

International Prayer Connections

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World



JANUARY 2020



INTERNATIONAL
**PRAYER
CONNECT**



Happy New Year!

We are pleased to bring you IPC Connections for January 2020. We know that many of our prayer partners are joining with us and thousands of other followers of Jesus around the world to welcome 2020 and the new decade in along with the Sunrise Prayer Relay. See the article for more info!

In our editorial this month, entitled Desperate Prayer for a 'Decade of Harvest', Dr Jason Hubbard encourages us to reflect on the nature and heart behind our praying. As another decade unfolds, many of us have caught the vision of GO2020 which aims to reach 1 billion souls for Jesus. As we each contemplate the cost and the sacrifice that this will entail in reaching our nations, may our hearts be gripped with the compassionate heart of Jesus. May we each take time to watch Jesus weep, crawl under his burden, and cry out for his intervention! It is solely through Him that we will see our nations changed!

For more information about GO2020, please see these links:

[Watch the GO 2020 Video](#) | [Download the Brochure](#) | [Download the Prayer Guide](#)

A 40 Days of Prayer Guide has been produced entitled 'Preparing Hearts' – commencing 1st January 2020.

We would appreciate your prayers for the IPC Leadership Team who will be gathering at Bellingham, in Washington State for a retreat at the end of January. Please be in prayer with us as we take time to hear from the Lord as to our joint calling and mission over this next decade.

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](#).

Wishing you His continued blessings,

Jason Hubbard - Executive Coordinator

John D Robb – Chairman - International Prayer Connect

CONTENTS

[01 Editorial: Desperate Prayer for a 'Decade of Harvest'](#)

Prayers for the World:

[02 Answered Prayers - Bolivia Elections](#)

[03 China Summons U.S. after Uyghur Bill Demands Sanctions](#)

[04 Europeans Scold Iran For Developing Nuclear-Capable Projectiles](#)

[05 Taliban council agrees to cease-fire in Afghanistan](#)

[06 Australia bushfires: towns devastated and lives lost](#)

[07 - 11 Nigerian Christians Executed in ISIS Christmas Video](#)

[08 France: Strike deadlock continues over pension reforms](#)

Prayer News & Events:

[09 GO 2020 – Reaching 1 Billion with the Gospel](#)

[10 Sunrise Prayer Relay 1st Jan 2020](#)

[11 North East Asia Prayer Summit – 7-9 April 2020](#)

[12 Catalyst 365 – Prayer for the Buddhist World](#)

[13 IPC Calendar](#)

Resources:

[14 Film - 'Peacemakers: Crossing the Divide'](#)

[15 - 9 Ideas to Increase Attendance at Your Prayer Meetings!](#)

About IPC:

[16 About International Prayer Connect \(IPC\)](#)

[17 Credits](#)



01 Editorial: Desperate Prayer for a 'Decade of Harvest'

Desperate Prayer for a 'Decade of Harvest'

Psalm 126:5–6 (ESV), “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

My wife has been on a long journey of suffering from migraine headaches for the last 20yrs. Often she has to be in a dark space, crying out in pain until it passes. We have struggled over the years asking the questions of “why” and “how long.” We know and trust in the goodness of God and continue to believe God, asking for his healing power! My wife is an amazing woman, godly wife and nurturing mom. I often hear her interceding in the midst of her suffering and pain and I know this touches and moves the heart of God. Often the only thing we are left with is desperate prayer. This kind of prayer is born out of human inability to make anything to happen, where we recognize we can do nothing about the situation... But God!

Throughout history, believers have cried out to God in times of distress. Sometimes after years of desperate praying, a single cry brings direction or deliverance instantly. The promise is clear:

“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

Here are some examples of people crying out to the Lord

- A cry of deep distress

“You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry” (Nehemiah 9:9).

- To cry out for help

“He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them” (Psalm 145:19).

- To shout a war cry

“Then the men of Judah gave a shout [ruwa]: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel” (II Chronicles 13:15).

- A cry of deep distress

“When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble” (Psalm 9:12).

- To cry out

“But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him” (Matt 14:30-31).

- To implore with strong voice

“And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily” (Luke 18:7).

Crying out to God often with tears is an act of desperation and total consecration. It is a fervent expression of faith in God and trust in His goodness and power to act on our behalf. As Spurgeon said, “tears are liquid prayer.”

