

# International Prayer Connections

*A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World*



MAY 2019



Greetings!

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

We trust you will be blessed and encouraged as you read the editorial this month, in which we think about Jesus' prophesized declaration... that his Father's house shall be a house of prayer for all nations (Mark 11:17). Join us as we explore five indicators of a true house of prayer.

On Resurrection Sunday, we were saddened as we heard and saw TV news of the shocking church and hotel attacks in Sri Lanka in which 253 people lost their lives and many more were injured. Leslie Keegel, a friend and colleague of IPC brings some prayer pointers as we lift up this country that is still reeling from the shock and resulting un-rest.

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,

**Jason Hubbard - Executive Coordinator | John D Robb – Chairman - International Prayer Connect**

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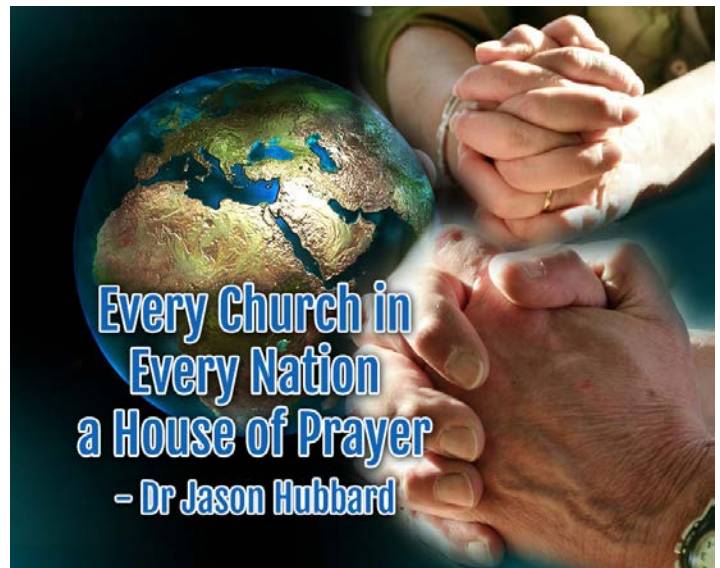
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## 01 Editorial: Every Church in Every Nation a House of Prayer - Dr Jason Hubbard

When Jesus came into the temple, he drove out the money changers and declared, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” It is clear that Jesus’ declared intention that “His house” (today the assembled church and our physical bodies as His living temples) should be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7, Mark 11:17; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19).

The Old Testament Temple was to be a dwelling place of God’s presence. It was to be a focal point of worship, prayer, sacrifice, and joy. It was to be a place where His people would humble themselves, pray, and seek His face – turning from their wicked ways for healing, blessing and restoration (2 Chronicles 7:14).

But what does this reality look like for our lives and churches today? What does Jesus desire of us if we are to be agenuine house of prayer indeed, not just in word?



### 5 Biblical Indicators of a True House of Prayer.

**First**, prayer was to take priority over all self-centered activities of commercialized religion. Jesus’ anger over the money changers in the temple was rooted in the self-serving system created to use funds from the sales of sacrificial animals for their own gain. He called it a “den of robbers.” The house of prayer is to be a place of humility, and sacrifice. It was not to be a place for the financial, or selfish advancement of its leaders.

**Second**, prayer is both the churches identity as well as it’s ministry work! Prayer isn’t just one of the ministries of the church. The whole church is to be engaged in prayer. The church is called to be ‘devoted’ to prayer (Acts 2:42, Rom 12:12, Col. 4:2, Eph 6:18).

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be **devoted** in prayer.”

The word devoted literally means to be ‘diligently occupied with, to constantly persist in, or to be dedicated/appointed for a task.’ Paul calls the church at Ephesus to make prayer **first** in the church, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people” (1 Tim. 2:1). When we make prayer a priority, we come to God dependent on him, knowing that we can do nothing apart from him (John 15:5). God releases his power in response to the prayers of his people. When we pray according to his will and for his renown, God always responds and increases his activity! As Hudson Taylor wrote, “When we work, we work, but when we pray, God works.”

**Third**, prayer is to be modeled first in the leadership culture of the church. The story in Acts 6:1-7 is a powerful model for a biblical leadership culture. The leaders gave themselves to continual “prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). Supernatural blessing and expansion followed (see v. 7). A genuine house of prayer is guided by leaders who spend extraordinary amounts of time together in prayer because they have a conviction that God is the true source of all power, unity, direction, and blessing.

**Fourth**, Jesus described the house of prayer in John 2:16 as his **Father's** House of prayer. The Father has always been longing for a family (sons and daughters) and a home (to dwell with them). In teaching his disciples how and what to pray, Jesus called them to pray, "Our Father." Jesus re-orientated prayer as 'sons and daughters' before a good Father! The Spirit would place an "Abba" cry in the hearts of his people, leading them to pray with the same intimate language that Jesus prayed to his Father. As Paul described in Romans 8:14-17,

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

The word 'house' that Jesus used is *oikos*, meaning household, family, or dwelling. This makes sense since the primary identity of the church in the New Testament is as 'family.' Family terminology is Paul's primary and most used metaphor describing the identity of the church (sibling terminology 118x's, Father terminology 40x's, and inheritance terminology 14x's).

And the distinguishing value of the family of God is 'love' for one another. As Paul writes,

"In brotherly love, showing family affection to one another. Outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10).

One of the best ways that we can love one another is to pray for them. Our prayers must be love-motivated. As Dr. Alvin VanderGriend writes,

"Love-motivated prayer is a love-motivated plea to a love-giving God, on behalf of love-needy persons who live in a love-starved world."

**Fifth**, Jesus describes the house of prayer to be "for all nations." Prayer was the fuel for Spirit-inspired mission fulfillment. In a true house of prayer, prayer is not the end – but the means to the end. Prayer exists to empower us to accomplish the Great Commission of Christ in the power of Christ and for the glory of Christ.

George Otis shares a story about a church in Cali, Columbia that at one point was adding 1000 people to their church every month for forty months! He asked the leaders what their strategy was in reaching so many for Christ. His answer was simple, "our church prays 24/7!"

Prayer precedes conversion. Prayer precedes mission. There is no other way to do His work and reach this lost world with the truth of the good news than connecting with God's heart in fervent, continual prayer!

May God call us to become increasingly, "Prayer-Devoted" in our personal lives, families, churches, and ministries! As my good friend Brian Alarid, founder of America Prays/World Prays says, "Every church in every nation - a House of Prayer!"

**Dr Jason Hubbard - Executive Coordinator**  
**International Prayer Connect**

## Prayer News & Events

### 02 Australia 21 Days of Prayer for National Elections

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting 28 April – 18 May 2019

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” - 2 Chronicles 7:14

We ask for Christian leaders and churches of all denominations from all over the world to pray for Australia, as we the People of Australia, Pray and Fast for 21 days up to the Federal Election, Saturday 18 May 2019.



This prayer call was inspired by Ps Margaret Court's love for Australia, her passion “for the church to arise and be a strong voice for righteousness, truth and justice” and her love for the word of God which says that, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34.

“Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that you have turned their heart back to you again.” 1 Kings 18:37

1. **Pray that God would rule over this election that righteous leaders would be elected to govern Australia in truth and justice because, “When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice.” Proverbs 29:2**
2. **Pray God's blessing upon Australia's parliamentarians and leaders, including their families and all the candidates of all the parties standing for this federal election. 1 Timothy 2:1-3**
3. **Pray for a multiplication of prayer and unity across the Body of Christ in Australia that people will wake up to the dangers facing our nation and respond in prayer. Ephesians 5:14**
4. **Pray for a Spiritual Awakening for Australia, Revival and Transformation for Australia and the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16**

**Warwick Marsh**

Promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTowvtNdkzc>

Facebook Video: <https://www.facebook.com/nationaldayofprayerandfasting/videos/386871382169790>

For More Info & Daily Devotions: <http://www.canberradeclaration.org.au/prayer/election-2019>

### 03 3 Major Prayer Initiatives for the Unreached

**God is moving the Body of Christ to prayer. The prayer and mission movements are connecting as we see in May 2019 three major prayer thrusts aimed at the unreached.**

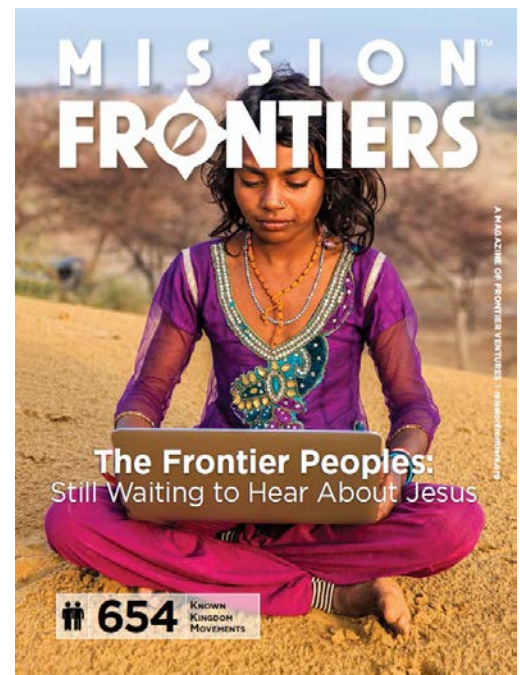
**“Year of the Frontier” May 2019 through June 2020** focuses prayer on the largest people groups with the least access to the gospel—May 2019 highlights the largest 31 groups, all over 1 million population. Joshua Project, *Global Prayer Digest*, the Ethné Movement, the 24:14 Coalition and many others offer a myriad of resources to facilitate effective, fervent, specific prayer.



