, in Indonesia, hundreds of younger generation men and women of God will gather from around world for the “Global UPR” - World Generation Gathering.

See: www.unitedprayerrising.com

Here is a video about that: <https://youtu.be/3xrEl4UdsTE>

Please pray for:

1. The organizing team that is facing a last-minute change of venue and program details
1. Young people (under 30) to hear God calling and come to Jakarta. For them not get diverted and provision of funds to travel there
2. For a strongly anointed event that equips them to become leaders for the prayer and mission movement.
3. For many of them to be called to reach Unreached People Groups (over 5500 still less than 5 % Christian, about 4700 of which less than 0.1% Christian or one believer in Christ for 1000 people).

18 Go2020: Convergence of Prayer and Mission Movements

In the book of Acts, God used the culture of prayer that was birthed after the ascension and command of Jesus to the disciples to remain in Jerusalem. It says in 1:14 that they “joined constantly together in prayer”. All the great breakthroughs in the book of Acts resulted from the guidance and anointing of the Spirit they received through that practice of corporate prayer. In the history of the Church, breakthroughs and revivals also occurred

www.ipcprayer.org

IPC Connections - January 2019



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once this early church practice was reclaimed. The Moravians of the 18th century are a prime example. They experience deep revival and through a subsequent 24/7 prayer chain that went on for over 100 years, they sent missionaries out to over 5000 locations on earth!

A similar convergence of the prayer and mission movements is happening in our day towards fulfillment of Great Commission of Jesus, thanks be to the Lord. Go 2020 is a prayer-based global cooperative mission effort to mobilize 100 million believers to pray for and reach one billion unreached by May 2020. For more information about this movement and to get involved, please see www.go2020.world

- 1. Please pray for Go 2020 leadership and participating mission agencies for unity and clarity and protection.**
- 2. Pray also for the prayer mobilization task force to be effective in networking the Body of Christ to help get 100 million praying for and reaching out to 1 billion. Youth and children especially need to hear His call to get involved.**

19 MANI 2018 Conference Feedback

IPC Leadership Team colleague, Austen Ukachi reports back on the Strategic Prayer Network of the Movement of African National Initiative's recent consultation. The theme was 'Convergence of Prayer & Missions'.

The 3-day consultation, which held at the serene Catholic Resurrection Garden, in Karen, Nairobi was a memorable event packed with awareness, networking, prayer and worship. It was designed to stir up the delegates to the need of prayer for the Unreached People Groups, the missionaries, the Persecuted Church and the Bibleless peoples of the earth. In addition, the consultation was a collaboration and networking of intercessors, missionaries and mission agencies that share a common vision of pursuing world evangelization.

The consultation commenced on Tuesday 6th November with a welcome address by Bishop Geoffrey Njuguna, the East African regional coordinator of MANI, who was ably represented by Pastor Grace. Austen Ukachi, the Co-ordinator of the Strategic Prayer Network of MANI, pointed out to the delegates that the purpose of the consultation was to fill up a gap and area of need in the Church. This need is for prayer, which is the engine that propels World Evangelization. The Church, he says has never lacked mission plans, projections strategies and ideas, but always fell short of building up the prayer momentum that is indispensable for accomplishing the task of World Evangelization. He said that the consultation would not dwell on mere platitudes and presentations only, but engage in actual prayer for the UPGs, the persecuted Church, missionaries and the Bibleless people.

The morning sessions witnessed corporate devotions that reiterated the hope of revival as one of the aftermaths of the ongoing global church persecution, and a reminder that the Gospel work is time bound, and of the need for renewed dedication and commitment to the urgent task. Shan Barry of African Inland Missions AIMS, spoke powerfully on the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit and the need for consistence in the work of the ministry. She narrated a revelation the Lord gave to her that despite the numerous problems of Africa, the continent would experience a great revival.



The various presentations were inspiring, refreshing, and challenging. However, Elizabeth Kendal, a religious liberty analyst and advocate, prophetically sounded the voice of the Lord very clearly in her presentations. She presented a global survey of areas where the Church was facing persecution in China, Africa, Middle East and lamented about the appalling indifference of the Church in Europe to the plight of persecuted Christians in different parts of the world. She emphasized that the global church needs to respond to persecution by speaking out, giving assistance to the persecuted, and praying in the Bible way for the persecuted.

Austen Ukachi's second presentation focused on the impact of the Moravians on missions through their sacrificial 24/7 prayer chain which lasted for over hundred years. The mission movement was born out of this sacrificial prayer by the Moravians. He played a nine minutes video clip produced by the International Prayer Council to buttress the place of the convergence of prayer and missions over the centuries. He said, the rekindling of this convergence between prayer and missions is what the Holy Spirit is calling for now in the Church.

Neil Gamble emphasized on the primacy of Intimacy with God in our daily walk with God. He said, listening to God in prayer is key to maintaining a relationship with God. Reuben Ezemadu, the Continental Co-ordinator of MANI clearly outlined the convergence of prayer and mission as a prerequisite for the end-time harvest.

The environment, all through the time of the gathering was Spirit permeated with high praises and due worship of the Lord. Each session of presentations and devotions was wrapped up with prayers and worship.

The meeting closed with a holy communion fellowship meal administered by Bishop Geoffrey Njuguna, and with a commitment by the Nehemiah Prayer team' the MANI steering Team for the Strategic Prayer Network to sustain the monthly prayer for the Unreached People Groups and the persecuted Church. In all, 31 delegates drawn from 11 countries participated in the consultation. Some other delegates came from the city daily to participate in the consultation.

Austen Ukachi

Co-ordinator, Strategic Prayer network of MANI

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

20 IPC Calendar

New Year's Day SUNRISE PRAYER RELAY 1 Jan 2019

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

Nigeria: Year of Prayer – 1st May 2018 – 30th April 2019

<http://www.pray4nigeria.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

Please pray for an anointed, productive time of planning for the future by many of our various network and initiative leaders who make up the team.

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

<http://worldyouthday.com/>

www.ipcprayer.org



Americas National Day of Repentance

<http://www.dayofrepentance1.org>

Go 2020 May 2020

<https://www.go2020.world>

21 United Prayer Rising Events:

World Generation Gathering - 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.

<http://unitedprayerrising.com>

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



About IPC

22 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



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