Jeremiah, often described as the weeping prophet, was a man caught up in the heart of the weeping God. As he walked through the streets and alleys of the Holy City and saw nothing but pain, suffering, and destruction in the wake of the Babylonian invasion of 586 BC, he writes,

“Their heart cried out to the Lord, “O wall of the daughter of Zion, Let tears run down like a river day and night; Give yourself no relief; Give your eyes no rest. 19 “Arise, cry out in the night, At the beginning of the watches; Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him For the life of your young children, Who faint from hunger at the head of every street” (Lam 2:18-19).

Not only do we see believers throughout Scripture crying out to God often with tears, our God is also a ‘weeping God.’ Jesus himself, wept with his grieving friends over Lazarus. Jesus wept over Jerusalem as he rode in on Palm Sunday, and Jesus wept in the agony of prayer at Gethsemane hours before the cross. The author of Hebrews writes,

“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence” (Hebrews 5:7).

Not only does Jesus weep over the lost and the broken but he also weeps over us with compassion in the midst of our pain and loss. He cares so deeply for each one of us. Only a weeping God can truly wipe away our tears. Think how close Jesus has to be to take his thumb to our face and wipe away the pain, and disappointment in our lives!

It so important for us to slow down, and let our hearts be gripped with the compassionate heart of Jesus. May we take time to watch Jesus weep, crawl under his burden, and cry out for his intervention!

It is this type of intercession, crying out to the Lord that often brings a breakthrough. When Jesus saw Mary weeping over her brother Lazarus, he was moved with compassion and raised him from the dead! God promises that those who ‘weep’ will ‘reap’ a harvest!

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).

The Bible is utterly unfamiliar with casual praying.

Jesus was clear that those who reject him will spend an eternity in hell, ‘weeping and gnashing their teeth’ (Matt 8:12). May God grip us with the reality of millions walking on the broad road that leads to destruction. May we cry out and weep over them for their salvation!

When Jesus taught us to pray to our Father in heaven, He used the Greek word *proseuchomai*—the common word for prayer in the New Testament. But in Matthew 9:38 and Lk 10:2, Jesus used the Greek word *deomai*, a much stronger word meaning to ‘plead desperately.’ Also Jesus didn’t simply tell His disciples to pray for laborers to be sent out to the harvest fields. Jesus used a much stronger word—*ekballo*, meaning to ‘drive out, or hurl forth!’ This same Greek word *ekballo* is used in Mt 9:34, 10:1 and 10:8 for casting out demons! In both Matthew 9:38 and Lk 10:2, Jesus commands us to *deomai* (plead desperately) to the Lord of the Harvest to *ekballo* laborers (thrust them forcefully) into His harvest!

This year we are partnering with Go2020 to see 100 million united in prayer to see 1 billion come to Christ over this next decade! <http://www.go2020.world/prayer>

As John Robb writes,

“No one organization or movement can accomplish such a staggering feat, but if we flow together like tributaries in one unstoppable river, this can be achieved! Getting God’s heart of love for the lost through prayer will lead to our sharing Jesus with them in the power and sensitivity of the Holy Spirit just as the early church experienced” -John Robb

It will truly require desperate prayer to see these outcomes come to pass this next decade!

- 100 million Christians inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray and share the Gospel with as many as possible in their own communities and to the ends of the earth.
- One billion people being reached with the Gospel and millions upon millions getting saved all over the world over the course of this next decade!
- Unreached people groups hearing the Gospel for the first time and planting new churches among them. We have put together a helpful guide to praying for unreached peoples around the world. Here is the link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EksUzKPVPfkKg8Ki2bLnDaeaCqFa3UZC/view>
- 50 million new believers integrated into existing and new churches.

We praise God for the promise that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

In our desperation we want to encourage people to Pray God’s Word for the Nations! In 2020 believers and organizations across the globe are celebrating the Year of the Bible! The vision is for 2 million people to pray for renewed Scripture engagement - www.yearofthebible.com.

A great resource we recommend for praying God’s word for the nations is Dick Eastman’s book “A Watchman’s Guide to Praying God’s Promises.” You can request your free copy at www.ehc.org/free-books

May we cry out in 2020 to the Lord of the Harvest in fervent, desperate, Bible-based prayer for a coming ‘Decade of Harvest.’ May the Lamb who was slain receive the due reward for his sufferings!

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” – Revelation 5:12

For the Glory of the Lamb,

**Jason Hubbard - Executive Co-ordinator
International Prayer Connect**

Prayers for the World

02 Answered Prayers - Bolivia Elections

Our IPC colleague, Yanira Gonzalez received this good news / answered prayers message from Gabo & Shelly Castro who run 'Talita Cumi', one of the orphanages (kids 0-5 yrs) in Cochabamba, Bolivia. They are part of the Latin America network of Children in Prayer.