More on this year-long effort next month, but check out the Nov/Dec 2018 issue of *Mission Frontiers Magazine* to read more and connect with resources:

[http://www.missionfrontiers.org/pdfs/MF40-6\\_Nov-Dec\\_eBook.pdf](http://www.missionfrontiers.org/pdfs/MF40-6_Nov-Dec_eBook.pdf) . Also, don't miss the new podcast by Alliance for the Unreached: <https://alliancefortheunreached.org/podcast/>

For more than twenty-five years now, the annual **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World** calls the church to make a deliberate but respectful effort to learn about, pray for and reach out to our world's Muslim neighbors. This international movement began in 1993 and coincides annually with the important Islamic month of religious observation — Ramadan, a time of the year when Muslims are much more deeply aware of spiritual matters. This year we pray May 6 to June 4.



It was launched by a group of Christians who felt inspired to challenge the way they understood Muslim people. What if they saw Muslims in the same way God does? While media sound bites about Islamic extremism can too easily incite anger, fear and even hatred towards Muslims, these believers seek to resist this temptation to generalize, and instead, resolve to respond and pray with the mind and heart of Christ. The editorial work for this prayer movement was initially coordinated in Australia, then in France, then in Germany and then in the UK. The North American edition has been published continuously since 1993 by [WorldChristian.com](http://WorldChristian.com).

“It is not our intention with this prayer focus during Ramadan to disparage Islam or Muslim sentiments in any way. We recognize that humans and the Muslim world are far too complex to simply condense or explain with a mere booklet. However, at the same time, it is our sincere desire that Muslims the world over would have the opportunity to freely understand and consider the Good News — Jesus Christ.”

Thousands of ministries and churches from many denominations participate regularly. Many participants have commented on how much they have learned about Islam, and how their negative attitudes about Muslims have been changed as they read about, prayed for and even reached out to Muslims. Here are suggestions to consider:

- Order additional booklets (bulk-discounts start at 10 copies) to hand out, or to sell: <https://www.worldchristian.com/product/30-days-muslim-prayer-guide-2019>.
- Download, print and display the poster on bulletin boards at work and in churches: <https://www.30daysprayer.com/resources/downloads/>.
- Feel free to use their images and text to promote “30 Days” in your communication channels: <https://www.30daysprayer.com/resources/downloads/>.
- Let your Facebook friends know.
- Organize a meeting a couple weeks before Ramadan starts to talk about it.

Furthermore, **Love Muslims** is launching! Chris Ruge is ecstatic to share that Prayercast is launching Love Muslims – the most comprehensive and compelling Muslim-focused prayer resource the world has ever seen!

Over 130 new 4-5 minute videos will lead the Body of Christ in focused, strategic, passionate prayer for the Muslim world. Each video is led by a former Muslim who now follows Jesus!

“We’re rallying the Church around the world to join us in prayer each day during Ramadan, and we’ll be releasing a brand new video each day. Would you prayerfully consider SHARING this and INVITING your network to join in prayer through Ramadan.”

Specifically, would you do the following?

- INVITE your mailing list, networks, and partners to join in prayer - including all the MENA prayer groups!
- SHARE about the movement through your social media and other communication channels.
- SIGN UP yourself and pray with us!

We want to make this as easy for you as possible. We have a series of media tools to make sharing Love Muslims easy and clear for both you and your community. Click to see a special preview of one of the videos: <https://vimeo.com/291193744/3f1af42f77> Our heart cry is to gather as many people to pray with Love Muslims as we can leading up to Ramadan. Would you help spread the word? Forward this to everyone you know who should be joining in prayer. Share about the movement on social media using #LoveMuslims and directing your friends and followers to [www.LoveMuslims.org](http://www.LoveMuslims.org)

Whichever tools you use, join the millions of Christians around the world, and churches and ministries from many denominations beginning May 2019, including from May 6 to June 4, 2019 during the season of Ramadan, to understand and to persistently pray for our unreached neighbors and nations.

**Liz Adleta**

**Global Prayer Strategist serving**

**Fellowship of Prayer Strategists, the Ethne Movement, & the 24:14 Coalition**

## **04 24:14 – 21 Days of Prayer for the Unreached**

The 24:14 Community is challenging our prayer partners to join in 21 days of prayer and fasting as God leads for the acceleration of movement engagement in every unreached people and place by 2025. Click on the link below for a two-page reusable 21-day prayer guide to focus your prayers and provide specific prayer points for Church Planting Movements.



### **Pray**

- **Pray for the upcoming Ibero-America regional meeting, that out of it a regional team will be formed that spearheads movement engagement of all remaining unreached peoples and places in the region.**
- **Pray for movement leaders globally to share movement data with 24:14 so that we have a complete picture of the remaining gaps to share.**
- **Pray for volunteer translators for every major language to translate the 24:14 website, vision book, and other materials**

- **Pray for every country of the world to be covered by Geographic Stewardship Team members who ensure movement engagement**

**More:** <https://inheritthenations.net/2414-coalition-prayer-involvement/21-days-of-prayer/>

## 05 School of Prayer for the Nations

This past March a group of 15 people gathered to pray together for seven days on the outskirts of London, England. Nothing remarkable about such small beginnings, and still too early to know if it will ever become more than that. But this disparate group assembled as a faith-filled response to a conviction and dream given by God, and most of us have stories of such small beginnings growing into something much more.

From South Korea, Brunei, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Canada, the USA, and England we gathered. Missionaries, worship leaders, researchers, educators, medical professionals, students, taxi drivers. Anglicans, Pentecostals, Baptists, Presbyterians, post-evangelicals, charismatics.

Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. So much diversity in such a small group! But this was a core part of the vision – a vision best described by first sharing a few points about the spiritual challenges and opportunities of our times. Initially, they might seem unrelated, but their profound connections should become clear soon enough.



**Christianity is a Global South religion.** The Global South has eclipsed the Global North in both church growth and in sending missionaries. The worldwide reality is that our faith is increasingly an African, Asian, and Latin American majority faith. This is not news. In fact, Christianity has been a majority Global South population since around 1980. Think of it this way: the global median age is around 30 years old. This means that most people alive in the world today were born since the tipping point when Christianity ceased to be a Western majority religion.

**The Global South Church is a praying church.** Churches – and Christians – in Africa, Asia, and Latin America tend to be more engaged in and comfortable with prayer. This is in part due to the acceptance of the reality of the spiritual world and the supernatural, in contrast to the highly materialist and secular nature of Western societies. It is no accident that the most dynamic prayer movements of our day are happening in places where it is normal to expect God to actually answer prayer, and where the reality of spiritual evil is acknowledged and addressed.

**The missionary task remaining faces increasing and intensifying opposition.** There are many sensible sociological and cultural aspects that inform and explain this dynamic, but as Christians, we must acknowledge the spiritual warfare that is inevitable when the Gospel presses into the heartlands of other religious systems. The more progress we make in global mission, the greater the spiritual opposition is going to be. “The devil has come down to you in great wrath, for he knows his time is short!” (Rev 12:12, ESV). The persecution of Christians around the world is intensifying, with the horrific Easter attacks in Sri Lanka as just one recent example.

**Prayer is being once again being understood as an effective tool for mission.** It may be impossible to get missionary visas to many countries. It may be equally impossible for most believers to be able to travel to the most spiritually needy places on earth, even for short-term trips. Prayer, however, needs no passport or visa! We can throw vast amounts of money and human resources at an unreached part of the world,



and apply all our cultural anthropology and linguistics and missiology and see no fruit. But in recent years, the increase of targeted and sustained intercession is seeing an increase in breakthrough. It is no coincidence that global prayer initiatives such as 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World ([www.30daysprayer.com](http://www.30daysprayer.com)) have coincided with the greatest response to Jesus among Muslims in history.