I am so pleased to write with GOOD NEWS!!!

Things in Bolivia have improved SIGNIFICANTLY!!! Thank you for praying!



Evo Morales fled the country and has taken asylum in Mexico. The constitutionally empowered interim president (Jeanine Añez), has called for new elections (probably in April 2020) and has done a wonderful job at establishing order.

While there is still protesting and occasional riots (from Evo supporters- wanting him to return to power and pushing to pass a law to give him and all of his highest officials immunity to all criminal charges), the peace has basically been restored.

Family and staff report that public transportation is functioning normally and that, apart from a slight cost elevation, they are able to access everything they need. We are SO THANKFUL and so RELIEVED!!

Despite Evo's plan to remain in power, the people stood together for freedom and for democracy. I feel honored to have witnessed this incredible historical moment for Bolivia; old men and women pulled out their wooden stools to sit in the streets and support the blockades; young men and women came together to protect the people and freedom for the following generations. When the police sided with the people and were cut off from the government; the nation came together to protect and provide for them; organizing themselves in each neighborhood to make meals for each of the stations. When there were threats that the military was going to attack the police force, entire families made massive human barricades around the stations; telling the military that they would have to kill hundreds of unarmed citizens before they got to the police.

Evo executed his plans, but God's prevailed!!!

I am so proud of the Bolivian people and the example they now are to so many nations around the world deep in this fight for freedom.

The best part: THE KIDS HAVE NO IDEA!! While I'm sure they knew something was up; not going to school and dynamite going off just blocks from the front door; the staff did an incredible job of protecting their minds and hearts. They played games, watched movies, did their school work at home, and had birthday parties.

I am forever thankful for the tias and their hard work and tangible testimony of Jesus' love to the children not only in this tumultuous time, but always.

Praise: God for answered prayers – and for this breakthrough that brings a positive window of opportunity for the people of Bolivia.

Praise: God for the way that the people stood arm in arm – in unity, in support of the police.

Pray: that the Bolivian elections are conducted fairly and democratically.

Pray: that men and women of God will be prompted to stand for election.

Pray: that all the misappropriated assets will be recovered and those involved in corrupt activities will be brought to justice.

03 China Summons U.S. after Uyghur Bill Demands Sanctions

Beijing has summoned a U.S. diplomat after lawmakers in Washington approved legislation that calls for sanctions against senior Chinese officials for human rights violations linked to a crackdown on the country's Muslim minority.

The Uyghur (Uyghur) Act of 2019 criticizes Beijing's "gross human rights violations" in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where about 1 million Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities are held in internment camps.



The measure passed 407 to 1 on December 3 and is a stronger version of the bill that cleared the Senate in September. The two documents must be reconciled into one bill for U.S. President Trump's signature, or veto.

China has defended the existence of the internment camps, which it says are used for "re-education" and has denied mistreating Uyghurs.

"We urge the U.S. to immediately correct its mistakes, prevent the aforementioned Xinjiang-related bill from becoming law, and stop using the Xinjiang-related issue to interfere in China's internal affairs," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a statement on December 4.

Chinese media later reported that Vice Foreign Minister Qin Gang had summoned William Klein, the charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in China, to lodge "strong protests" against the bill.

"Any attempt to stir up ethnic relations in China, undermine Xinjiang's prosperity and stability, and curb China's development and progress is doomed to fail," Qin said, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Beijing first denied the existence of the camps, but has since justified its policy as providing valuable vocational training and veering Muslims away from extremism.

Activists and witnesses have instead said China employs torture to forcibly assimilate Uyghurs into the region's Han majority.

Other measures include pressuring Muslims to reject their beliefs such as, giving up prayer and abstaining from eating pork and drinking alcohol.

More at: <https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-congress-approves-uyghur-bill-demanding-sanctions-on-china/30306948.html?flags=mailer>

With reporting by dpa, AFP, AP, and Reuters

Pray: for all those who are being oppressed in China because of their religious beliefs.

Pray: that this proven crackdown on the Uyghur people will stop.

Pray: for broader international support for sanctions along with political intervention.

Pray: for the Christian Church in China which is facing severe persecution.

04 Europeans Scold Iran For Developing Nuclear-Capable Projectiles

France, Germany, and Britain have voiced concern to the UN's secretary-general that Iran has developed a ballistic-missile system capable of delivering a nuclear weapon in violation of the international body's Security Council resolution.