**A globalized Christianity can maximize the beauty of unity in diversity.** God places redemptive gifts into every culture, and we have much to learn from one another. What God has instilled in Nigerians, Indonesians, Brazilians, Samoans, and Finns are aspects that my own culture cannot present to Him. No one denomination, culture, or tradition can ever display on its own the glory of God the same way that we can when we demonstrate that we are one in Christ. But the threat of division among God's people remains, and nothing delights the enemy more. We may not be murdering each other as happened centuries past in "Christian" Europe, but bitter acrimony between different denominations, doctrines, and networks seems everpresent.

**Ancient wisdom is revitalizing the Church in these shallow times.** The contemplative intimacy of the Christian mystics, the missional spirituality of the Celtic *peregrini*, the holistic outworking of faith in Benedictine communities, the singing of the Psalms in many Reformed traditions, are providing deep wells of living water for the increasing number of believers disillusioned with the shallowness of what they experience in contemporary worship.

**The relationship between generations is under threat.** The intensity of resentment, bitterness, and misunderstanding between boomers, Gen X, and millennials is a playground of the enemy and grieves the heart of God. It is God who promises to send one who will "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers" (Mal 4:6, ESV). Those of us in global prayer ministry have seen the brokenness that comes from the rift between generations, and the beauty and power of reconciliation and unity. If there is anywhere such breakthrough can occur, would it not be the body of Christ?

**Traditional missionary recruiting methods are in rapid decline** in the West, and have never been widely successful in the Global South. Telling a younger generation that they must go and proselytize the world brings diminishing returns, no matter how many shiny pamphlets are distributed or how many water bottles are given out at mission conferences. What *is* working, it seems, is drawing them together to passionately worship and pray. When this worship turns into intercession, especially intercession for the nations, then we see the Holy Spirit calling forth people to serve Him in the fields of the world.

**We are seeing a restoration of the power of community.** Rationalism, enlightenment philosophy, modernity, and the global dominance of the West all put the individual atop the pedestal of human identity. Thankfully, the pendulum has swung the other way toward a healthier balance between community and individual. Intercession for the nations is not a solo performance! The mushrooming of houses of prayer around the world in the last 20 years bears this out. Intercession is best done in community. As the African proverb states, "If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together."

**God is bringing a convergence of the streams.** Prayer movements are connecting (hence the existence of International Prayer Connect!). Mission organisations and evangelistic ministries are collaborating. Research initiatives are working together and sharing information. All of these are happening at unprecedented levels. And now, these streams are overlapping, intermingling, and deliberately helping each other in the greater vision of the Great Commission – seeing vibrant communities of people from every tongue, tribe, and nation worshipping and following Jesus!

Serving with Operation World, it is part of our remit to study, report on, and mobilize intercession for all of the above. But for a few years now, God has been stirring us to pray and think about taking it to another level. And so the question on our hearts has been as follows:

What would it look like if a community was formed to be set apart specifically to intercede for the fulfillment of the Great Commission? A community where the prayer, mission, and research movements converged. A community that was deliberately diverse – intentionally multicultural, intergenerational, trans-denominational and trans-organisational. A community that drew from the richest traditions of 20 centuries of church history and the countless ways in which God is at work today. A community of people that gather *from* the nations, in order to pray *for* the nations. A community that could learn from one another as they walked out a lifestyle of intercession together – Africans, Asians, Latin Americans, Europeans, Middles Easterners, and all the rest, bringing the redemptive gifts God has placed in each of our cultures, coming from many different denominations and church traditions and all the richness therein. A community whose greatest desire is to see the Lamb upon the throne being worshipped by every tribe and tongue and nation!

What would such a community look like? What would it be like to be part of such a vision? For seven days in March, 15 of us got to explore these questions. And it was glorious. On a leafy campus of All Nations ([www.allnations.ac.uk](http://www.allnations.ac.uk)), a college which exists to train missionaries, in partnership with Operation World ([www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org)), a research ministry which exists to mobilize prayer, on the outskirts of one of the world's most multicultural cities with its own great spiritual legacy and its own great spiritual needs, we got a glimpse of what God could do with such as vision. The vision is so compelling, and our experience so positive, that we are not just repeating this gathering, but building it out to fill four weeks rather than just seven days. It will run from 9 June to 6 July this year. Despite this being a big step of faith, and on short notice, we are full of expectation to see what God will do! He is in the business of exceeding our expectations. He is in the business of answering prayer. He is in the business of fulfilling His purposes. And He is in the business of bringing glory to Himself!

If you are interested in being a part of this “School of Prayer for the Nations”, please write to [info@operationworld.org](mailto:info@operationworld.org) or visit [www.allnations.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/school-prayer-nations](http://www.allnations.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/school-prayer-nations)

**Jason Mandryk – IPC Leadership Team**  
**Operation World**

## 06 IPC Calendar

Australia: 21 Days of Prayer for Elections 28 Apr - 18 May 2019  
[www.canberradeclaration.org.au/prayer/election-2019](http://www.canberradeclaration.org.au/prayer/election-2019)

USA National Day of Repentance 31th April 2019  
<http://www.dayofrepentance1.org>

Australia Calls World to Pray & Fast for USA 30 April – 2 May 2019  
[www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au)

Americas National Day of Prayer - 2 May 2019  
[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World - 6 May - 4 June 2019  
[www.30daysprayer.com/](http://www.30daysprayer.com/)



School of Prayer for the Nations - 9 Jun - 6 July 2019

[www.allnations.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/school-prayer-nations](http://www.allnations.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/school-prayer-nations)

United Prayer Rising Europe – 8-11 July 2019

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

One God - One Day - One Africa – 31st May 2020

[www.1gda.org](http://www.1gda.org)

South East Asia Prayer Council Conference – 8-11 October 2019

<https://www.seaprayers2019singapore.org/>

Go 2020 May 2020

<https://www.go2020.world>

## Prayers For The World

### 07 Sri Lanka Church Attacks and Global Christian Persecution

Sri Lankan Christians fear more attacks are coming as the nation is still in mourning over the horrific bombings on Easter Sunday.

At least 253 people were killed and hundreds more were wounded. Thursday the number was decreased from 350 to 253, officials explaining that they initially thought many people had been killed due to unidentifiable body parts.

In two major cities in Sri Lanka it's very quiet as residents and office workers are staying indoors and shops are closed.

There's concern that more attacks are on the way with the US embassy warning that terrorists could target places of worship again this weekend.



Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe issued a stark warning Thursday saying, "Well, they've rounded up a lot of suspects but there are still some of the active people on the run. They may be having explosives with them, or they may have hidden the explosives so we have to find the suspects as well as the explosives. So that's still on."

Meanwhile, the military is actively seeking some 140 people suspected of having links to the Islamic State.

Last Sunday's bombings were one of the world's worst terrorist attacks since 9/11, but there's still a sense that Americans don't grasp that Christians around the world are so targeted. In fact, the New York Times ran an opinion piece this week asking "Are Christians Privileged or Persecuted?"

Doug Bandow, an analyst at the CATO Institute answers that question writing, "Christianity's dominant role in American culture has obscured the fact that it is the most persecuted faith globally."

And Emma Green, an Atlantic writer, says that Easter has become an "anniversary of death," noting Easter attacks on Christians in Egypt and Nigeria in the last several years.

Religious freedom advocate Dr. Daniel Mark tells CBN New the attacks show how believers in the West need to be more aware of global persecution of Christians.

"I think Christians should -- Christians who of course are extremely charitable and extremely caring to people worldwide -- could even so take a lesson in this and make sure that on the top of their mind at all times is the persecuted church around the world which makes us appreciate what we have here, too, and makes us more mindful of what we need to protect what we have here."

**Please take time to intercede for Sri Lanka using these guidelines supplied by Leslie Keegel, one of our senior leaders, who lives in the country:**

- **The death toll as of now is at 253 persons and people on the injured list is at 359. Attacks and attempts of attack are still in the air.**
- **Please pray for the public, fear, anxiety and hopelessness is high.**
- **For the government and rulers to be united and intentionally decisive to overcome enemy factions.**
- **It is discovered that ISIS is behind these attacks. They are looking for more opportunities to strike churches and Christians.**
- **Shops, offices, schools are closed, people who are dependent on daily wages are not finding work. Therefore, starvation and frustration is creeping in.**
- **Public demonstrations against the government are threatened.**
- **It is learnt that our decision makers do not see eye to eye with each other, therefore important decisions are not being made.**
- **There is leadership failure therefore there is economic, social and political instability in our nation.**
- **The forces of darkness in high places are raging against the Church and her leadership.**
- **The Church must receive strength and comfort to battle against the powers of darkness.**
- **Please pray that the support lines would be cut and resources would stop flowing to the ISIS leadership here.**
- **Pray for the Church to be United in Tragedy: The Evangelical and Pentecostal Churches stand together in solidarity with the Catholic Church during this time of tragedy and share their pain and sorrow as the whole Body of Christ is suffering.**
- **Pray that this unity will be a witness to the nation.**
- **Pray that the funeral services will be a powerful witness of forgiveness and reconciliation and also of the living Hope to other religious communities.**
- **Pray for the opportunity for the Church to reach out to the Moslem community as well.**
- **Pray for the Grieving Families: Sri Lanka had been through 30 year of war and seen immense suffering and bloodshed and also natural tragedies like the Tsunami. The Church has been both victims and instruments of God's grace to bring relief and comfort to the suffering. We are working together to help with families with the funerals and provide ongoing emotional and other support.**
- **Pray for Christians to have courage and hope: This attack specifically targeting Christians and have resulted in the largest number of martyrs of the recent history. The Sri Lankan Church wants to honor their sacrifice and want the families to know that they have not died in vain.**

- The Church must be strong in opposition and suffering because we believe that Sri Lanka is destined for Revival.

Thank you very much for your partnership in prayer.

More: <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2019/april/as-warning-emerges-of-new-sri-lanka-church-attacks-global-christian-persecution-still-observed>

## 08 China: closing Christian churches in Easter crackdown

UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has said he is 'appalled' at the ongoing persecution of Christians.

One of the countries clamping down is China. Churches continue to be closed, and Christians have been arrested because of their faith.

That is because the country is officially an atheist state, with freedom of religion guaranteed in the constitution. Sky's Tom Cheshire explains.



Watch the SKYNEWS video on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZE4y4PSiCw>

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in China.

## 09 Europe: Praying for the Parliamentary Elections 23-26 May 2019

*Christian Responsibility for Europe  
Uniting in prayer, hope, reflection and action*

**Shaping Europe's future – the European Parliament**



The European Parliament can seem remote from daily life but it helps to shape the values and direction of our continent. Through its power to block and amend legislation and to lobby hard for other changes, the European Parliament has huge influence. Between 23rd and 26th May, EU citizens will get the chance to vote and thus collectively choose who will represent them at European level until 2024.

What will the European Union look like in 5 years' time? What values will European society prioritise? Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will have a big say over the answers. What challenges will this continent face? MEPs will help choose Europe's response.

### Europe needs prayer

Of course it is always important to pray for politicians (1 Timothy 2: 1-4) and election seasons are especially significant. But, if we step back and look at our continent as a whole, it is clear that Europe is in trouble. So the importance of intercession is huge. Across Europe, fear, division and even anger are common, truth is often getting lost or ignored in the noise. Every nation and the EU institutions themselves are falling short of God's standards as Evangelicals have historically believed them to be. We have been given good gifts of



family, freedom, nation, human rights, security, sex, often relative economic prosperity, etc. but we have turned them into idols as we prioritise them over the Lord or distort them from what he designed them to be. Secularism, meanwhile, makes politics itself an idol and tries to silence other faith-inspired voices. There is also a growing culture of “them versus us” in which many believe that those they disagree with are completely wrong whereas they are completely right. This makes it difficult for people to see good in those who oppose them or to examine their own faults. As a result, wisdom is lost, pride and stubbornness abound.

### **Hope and responsibility**

Individual Christians can feel powerless as they look at these socio-political and economic challenges. We can wonder if there is any point in praying about elections. But, hope returns when we focus our attention on the King of Kings, the one who is in ultimate charge and is working out His eternal Kingdom purposes no matter what. As we remember that we are called to pray that “His will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, we are motivated to persevere in our intercession. But it also means that we have homework to do – to work to understand what is happening on earth and equally try to understand the will of the Lord. We do this in humility, remembering that we will not fully comprehend until Jesus returns.

### **Strength in unity**

There is particular power and wisdom in praying and reflecting together with other Christians. The diversity of local Church (and indeed Church at national or European levels) means we can choose to understand the lives, problems, gifts and opinions of those who are very different to us. Our identity in Christ gives us a firm foundation for mutual respect, collaboration and the possibility of softening our opinions. We know that, when we pray in humility, repentance and unity for our nations, we can be confident that the Lord listens and will heal (2 Chronicles 7: 14). And when we consider socio-political matters with those who are different to us, it becomes much easier to find a truly biblical perspective on what is important.

### **A biblical worldview sustains democracy**

There is much we can agree on from the Bible. We know that every single human being is made in the image of God and, therefore, has infinite value. So Christians are united in wanting to see European society valuing all, no matter their sex, age, ethnicity, faith or worldview, “economic usefulness”, health or if they are yet to be born etc. As image bearers, every human has the capacity for immense and creative good, so we seek a Europe where there is opportunity for that flourishing contribution from each one. But, since the Fall, each human is capable of unspeakable sinfulness. And so public policy and, indeed, the political system itself must take this into account.

It is this biblical worldview which has provided the foundation for sustainable democracy and free societies.

- Since human beings can do good, they should be able to contribute to the political decision making system and to society.
- Since human beings can do evil, democratic systems should spread power as widely as possible, not allowing any individual or institution to dominate.
- Since every human being has infinite worth, politicians should work for the good of all, including those who did not or could not vote for them.

So let's be proactive in our praying, voting and influencing to speak up for these core biblical principles and to protect and strengthen the health (in God's eyes) of our democracy, nations and continent.

### **Uniting despite differences**

As Christians, we should be able to agree on foundational principles of what the Lord would want but there will still be much we continue to disagree on. Since no political party has a monopoly on truth and wisdom, Christians will vote in different ways. But, there is still huge value in praying and discussing together, asking for the Lord's blessing and mercy, and seeking to understand what is needed for His Kingdom values to be more strongly reflected across our continent.

Therefore, the European Evangelical Alliance urges its members and local churches across the EU to unite in

- non-partisan intercession for our nations and continent,
- biblical reflection about the Lord's values, listening to other opinions, asking big questions,
- challenging untruth, disrespect and idolatry,
- encouraging people to study political manifestos carefully and to vote.

### **Politics has its limits**

However, no matter how important these elections are, politics becomes an idol when we expect it to solve every issue, give 100% guarantees of security and answer our every need. We look to the King of Kings first, trusting in His sovereignty and ultimate Kingdom purposes. And we also understand the responsibility of citizens to contribute to the common good. Local Church has a particular joyful task to offer the hope of Jesus Christ in word and deed. There is so much anger, fear, loneliness, injustice and hardship around. The Church is doing a vital job in serving communities, reaching out to the most vulnerable, encouraging neighbourliness, building peace, offering hope for today and ultimate hope for eternity. Let's keep going, whatever happens in political life.

### **Pray for the European Parliament elections 23-26 May 2019**

Christians may vote for different political parties but there is great significance in praying together in humility and unity for our nations and continent.

Here are suggestions for united intercession. We invite people to pray in non-partisan ways so that all Christians can say AMEN.

### **Let's pray for**

- the well-being of all candidates and their families during this stressful time,
- peaceful and safe campaigning and voting,
- truth to be sought, seen and heard, valued and accepted,
- opportunities for respectful debate, with a variety of voices being heard,
- growing support for core biblical values, including love, truth, justice, righteousness, forgiveness, integrity, respect, service and generosity,
- the success of politicians who will
  - preserve and strengthen democracy and freedom,
  - work for the good of all, including the weakest and most vulnerable,
  - be a blessing to their nation but also work well with politicians from other nations.
- The next 5 years of the European Union to be a period
  - where mutual respect and listening in political debate increase,
  - where every Member State of the EU is able to be and to offer its best to the whole and to be humble enough to learn from others,
  - where there is greater understanding of the value of every human being,

- where wise and just decisions are made to face the many economic, technological, environmental, social and security challenges Europe faces, and where the weakest are better protected,
- where freedom of religion or belief and of expression are strengthened,
- where decisions are made at the appropriate level – European, national, local,
- where there is a stronger connection and trust between politicians and officials and the citizens of the European Union.

More: <https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanEA>

## 10 Iran: New Chief Of Revolutionary Guards appointed

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has appointed a new chief commander of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), just days after the United States designated the paramilitary force as a foreign terrorist organization.