A letter the three countries circulated widely at the UN on December 4 stated that "Iran's development of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles" was inconsistent with a UN Security Council resolution that endorses a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, and which urges Tehran not to pursue activity related to such missiles.



The EU countries that drafted the letter are three of the six signatories of the nuclear agreement, along with the United States, Russia, and China.

A flight test of a medium-range missile variant in particular is mentioned in their joint letter: "The Shahab-3 booster used in the test is a Missile Technology Control Regime category-1 system and as such is technically capable of delivering a nuclear weapon."

In a tweet, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the letter "a desperate falsehood to cover up" the three European countries' "miserable incompetence" in fulfilling their commitments to the nuclear deal.

If Britain, France, and Germany "want a modicum of global credibility, they can begin by exerting sovereignty rather than bowing to US bullying," Zarif wrote.

Last year in May, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the nuclear accord that offered Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. However, the remaining signatories still support the pact.

Washington has since re-imposed crippling sanctions on the Iranian economy, while Tehran has gradually reduced some of its commitments under the deal.

Citing a UN Security Council resolution on Iran, the three EU countries urged Tehran "not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons."

Trump wants to force Iran to renegotiate the agreement, arguing that the terms were not tough enough to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and agree curbs to its ballistic-missile program.

Iran has refused, insisting that its nuclear program is strictly for civilian energy purposes.

More at: <https://www.rferl.org/a/europeans-scold-iran-for-developing-nuclear-capable-projectiles/30308690.html?ltflags=mailer>

With reporting by AP, Daily Journal, and Bloomberg

Pray: that Iran will stop developing its nuclear potential.

Pray: for fresh negotiations to find a workable way forward that adheres to the UN resolution.

Here are four specific ways you can pray for the church in Iran right now (courtesy of The Voice of the Martyrs):

- 1. Pray for Christians and all Iranians affected by the economic downturn. Pray for churches and Christian ministries that are seeing expenses skyrocket.**
- 2. Pray for the wisdom and discernment of church leaders amid the upheaval. They are praying that God will give them strategies to use the current unrest to advance His kingdom.**
- 3. Pray that Iranians seeking peace will meet the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Pray for outreach ministries inside the country as well as broadcasting and internet ministries reaching into Iran from outside.**
- 4. Ministry work is very dangerous right now because of heightened alertness from police, religious authorities and others. Pray for the safety and protection of Christian workers.**

The Voice of the Martyrs has prepared a special report on the situation for the church in Iran right now. Click the link below to request your copy. <https://www.persecution.com/iranreport/>

05 Taliban council agrees to cease-fire in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban's ruling council agreed Sunday 29th December to a temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan, providing a window in which a peace agreement with the United States can be signed, officials from the insurgent group said. They didn't say when it would begin.

A cease-fire had been demanded by Washington before any peace agreement could be signed. A peace deal would allow the U.S. to bring home its troops from Afghanistan and end its 18-year military engagement there, America's longest.



The White House said it would have no comment.

The U.S. wants any deal to include a promise from the Taliban that Afghanistan would not be used as a base by terrorist groups. The U.S. currently has an estimated 12,000 troops in Afghanistan.

The Taliban chief must approve the cease-fire decision but that was expected. The duration of the cease-fire was not specified but it was suggested it would last for 10 days. It was also not specified when the cease-fire would begin.

Four members of the Taliban negotiating team met for a week with the ruling council before they agreed on the brief cease-fire. The negotiating team returned Sunday to Qatar where the Taliban maintain their political office and where U.S. special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has been holding peace talks with the religious militia since September, 2018.

Talks were suspended in September when both sides seemed on the verge of signing a peace pact. However, a surge in violence in the capital Kabul killed a U.S. soldier, prompting President Donald Trump to declare the deal “dead.” Talks resumed after Trump made a surprise visit to Afghanistan at the end of November announcing the Taliban were ready to talk and agree to a reduction in violence.

Khalilzad returned to Doha at the beginning of December. It was then that he proposed a temporary halt to hostilities to pave the way to an agreement being signed, according to Taliban officials.

A key pillar of the agreement, which the U.S. and Taliban have been hammering out for more than a year, is direct negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the conflict.

Those intra-Afghan talks were expected to be held within two weeks of the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal. They will decide what a post-war Afghanistan will look like.

The first item on the agenda is expected to address how to implement a cease-fire between the Taliban and Afghanistan’s National Security Forces. The negotiations, however, were expected to be prickly and will cover a variety of thorny issues, including rights of women, free speech, and changes to the country’s constitution.