Iranian state media reported on April 21 that Khamenei appointed General Hossein Salami as the new head of the IRGC, replacing Mohammad Ali Jafari, who had been in charge for more than 11 years.



Salami, 59, had been serving as a deputy commander in the IRGC. State media gave no reason for Khamenei's decision to replace the IRGC commander.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on April 8 designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization in an unprecedented move that drew Iranian condemnation.

Tehran responded by designating the U.S. military's Central Command as a terrorist organization.

The estimated 100,000-strong IRGC is a branch of the military that also plays a major role in Iran's economy.

It is in charge of Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programs and runs its own intelligence operations.

The IRGC has been involved in enforcing Islamic codes and crushing dissent at home, experts say, while taking part in covert operations, arms smuggling, and other efforts aimed at expanding Iran's influence abroad. It answers directly to Khamenei.

The United States has already blacklisted dozens of entities and people for affiliations with the IRGC, but not the organization as a whole.

More: <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-s-supreme-leader-appoints-new-chief-of-revolutionary-guards/29894970.html?ltflags=mailer>

**Pray that the devious and manipulative actions of the IRGC will be thwarted**  
**Pray for the people of Iran, who yearn for freedom of speech and true democracy**

## 11 Israel: Prayer Update on Elections

Elections in Israel were yesterday. This afternoon (Wednesday) with some 97% of votes counted, the Likud with Benjamin Netanyahu and the Blue and White party with Benny Gantz were tied, each having received 35 seats each in the new Knesset.

However, because the two religious parties, the Sephardic Shas and the Ashkenazy United Torah Judaism, received an astounding eight seats each, and have vowed to join a Netanyahu government—and there are still several other right-wing parties expected to do the same,

Netanyahu is being seen as winner (President Rivlin will almost certainly give him the task of forming a coalition after the final military and write-in votes are counted tomorrow). This will be Netanyahu's fifth term. It means that Israel will go into this next season with a proven, strong defense stance against the threat from Iran. It will continue with a leader whose prowess as a statesman is respected (if not always loved) in the international community. There should continue to be a government with strong feelings for Israel's right to a presence in the Covenant Land of the Mountains of Israel—Judea & Samaria—the West Bank. And, extremely important for the present time, the relationship forged between Prime Minister Netanyahu and U.S. President Trump continues in a realm of mutual favour no new Israeli leader could hope to imitate.

On the other hand, a coalition so strongly impressed with the religious parties means one which will likely continue with a "double standard" related to religious and civil responsibilities of citizens (most ultra-Orthodox demand to be allowed to study Biblical commentaries of rabbis rather than to fulfill those responsibilities). And the Shas party will almost certainly demand to maintain control of the Ministry of the Interior and other offices related to immigration—thus deciding who is considered a "Jew", and discriminating against Messianic Jews and others it considers not lining up with its narrow religious views.

In general, a far-right government is far less concerned with civil rights of Israeli citizens. Any overtures the government might wish to take, for example, towards allowing other streams of Judaism to have access to their own portion of the Western Wall, can (as happened two years ago) be nipped off at the bud by a threat from one of the religious parties to leave and bring down the government.

Another question mark relates to the "Deal of the Century" for solving the Israel/Palestinian questions, which President Trump is due to release within a few weeks after the new government is on its feet. Will it "allow" Israel to annex portions of the Mountains of Israel, and for Jerusalem to remain undivided? Will the present relationship with Mr. Trump and America be able to remain close if there are tenets of the plan which Israel finds impossible to accept?

The Prime Minister Elect will have a month to put together a coalition; if that fails, he may ask for one short extension. That failing, the country goes again to new elections.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- **That the God of Israel will watch over and guard the building of the new government. That none will be allowed to be formed which would restrict His path of mercy for his covenant land and people during the coming season.**
- **That grace will rest upon Mr. Netanyahu—a grace which leads to humility, and to seeking heavenly counsel for his governance during this term.**



- That no occult powers would be able to influence the forming of the new coalition.
- That the most recent Shas leader (a convicted felon) will not be allowed to again hold the office of Ministry of the Interior. That the anti-Messiah spirit would not be allowed to reign over that office.

**Martin & Norma Sarvis**  
Jerusalem

## 12 Muslim cleric speaks out on roots of Islamophobia

The senior member of the world's biggest Muslim organisation has insisted that Islamophobia is not rooted in racism and that the distrust of Muslims in many countries is a result of Islamist extremism and terrorism throughout the world.

Yahya Cholil Staquf, the secretary-general of Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama movement, which claims to have more than 90 million adherents, wrote in an article in Britain's Daily Telegraph saying that the traditional Muslim mindset needed to change.



He called for a rejection of Islamic orthodoxy, condemning it as “obsolete and problematic” and “fuelling violence on both sides”.

The influential cleric wrote that the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims was “factually incorrect” in linking the definition of the word “Islamophobia” to racism, and that it was “counter-productive” to do so.

“The truth, we recognise, is that jihadist doctrine, goals and strategy can be traced to specific tenets of orthodox, authoritative Islam and its historic practice. This includes those portions of sharia that promote Islamic supremacy, encourage enmity towards non-Muslims and require the establishment of a caliphate. It is these elements – still taught by most Sunni and Shiite institutions – that constitute a summons to perpetual conflict,” he wrote.

Staquf stated that Brenton Tarrant's murder spree, which killed 50 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March, was part of an “ancient cycle of violence” and that the killer shared a “historical framework” with many Muslims that went back almost 1,400 years. He explained the traditional Islamic teaching that “Muslims and non-Muslims are and shall remain in a state of permanent conflict, until the end of time (according to Islamists) or the disappearance of Islam (according to advocates of a ‘counter-jihad’).”

“If Muslims do not address the key tenets of Islamic tradition that encourage this violence, anyone – at any time – can harness them to defy what they claim to be illegitimate laws and butcher their fellow citizens, whether they live in the Islamic world or the West. This is what links so many current events, from Syria to the streets of London,” he added.

**More:** <https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/leading-muslim-cleric-says-islamophobia-a-result-of-islamic-extremism-and-not-racism>



### 13 Nigeria: Christians slaughtered at baby dedication

Over a dozen Christians, including children, were slaughtered by Fulani militants following an infant dedication service in the Nigerian state of Nasarawa.

Morning Star News reports that the attack took place on Palm Sunday as Christians in the predominantly Christian community gathered to eat after the child was dedicated that morning at Ruhaniya Baptist Church in the village.

Fulani militants, who have increasingly targeted Christians, stormed the party and opened fire indiscriminately, killing 17. The militants claimed the life of the baby's mother, Safaratu John Kabiru Ali, along with several others, some of whom were children as young as 10. The baby's father, John Kabiru Ali, is currently in critical condition after suffering gunshot wounds.



A local resident told Morning Star News that among those killed were "10 members of the Ruhaniya Baptist Church, five members of Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ, one member of the Evangelical Church Winning All, and a musician playing for guests."

Samuel Meshi, chairman of the Akwanga Local Government Council, told the outlet the group of Christians did nothing to provoke the horrific attack.

"They just started shooting sporadically on a community that was just having a feast of the dedication of a child after a church service earlier in the day on Sunday (April 14) at a Baptist church in the area," Meshi said.

"The killings occurred in the evening of that day. Unfortunately, these persons were killed in cold blood for just no reason," he noted.

Pastor Samson Gamu Yare, community leader of the Mada ethnic group in Nasarawa state, described the killings as "barbaric" and called on the federal government to urgently take measures toward curtailing the menace of extremist herdsmen attacks on his people.

Nigerian outlet The Punch notes that the governor of Nasarawa State, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, has demanded that the perpetrators be apprehended immediately.

"This is something we are going to take seriously. We are going to have a Security Council meeting and I have already directed security operatives to ensure that they fish out these people and bring them to book," Al-Makura said, according to Channels TV.

Major General Adeyemi Yekini subsequently announced his strategy to track and arrest those involved in the attack.

"I have directed my troops to move to Akwanga and join other security forces to track down the perpetrators of this crisis; let us apprehend them so that justice can be done," he said.

Nigeria ranks as the 12th worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA's 2019 World Watch List.

The Fulani herdsmen are an ethnic group of over 20 million in West and Central Africa. Herders have been known to travel hundreds of miles while carrying weapons to protect their livestock. While they have clashed with indigenous tribes and Christians for centuries, only a small subset are extremists and engage in attacks, according to the Global Terror Index.

However, Open Doors notes that the clashes have intensified in recent years and led to the destruction of houses and churches, as well as the seizure of land and properties belonging to Christian owners. Open Doors concluded that the Nigerian government has historically failed to protect Christians, particularly women and children, from Fulani extremist violence.

Last Easter, Fulani herdsmen carried out an attack on morning Mass at Saint Ignatius Catholic Church in Mbalom, central Nigeria, leaving two priests and at least 17 parishioners dead. About 30 attackers also ransacked a burial ceremony and burned dozens of homes in the community, according to reports.

On March 4, Fulani militants in the Benue state reportedly attacked three villages, killing 23 people with bullets and machetes, according to International Christian Concern.

Also in March, 52 people were killed, dozens injured and around 143 homes were destroyed in attacks on the villages of Inkirimi, Dogonnoma and Ungwan Gora in the Maro district of the Kajuru Local Government Area.

## PRAY

**Pray for the bereaved that they will know the comfort and presence of God in their grief.**

**Pray that the extremists will be brought to justice.**

**Pray for the Government of Nigeria to have greater success with resolving this longstanding issue.**

**More:** <https://www.christianpost.com/news/nigeria-christians-slaughtered-by-fulani-militants-at-baby-dedication-children-among-the-dead.html>

## 14 North Korea: Current Update

### The Situation in the North

In the weeks following the Hanoi Summit, the issue of North Korean denuclearization has been in the news a lot. As evidence mounts that the North is [rebuilding](#) a major missile launching site that it had been dismantling, Trump has been [warning against](#) just that. The commander of U.S. forces in South Korea states that North Korea's activities are ["inconsistent" with denuclearization](#). While the U.S. also believes that [North Korea wants to continue](#) denuclearization talks, the North has [threatened to discontinue them](#). In the meantime, the U.S. has been reaching out to [China to help with the situation](#). To be honest, I don't think anyone really knows what will happen; however, the website, [38 North](#), has a number of very thoughtful articles on the whole denuclearization process. I recommend [taking a look](#). There are some hopeful developments in [Trump cancelling](#) additional sanctions and the [UN lowering sanction barriers](#) for humanitarian work, specifically by the [Mennonite Central Committee](#). Pray for things to open up for other humanitarian organizations as well.



A few brief items. Here's a story on how [Russian technicians keep](#) the North Korean leaders' bodies looking fresh. North Koreans are managing to get outside media through [new smartphone aps](#) and as [workers overseas](#). Pray that they learn about the things that are really important and don't spend all their time on dramas...

### Remembering Our Brothers in Prison

We continue to pray for six [South Koreans held in the North](#) as well as [Daily NK journalist, Choi Song Min \(alias\)](#). [Here's information](#) on the pastors and others who have been detained and released. Please remember them in your prayers.

## 15 Russia: Religious Clampdown Spreading

MOSCOW - In Verkhnebakansky, a town just outside Novorossiisk on Russia's Black Sea Coast, Baptists gather in a small house with a set of windows in the shape of a Christian cross.

Their presence in the Krasnodar region goes back 110 years, the past 25 of which -- since the Soviet collapse and the opening up of religious expression -- have seen a faith long repressed by authorities flourish once again.



So it was a shock when, on April 7, as some 50 congregants celebrated Annunciation, law enforcement agents stormed in and interrupted the service.

According to presbyter Yevgeny Kokora, the choir temporarily halted its rendition of Jesus Is My Lighthouse while the pastor pleaded with the officers. They wrote up a report and left just as the service was drawing to a close.

The following day, Kokora went with 71-year-old pastor Yury Korniyenko to the prosecutor's office in Novorossiisk, seeking to file an official complaint. They were told the prosecutor wouldn't be taking visitors for the next three weeks. The local branch of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) heard the two Baptists out, Kokora told RFE/RL, but made no promises.

On April 9, Korniyenko received a court summons and was subsequently charged with engaging in illegal missionary work. His case will be heard this week, and he faces a hefty fine if convicted.

"This is the first time we've had such troubles," Kokora told RFE/RL in a telephone interview. "I don't understand who needs this, who's playing this card."

While freedom of religion is constitutionally guaranteed in Russia, the relevant legislation names Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism as the country's four traditional, protected religions. Others with smaller presences in Russia, including denominations like Baptists, have been subjected to increased scrutiny in recent years.

In 2016, Russia introduced a package of laws outlawing missionary work outside officially designated places of worship, part a broader crackdown on minority faiths operating in the country.

The new laws have been cited as necessary measures in the state's fight against extremism and have led to charges against hundreds of religious activists across the country and, in 2017, to an outright ban on Jehovah's Witnesses, a Christian denomination with headquarters in the United States.

Roman Lunkin, a religious expert at the Russian Academy of Sciences, told RFE/RL that the Baptists in the Krasnodar region are falling victim to "not so much an expansion" of the government's campaign against minority religions as "its logical continuation."

The implication, he said, is that the clampdown will spread.

So far, the Baptist church in Russia has kept comparatively under the radar, despite a flock that Lunkin estimates at more than 250,000 people. Its members stand out from those of other minority faiths through their strong "civic stance," Lunkin said -- many are community leaders or members of local government.

But in November, its adherents were shaken by news that a pastor in Tatarstan had been fined 20,000 rubles (\$310) for organizing an unsanctioned public gathering: A group of Baptists had assembled that June to watch him baptize their newest member in the Kama River.

Kokora said he believes the campaign against his congregation is a largely local affair, a case of officials trying to curry favor with their superiors. He noted that Novorossiisk has seen several similar cases in recent weeks, but faith groups in other parts of Krasnodar have been largely left alone.

In March, the Pentecostal meeting house in Novorosiisk was torn down after officials declared it an unauthorized construction. Seventh-Day Adventists in the city have been banned from gathering for worship, Kokora said. They now travel to Gelendzhik, 50 kilometers away.

On March 1, law enforcement officers in Novorossiisk detained two Mormons -- Americans KoleBrodowski, 20, and David Gaag, 19 -- on suspicion of violating Russian immigration law. They were released two weeks later and deported to the United States.

The Baptist congregation in Verkhnebakansky has felt pressure from the authorities grow over the past year, according to Kokora. He said they've had weekly calls from officials demanding summaries of the latest sermon delivered, as well as reports on attendance.

On April 21, the deputy head of the Russian Baptist Union, Viktor Ignatenkov, visited Verkhnebakansky to discuss the April 7 incident and the possible legal repercussions for local church members. The meetings "gave everyone a sense of confidence in God's intercession," the church said in a statement on April 23.

Kokora, who spent four years working in the Novorossiisk administration and was a member of the city's civic council, said he is reluctant to try and leverage his official contacts and plans instead to take the legal route by appealing to the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights in Moscow.

"We have laws, and we have courts. Let's fix this through a legal framework," he said.

That council may be the last hope for groups who feel targeted for their faith.

On December 11, in a meeting with council members, President Vladimir Putin suggested that official policy toward some religions should be liberalized.

"We probably can, and even at some point should, be much more liberal toward representatives of various religious sects," he said.

Putin ordered Supreme Court Justice Vyacheslav Lebedev to oversee the drafting of a general legal framework for adjudicating cases brought against religious groups. The deadline is July 1.

Kokora is among thousands of believers vesting their hopes in the initiative as a chance to reverse what they see as a tightening of the screws on Russia's minority faiths.

In the meantime, he awaits the court's judgment.

"If this case becomes a precedent, then all our congregations will fall like a house of cards," he said. "The administration's hands will be untied."

**More:**<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-charges-baptist-pastor-in-a-sign-that-its-religious-clampdown-could-be-spreading/29901315.html?ltflags=mailer>

**Pray for these efforts of Kokorato succeed -as he challenges the government's suppressive treatment of people due to them practicing their faith.**

**Pray for the persecuted Christians and their families. May they be richly rewarded for being strong in adversity.**

## **16 SUDAN: coup Military leader vows to 'uproot regime'**

**The leader of Sudan's interim military council has vowed to "uproot the regime" two days after a military coup.**

Speaking on TV, Lt-Gen Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan announced the restructuring of state institutions, the end of a night curfew and the release of political prisoners.

Protests continue despite the ousting of long-time leader Omar al-Bashir.



Demonstrators have demanded an immediate move to civilian rule and vow to stay in the streets.

Gen Burhan, who replaced the coup leader after he resigned on Friday, also dissolved all provincial governments and pledged respect for human rights.

The army would maintain "peace, order and security" across Sudan during an already announced transition period that would last at most two years until elections could be held and civilian rule introduced, he added.

Using a more conciliatory tone, Gen Burhan also called on the opposition to "help us restore normal life", promised to try those who killed demonstrators and vowed a war on corruption.