The intra-Afghan talks would also lay out the fate of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters and the heavily armed militias belonging to Afghanistan’s warlords. Those warlords have amassed wealth and power since the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by the U.S.-led coalition. They were removed after Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida carried out the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The Taliban had harbored bin Laden, although there was no indication they were aware of al-Qaida’s plans to attack the United States.

Last year, Afghanistan was the world’s deadliest conflict.

Reporting by Associated Press: Gannon reported from Islamabad.
More at: <https://apnews.com/caa4c5aaf88e982ed0cdb4e132b0d89c>

Pray: giving thanks for these renewed talks and the hope that this temporary ceasefire brings.

Pray: for grace and commitment to finding a workable, lasting accord on all sides of this complex situation.

Pray: for peace and an end to these deadly hostilities in Afghanistan.

06 Australia bushfires: towns devastated and lives lost

Thousands shelter on beaches as fires rip through Victoria and New South Wales

Australia's bushfire crisis has claimed at least two more lives, authorities confirmed on Tuesday, as dozens of fires tore through several towns on the east coast and forced thousands of people to take shelter on beaches.

Two people – a father and son – died when fire hit the New South Wales town of Cobargo on Tuesday, while emergency services officials held grave fears for a third person, near Narooma, on the state's south coast.



In Victoria, where more than 200,000ha has burned in the state's east, at least four people were unaccounted for. The armed forces stand ready to evacuate those sheltering on the state's beaches if needed.

Eleven people have been confirmed dead across all states in this year's bushfire season so far.

The NSW Rural Fire Service commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons, said it was "absolutely" the state's worst bushfire season on record as he warned the reality of the damage would become clear only once the fires were under control.

"We need to brace ourselves for a considerable number of properties, a considerable number of homes that are likely to have been damaged and or destroyed right across these eight emergency warning fire areas, given the extraordinary nature of the fire behaviour and fire spread today," he said.

In his New Year's message, the prime minister, Scott Morrison, said the fires were having a "devastating impact" and warned that the weeks and months ahead would "continue to be difficult".

Pray: for those whose lives, livelihoods and homes have been affected by these devastating fires.

Pray: for safety and wisdom for the brave servicemen and volunteers who are fighting the fires.

Pray: that rain will come and the winds will change supernaturally, to stop the fires in their tracks.

Pray: for those helping with the aftermath both with rebuilding neighbourhoods and also caring for the habitat, wildlife and animals.

Pray: for the Church in Australia to rise up and be united amidst controversial legislation being debated in several states.

07 - 11 Nigerian Christians Executed in ISIS Christmas Video

Martyrdoms by Boko Haram splinter group occur as US finally adds West African nation to religious freedom watch list.

In another filmed massacre, 11 Nigerian Christians were executed by the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) over the Christmas holiday.



Wearing the orange jumpsuits made familiar by similar executions of Egyptian and Ethiopian Christians in Libya, the first Nigerian victim was shot in the head by the black-clad terrorists who then slit the throats of the remaining ten. It is understood to be the largest group killed by ISWAP, a Boko Haram splinter group, so far.

“This message is to the Christians in the world,” stated the 56-second propaganda video, released December 26, in both Arabic and Hausa, according to The New York Times. “Those who you see in front of us are Christians, and we will shed their blood as revenge for the two dignified sheikhs.”

The reference is to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the former ISIS caliph killed by US troops in an October raid in Syria, and Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, his purported successor, who was killed the next day.

The video offered no information about the victims, other than that they were recently seized in Nigeria’s northwest Borno state. But an earlier video was released by ISWAP in which captured aid workers appealed to Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, as well as to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

The International Crisis Group estimates the jihadist group consists of between 3,500 and 5,000 fighters.

“These agents of darkness are enemies of our common humanity, and they don’t spare any victim, whether they are Muslims or Christians,” stated Buhari, according to al-Jazeera.

Nigeria’s population of 200 million is evenly divided between Muslims and Christians.

Muslim victims have been many, agreed CAN in an earlier statement. But it stated the widespread killing in Nigeria’s north has predominately targeted Christians, who make up 95 percent of those currently detained by jihadists.

“The government has been paying lip service towards securing their freedom,” stated CAN, mentioning in particular the case of Sharibu.

The Christian Association of Nigeria disagreed with the Nigerian government’s position, and commended the US State Department for “standing with the oppressed and the truth.”

The association also criticized Buhari for creating an imbalance in the religious composition of the security council, through recent appointments. “The bitter truth,” CAN stated, “is that Christians are yet to be given any sense of belonging since this government came on board.”