The speech followed the resignation of feared security chief Gen Salah Gosh hours after the coup leader himself, Defence Minister Awad Ibn Auf, stepped aside. No official reason has been given for either departure.

Later on Saturday the army named Lt Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo as the deputy head of the Transitional Military Council.



Known by the nickname "Hemeti", the general commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Force (RSF), which grew out of the government-backed Janjaweed militia.

**The Janjaweed are accused of carrying out atrocities in the western region of Darfur in the early 2000s.**

### **What has the opposition said?**

Opposition groups have met the military to discuss "transitional arrangements".

Protester spokesman Mohammad Youssef al-Mustafa told the BBC they insisted on the immediate creation of a civilian government, but said military figures would be allowed a role in it.

And according to the privately-owned Baj News website the leader of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party, Omar el-Digeir, said representatives had demanded a civilian government with "full executive powers" and a role for civilians during the transition.

He also said they were waiting for the army to release jailed demonstrators, as promised.

The Sudan Professionals Association (SPA), which has been spearheading the demonstrations, said the council's response "did not achieve any of the demands of the people" and urged protests to continue.

Among its demands are the restructuring of state security, the arrest of "corrupt leaders" and the dissolution of militias that operated under former President Bashir.

### **How did we get here?**

When Mr Bashir was removed, he was replaced by a military council led by Mr Ibn Auf.

But demonstrators camping out outside army headquarters in the capital Khartoum refused to disperse, rejecting Mr Ibn Auf as an ally of Mr Bashir.

Mr Ibn Auf was head of military intelligence during the Darfur conflict and the **US imposed sanctions on him in 2007.**

On Friday the new leader announced he was resigning and being replaced by Gen Burhan, who is seen as a less controversial figure.

Protestors have called for the abolition of "arbitrary decisions by leaders that do not represent the people" and the detention of "all symbols of the former regime who were involved in crimes against the people".

"Until these demands are fully met, we must continue with our sit-in at the General Command of the Armed Forces," the SPA said.

On Saturday, Sudanese TV reported the resignation of Gen Gosh, head of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) which has powerful forces within the capital.

The general has been a key ally of Mr Bashir since the early 1990s and is among 17 Sudanese officials indicted for genocide, human right abuses and war crimes in the Darfur region by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2009.

The NISS has extensive powers and influence, supervising the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-47918736>

**Pray for a peaceful transition back to democratic elections**  
**Pray that those who have led unjustly or corruptly will be held accountable.**  
**Pray that the interim leaders do not take unfair advantage of the situation.**

## 17 Turkey: Erdogan's Party Demands New Vote After Loss

By: Richard Pérez-Peña (New York Times, 4/9/2019)

Trying to reverse a stinging setback, Turkey's ruling party on Tuesday demanded a redo of last week's election for mayor of Istanbul, the country's largest city and long a source of power and prestige for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The extraordinary stance came as it became increasingly clear that a days-long recounting of ballots would not change the result that Binali Yildirim, the candidate of Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, known as the A.K.P., had lost to the opposition candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu, in the March 31 election.



Mr. Erdogan's party had already demanded a recount of spoiled ballots in all of Istanbul and a full recount in some of the city's districts. When that did not change the result, it called for a recount of the entire Istanbul vote, which the High Election Council refused.

The latest demand now puts the High Election Council squarely on the spot and threatens to precipitate a crisis for both Istanbul and the entire country, becoming the latest test of democratic institutions already groaning under the authoritarian strains of Mr. Erdogan's 16 years in power.

"I find the chances extremely high that the election board will accept A.K.P.'s request to repeat the elections," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Far from being independent, the election board, like other institutions, has fallen under Erdogan's power, and I would say the board has thus far taken steps to facilitate Erdogan's each and every next move," he added.

He noted that the council had already allowed a recount of invalid ballots, even though the A.K.P. presented no credible evidence, other than a narrow margin, that there had been irregularities. That has not stopped the party or the president from alleging that the irregularities were systemic in Istanbul, where the candidates are separated by less than 0.3 percent of almost nine million votes cast. "We will use the extraordinary appeal grounds and say we want to renew the elections in Istanbul," Ali Ihsan Yavuz, the deputy head of the party, said at a televised news conference in Ankara, the capital. "Everywhere in Istanbul, organized acts were done. That is why we called it organized irregularity."

Mr. Erdogan himself has cast doubt on the election and pressed the case for a do-over by citing examples of American elections where the margin was so narrow that the balloting was redone.

“Irregularities are not just a few, almost entirely it is irregular,” he said on Monday of the election in Istanbul, speaking at Ataturk Airport before leaving for a visit to Moscow.

Murat Yetkin, formerly the editor in chief of Hurriyet Daily News, wrote on his blog this week that even those in the president’s circle were divided about how far to push the challenge, with a small, determined group urging the president to “put his weight for renewing Istanbul elections.”

A second, larger group of more experienced politicians have argued to accept the results, because the challenge is actually benefiting Mr. Imamoglu by elevating his stature.

Judging by Mr. Erdogan’s statement this week, the hard-liners may be carrying the day, though it may also be a way for the president “to manage the trauma,” said OzgurUnluhisarcikli, the Ankara director of German Marshall Fund.

“This looks like more to redefine the defeat in Istanbul as if it was actually won but stolen by illegitimate means,” said Mr. Unluhisarcikli, who noted that a new election would actually be quite risky for the president as the economy continues to deteriorate.

“I do not believe that Erdogan actually wants to renew the elections,” Mr. Unluhisarcikli said. “The economic realities do not allow this. It would be a huge gamble.”

The result in Istanbul carries enormous weight, however, and there are clear incentives for the president and his party to fight a loss.

With 15 million people, most of them on the European side of the Bosphorus, Istanbul is the most populous city on the Continent and Turkey’s economic capital. It is also Mr. Erdogan’s hometown and has long been a base of support for him.

Just as important, the opposition and some analysts say, the city has become a vital source of wealth in a network of cronyism and nepotism that has benefited from the awarding of municipal contracts and the distribution of city funds to charitable foundations with links to the president’s family.

Even before he has been officially declared the winner, Mr. Imamoglu, who ran for the opposition Republican People’s Party, has vowed to open the books of the city, which Mr. Erdogan and his party have controlled since 2002, to expose long-simmering accusations of corruption.

“The result of this election is clear,” Mr. Imamoglu said at a televised news conference on Tuesday, when he repeated his desire to take office and start working immediately. “The streets accepted the result. You can work hard and win five years later. We have won, admit it.”

Last week, Mr. Imamoglu said that with its continuing challenges to the result of the election, Mr. Erdogan’s party was stalling for time so that it could erase City Hall records from computers before independent auditors could carry out the review he promises.

Such allegations have taken on more weight with voters as the Turkish economy falters, undercutting the president’s long record of nearly unbroken economic growth. Turkey entered recession this year, and the currency, the lira, has continued to slide amid increasing worry by investors and markets.

The opposition party also won a close mayoral election in Ankara, a result that the election council has finalized. The potential loss of Istanbul would place both the country's political and financial capitals in opposition hands.

Taken together with rest of the results from the March 31 elections, the balloting reflected increasing discontent among voters with Mr. Erdogan, who has concentrated executive powers, carried out a sweeping purge of opponents after a failed 2016 coup, and brought a once-vibrant news media to heel. The High Election Council must consider the request by Mr. Erdogan's party for a new election, but the opposition party insisted that the result was legitimate and clear.

"Both legally and conscientiously, there is no obstacle to giving Ekrem Imamoglu his mayoral certificate," Faik Oztrak, the opposition spokesman, said in televised remarks. "Mr. Imamoglu is right now the elected mayor of Istanbul, as he was on the morning of April 1."

He pointed out that Mr. Erdogan's A.K.P. party had won many districts in Istanbul as well as other towns across the country, results that were not being challenged.

"So when A.K.P. mayors are elected it is the national will, but when the votes go to Imamoglu, it is dubious," Mr. Oztrak said. "Even crows laugh at that. They should leave the nation alone."

#### **Pray for Turkey government**

- **We continue to pray that current Turkey government would heed to the final result of March 31 election in Istanbul as well, not calling for new vote.**
- **Pray that Turkish people would have the final and decisive voice regarding all political matters and ruling their own country as a democracy.**
- **Pray that all peoples in Turkey would find the True and Eternal Hope in Jesus Christ and His Kingdom rather than any earthly government.**

**More:** <http://silkwavemission.com/board.php?board=english&command=body&no=1037>

## **18 USA: Australia calls World to Pray for America**

30 April – 2 May 2019

For the seventh consecutive year, Australia is calling the nations of the world to join with them in 3 days of prayer and fasting for the United States of America, from 30 April – 2 May 2019.



May 2 is America's National Day of Prayer.

The theme is "Pray for America – LOVE ONE ANOTHER" John 13:34.

<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

April 30 is America's National Day of Repentance. <http://www.dayofrepentance1.org>

Promo YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J85mThITKyQ>

Facebook Video: <https://www.facebook.com/nationaldayofprayerandfasting/videos/681908912226702>

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

Commissioner James Condon, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team, said, “God has done amazing things in America since we began to pray and fast each year for the USA, but God can do greater things yet! We in Australia believe it is our turn to stand in the gap for the nation of America and pray for revival and transformation for the USA through prayer and fasting according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. The theme “LOVE ONE ANOTHER” is something that inspires us here in Australia too!

Melissa Haigh, a member of the National Day of Prayer and Fasting team, talking about the history of prayer in the USA said, “President Abraham Lincoln, on 30 April 1863 called for a Day of ‘Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting’ at a time of great national crisis. Lincoln’s prayer and faith is a great encouragement to us today. Both America and Australia need to come back to God in repentance and humility.”

Ps Warwick Marsh, also from the National Day of Prayer and Fasting team, said, “America and Australia need revival and reformation. We need more of JESUS. We invite you and the nations of the world to join with us in three days of prayer and fasting for the USA, that JESUS would be magnified.”

**James Condon | Melissa Haigh | Warwick Marsh**

**National Day of Prayer & Fasting.** <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au>

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

## Resources:

### 19 The Great Exchange - Terry R Bone

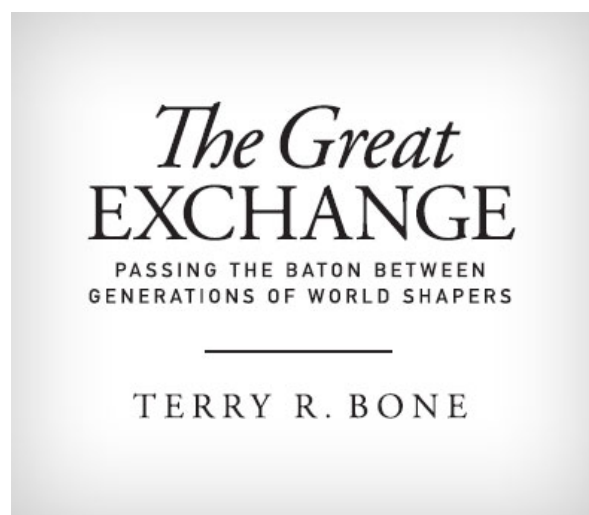
The Great Exchange - Passing the baton between generations of World Shapers - by Terry R Bone

Thanks to the kindness of a friend and colleague of IPC's we are delighted to be bringing our readers access to this further free resource!

Here is an introduction written by Terry...

This book is about making great transitions in life.

There is something called an exchange zone in track and field relay races. It's a well-marked space on the track in which the baton must be passed from one runner to the next. In that zone, a lot has to happen in a short period of time. This seemed to me like the perfect metaphor for transitions. We all pass through 'exchange zones' in life. These are meant to be a place where desires are fulfilled and destinies are transferred. Time spent in exchange zones is brief compared to the entire race. We ought to know what to do before we get there as there's rarely enough time to adequately absorb all we need to know once we get there. As the saying goes, 'we must take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of the opportunity'.



As a Life Coach and Leadership Consultant, I often walk with people through some of the most important transitions of their lives. Typically these are talented young leaders in the ministry or business world who are looking for both a plan and a person to walk with them while entering the next phase of their life calling. My wife, Melissa, and I have also written and spoken extensively on the topic of ‘family blessing’, the practice of giving Spiritual blessings to the ones we love most.

At some point I realized that a common challenge was present in every situation. Parents who desire to pass on Spiritual blessings to future generations, leaders of a ministry or business who want to set up the next leader for success, and aspiring leaders waiting for their turn to shine, all need to master the art of transition. This involves more than just different people ‘taking turns’ doing the same thing. A successful transition includes a baton transfer. In real life, the baton represents the transfer of knowledge, wisdom, authority and even Spiritual gifts between current leaders and those who are called to be next in line.

So I created a couple of messages on how to ‘pass the baton’ between two generations of leaders. Everywhere I shared these messages, people kept asking for the notes. It was time to start the process of writing a book. I spent a couple more years making additional notes and collecting quotes. I sought the perspective of some outstanding young leaders within my community in order to broaden my perspective. I also served as an Interim Pastor for several churches in the midst of leadership transitions.

After all this, I hired a writing coach who helped me to distill a thousand pages of loosely connected notes into a more concise and compelling format. I trust that the result is an easy to read book that addresses important questions on this important topic.

If you find yourself currently in an exchange zone, may you receive practical guidance as you read the pages that follow. If not, then now is the right time to bank this knowledge for a future date. Either way, I pray the Holy Spirit will illuminate the truths you need to ensure that you make a great transition when the time is right.

**DOWNLOAD the FULL PDF [HERE](#)**

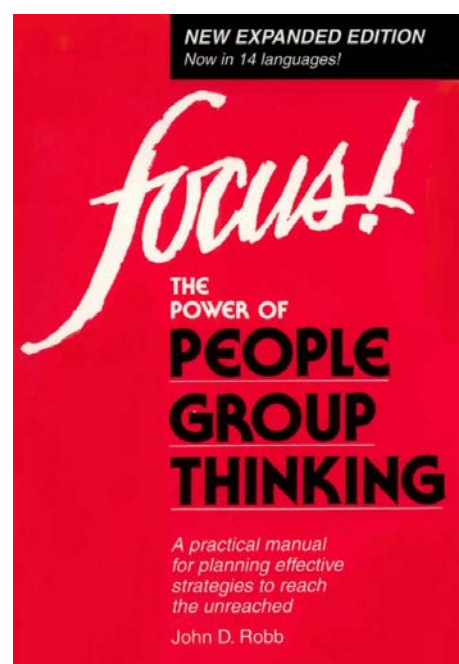
## **20 Focus: The Power of People Group Thinking – John D Robb**

Focus: The Power of People Group Thinking, a Practical Resource for Reaching the Unreached

If you have a heart for prayer and mission for the fulfillment of the Great Commission, this book is written for you!

It has been put together for followers of Jesus who share His heartbeat for the peoples of the world. It is designed for you if you want to see His love, justice, and salvation begin to operate within a particular group of people for whom you are specially concerned.

If you are a missionary, an evangelist, a pastor, or a lay person who wants to better understand your target audience in order to have a greater impact, this book can help you. It will give you the tools to develop a ministry strategy that, coupled with Spirit-led prayer, will be relevant to the people you are trying to reach. Focus! will enable you to both pray and communicate the Gospel with new effectiveness and greater response. It will assist you to design ministry outreaches and programs that the





Spirit of God can use to move a whole unreached group toward the salvation and social well-being He so deeply desires for them.

The author, John Robb, who serves as chairman of the IPC has devoted his life to both prayer and mission initiatives in more than 100 countries for over 50 years. Focus! went through three printings, was translated into over 20 languages, and has been used by many involved in cross-cultural missions around the world. Feel free to download it and also to share it with others who have an interest in making Christ known to those who still do not know Him.

Free Download available [HERE](#)

## 21 30 Day Prayer Guides for the Muslim World

The 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World began in 1993 with a group of Christians who felt inspired to challenge the way they understood Muslim people. What if they saw Muslims in the same way God does?

### WHAT IS IT AND WHY?

The 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World, is an international movement that began in 1993. It calls the church to make a deliberate but respectful effort to learn about, pray for and reach out to our world's Muslim neighbors. It coincides annually with the important Islamic month of religious observation — Ramadan, a time of the year when Muslims are much more deeply aware of spiritual matters.

While Media sound bites about Islamic extremism can too easily incite anger, fear and even hatred towards Muslims, we seek to resist this temptation to generalize, and instead, resolve to respond and pray with the mind and heart of Christ.

**Join the millions of Christians around the world, and churches and ministries from many denominations, who regularly participate in this largest ongoing prayer focus on the Muslim world. A new full-color prayer guide booklet — available each year in both adult and kids versions — is a proven tool to help Christians to understand and to persistently pray for Muslim neighbors and nations.**

There's still time to get your booklets before Ramadan!

Click Here: <https://www.30daysprayer.com/>

## 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

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

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD



INTERNATIONAL  
PRAYER  
CONNECT

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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