Report by JAYSON CASPER

Full article at: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/december/isis-nigeria-executes-christians-iswap-christmas-boko-haram.html>

Pray: for these brutal terrorists to be brought to justice and for ISWAP to be defeated by the Nigerian authorities.

Pray: for the families of the 11 victims, that they will know divine comfort and the assurance of the Gospel amidst their grief.

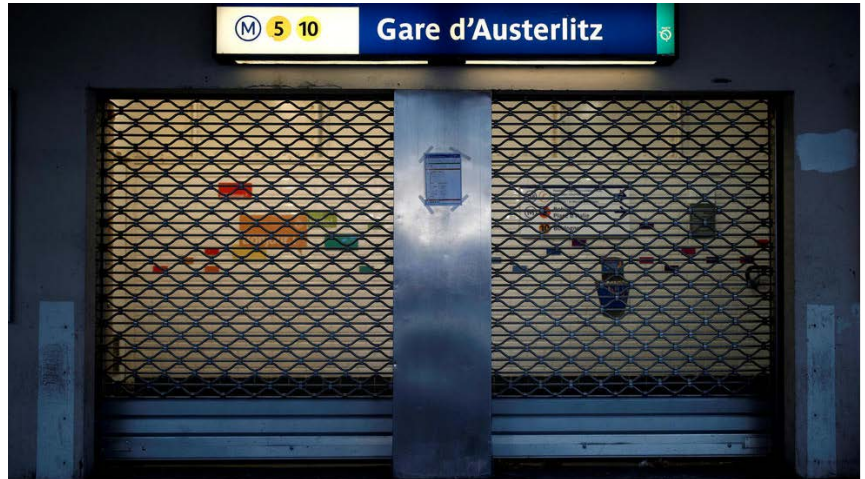
Pray: for the Christian Church in Northern Nigeria, who have suffered persecution and terrorist attacks for many years. May it remain strong and practice biblical forgiveness in the face of adversity.

Pray: that the rights and freedoms of Christians in Nigeria will not be marginalised by changes to the law and constitution.

08 France: Strike deadlock continues over pension reforms

The French government and a key trade union on Sunday exchanged bitter accusations over who was to blame for France's over three-week transport strike against pension reforms, as the stalemate showed little sign of relenting.

Deputy Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari accused the hardline CGT union of a "systematic opposition to any reform" while the union's chief Philippe Martinez charged the government with strewing "chaos" in the conflict.



The strike—now longer than the notorious 22-day strike of winter 1995 -- has lasted 25 days and is on course to surpass the longest transport strike in France, which lasted for 28 days in 1986 and early 1987.

Aside from two driverless lines, the Paris metro was again almost completely shut down on Sunday while only a fraction of high-speed TGV trains were running.

The government and unions are only due to hold their next talks on January 7, two days ahead of a new day of mass demonstrations against the reform, which is championed by President Emmanuel Macron.

In an interview with the Journal de Dimanche newspaper, Djebbari angrily accused the CGT of "attitudes of intimidation, harassment and even aggression" against railway workers who had opted not to down tools.

He accused the CGT of showing a "systematic opposition to any reform, of blocking and sometimes intimidation".

"The CGT wants to make its mark through media stunts. But the French are not going to be duped by the extreme-left politicisation of this movement," he added.

'Like Thatcher'

But in an interview with the same newspaper, Martinez accused the government of trying to ensure the conflict deteriorated further.

"Emmanuel Macron presents himself as a man of a new world but he is imitating Margaret Thatcher," he said, referring to the late British prime minister who sought to break the power of the unions in 1980s standoffs.

"There is real anger. Of course, not being paid for 24 days is tough. But the conflict is the result of two-and-a-half years of suffering," Martinez added.

He said he was awaiting concessions from Macron in a New Year's address Tuesday evening as well as recognition that "most people are not happy and that he (the president) was wrong".

The unions are demanding that the government drops a plan to merge 42 existing pension schemes into a single, points-based system. The overhaul would see workers in certain sectors—including the railways—lose early retirement benefits. The government says the pension overhaul is needed to create a fairer system. But workers object to the inclusion of a so-called pivot age of 64 until which people would have to work to earn a full pension—two years beyond the official retirement age.

With thanks to (AFP)

More at: <https://www.france24.com/en/20191230-france-french-strike-transport-transit-union-trade-macron-thatcher-government-ratp-sncf-cgt-martinez-djebbari-opera>

Pray: for talks and conciliation negotiations to be successful.

Pray: that demonstrations and marches will remain peaceful and will not escalate into civil unrest.

Pray: that the growing public anger can be defused quickly - at the highest level.

Pray: that France shall be saved.

Prayer News & Events

09 GO 2020 – Reaching 1 Billion with the Gospel

Go 2020: Calling the whole Body of Christ to prayer and action for a lost world

The early church turned the world upside down when, following Jesus' command, they stayed in Jerusalem and "joined constantly together in prayer". This culture of united prayer brought the empowering of the Holy Spirit and ignited remarkable spiritual breakthroughs as the Gospel began to spread throughout the then known world. This same pattern of prayer preceding evangelism has been a consistent pattern in all the great revivals and mission advances from then on through church history.



Now, tens of thousands of churches with hundreds of mission organizations and prayer movements are joining forces for an epic prayer and mission initiative unlike anything the world has known. The goal is to reach one billion who are still unreached by Christ's Good News. Together, by May 2020, we aim to mobilize 100 million Christians to pray for those in their communities that do not know the Lord as well as those across the seas that are part of unreached people groups. No one organization or movement can accomplish such a staggering feat, but if we flow together like tributaries in one unstoppable river, this can be achieved! Getting God's heart of love for the lost through prayer will lead to our sharing Jesus with them in the power and sensitivity of the Holy Spirit just as the early church experienced.

Would you and your church or ministry organization consider joining with us in such an awesome undertaking for His glory and so that everyone may hear? Together, as we pray, mobilize, and trust the One who has all power, we can see the following happen by the end of May next year:

- **One billion people being reached with the Gospel and millions upon millions getting saved all over the world through May 2020.**
- **Unreached people groups hearing the Gospel for the first time and planting new churches among them.**
- **100 million Christians inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray and share the Gospel with as many as possible in their own communities and to the ends of the earth.**

- 50 million new believers integrated into existing and new churches.

Personal Prayer: Lord here I am, use me! I will pray for and share the Gospel with others who need to hear it. <https://www.go2020.world/get-involved>

A suggested five-fold strategy to mobilize believers for prayer and outreach is described in this four-minute video. GO2020 video: <https://vimeo.com/342384375>

The attached brochure can also be used to give others the vision of Go 2020 (some translations are also available). Further information can be found at www.go2020.world/prayer with a sign-up page to receive future communications and coordinate with others in your nation and region. Please have a look at these resources and share them with others in your unique network of relationships.

Imagine how God could use you, your friends, and colleagues to ignite a movement for Jesus in your city and beyond!

Here is the link to that guide which we hope you will share with those in your network or organization: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EksUzKPVPfkKg8Ki2bLnDaeaCqFa3UZC/view>

Please let me know if you are willing to help with this mobilization process. The fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission is closer than we realize if we can join our prayers and efforts together to make Him known through Go 2020. Click on this link to get helpful resources and information updates: <https://www.go2020.world/get-involved>

Yours in Christ,
Jenny Oliphant / IPC Leadership Team

10 Sunrise Prayer Relay 1st Jan 2020

Australia Calls the World to Pray for the Nations

Australia Christian prayer leaders invite their brothers and sisters in Christ, prayer groups, prayer networks and churches to join with them all over the world to pray at sunrise on New Year's Day 2020. This prayer gathering can take place at a public location such as a hill, lookout, landmark or church in your area. It could even be your own home. Watch the new video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx_6rVOv9mo

This year our focus is to pray for the nations. Over the last two years we had registrations from 50 different countries including USA, South Africa, Namibia, Pakistan, Japan, United Kingdom, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand, and Australia.

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

Marsh continued, "In declaring Jesus Christ as Lord at this worldwide Sunrise Prayer Relay we are circling the globe with prayer, praise and worship and surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ for the glory of God. This year we want to challenge people to pray for the nations. Use the prayer resources on the website and



social media and register your location at: www.sunriseprayerrelay.org This year [we are asking](#) you to help reach a billion people and get behind www.qo2020.world/home

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

Share photos and videos from your location on social media.

Use the hashtag: **#sunriseprayerrelay**

Website: www.sunriseprayerrelay.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sunriseprayerrelay

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sunriseprayerrelay

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx_6rVOv9mo

Contact: Warwick Marsh 61 418 225212 or Pat Steele by email: info@sunriseprayerrelay.org

11 North East Asia Prayer Summit – 7-9 April 2020

Prayer Summit 2020

Global Prayer for Northeast Asia

Theme: Let the fire fall on the Church, let the Church change the nations

Venue: Olympic Gymnastics Arena, Seoul, Korea

Schedule:

April 7-9, 2020



PRAYER SUMMIT 2020
GLOBAL PRAYER FOR NORTHEAST ASIA

APRIL 7-9, 2020 SEOUL, KOREA

Objectives

1. Repentance. It is paramount for believers to recognize that the severe discord we see among nations and within nations is an outgrowth of the grievous division we see within churches and among believers. Let us repent of our ways in which we contributed to the division, of prioritizing ‘factional’ interests over Kingdom interests, of remaining apathetic to God’s mourning heart for the unity of His body.

2. Unity. Strife abounds everywhere we look. North Korea’s nuclear arms issue has precipitated and complicated deep-seated chasms among surrounding nations, and heightening competition among greater powers have put additional strain in the region already clanking with dissonance. Generational rifts seem to turn into gulfs, while disputes along ideological lines show little hope of repair. It is at this point that we gather for united prayer, for it is only the united prayer of believers that can demonstrate the uniting power of God that goes beyond political fault-lines.

3. Revival. Many churches across Northeast Asia are experiencing the reviving fire of the Holy Spirit in the midst of persecution. We are gathering to receive, multiply and fan this fire of the Holy Spirit so that it would spread to more believers, churches, nations and regions. May we see great harvest, and may His Kingdom come!

Prayer Summit 2020 - Strategic Prayer Points

1. Pray that churches and leaders across the world will “hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
2. Pray that there would be true repentance during and through the assembly, that the church would be sanctified.
3. Pray that heavenly strategies and wisdom regarding social issues would be imparted during the assembly.
4. Pray that, as the church prays with those strategies and wisdom in accordance with His will, it would bear real fruit in individuals and nations.
5. Pray that the great reviving work of God would set every person and nation on fire.
6. Pray that this reviving fire will be brought from and taken to peoples and nations, so that the great harvest of souls would be accelerated.
7. Pray that the entire process of preparation and mobilization leading up to the assembly would be Spirit-filled and Spirit-inspired.

For more info and to book, visit the website or please do email us:

Website: www.prayersummit2020.com

Contact: info@prayersummit2020.com

12 Catalyst 365 - Prayer for the Buddhist World



Hello Friends!

God has led us to pray for the Buddhist World, and we hope He is offering you a part in it.

We invite you to join in with people all over the world to focus our prayer on the Buddhist World - we call this initiative Catalyst 365. Please take a few minutes to inquire of God whether He is leading you to cover a day or series of days in prayer with us.

We have created a vehicle for you to jump in on: prayer points for the day that you sign up to cover, a reminder system, and fellow believers to labour with. Please take a minute or two and check out our website, which explains the project in more detail and on which you can register a day to pray into the Buddhist World.

<https://365.catalystgathering.com>

In Him,

Catalyst 365 Team

13 IPC Calendar

Sunrise Prayer Relay 1st Jan 2020

www.sunriseprayerrelay.org

2020 a year of evangelism across the UK

<https://advance2020.org/>

40 Days of Prayer for 2020 – Preparing Hearts

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EksUzKPVPfkKg8Ki2bLnDaeaCqFa3UZC/view>

Awaken 2020 - Lou Engle - Sun Devil Football Stadium, Tempe, AZ - January 18th

www.awaken2020.com

IPC Leadership Retreat in Bellingham (Invitation only) January 29 to February 2

www.ipcprayer.org

Global Gathering of networks engaged in church planting - Thailand - 3-8 February

Seek God for the City Feb 26–Apr 5, 2020

<https://waymakers.org/pray/seek-god/>

The World Prayer Centre, Birmingham, UK, National Conference 9-11 March

www.worldprayer.org.uk

North East Asia Prayer Summit, Seoul, South Korea, April 7-9, 2020

www.prayersummit2020.com

Go 2020 – Reaching 1 Billion for Christ - May 2020

www.go2020.world

10 days Spring - May 21- 31

www.10days.net

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

www.1gda.org

The Graham tour 2020. 9 cities celebrating Billy Graham crusades across the UK

www.billygraham.org.uk/p/coming-in-2020-graham-tour-uk/

17th SEA PRAYER Council in Hanoi, Vietnam - 6-9 October

www.seaprayercouncil.faith

National Prayer Assembly (USA), Washington, D.C., October 14-15

www.nationalprayerassembly.com



UPRising Events Calendar

UPRISING EUROPE (Battle, UK) – July 6-10, 2020

FB: Uprising Europe

IG: @uprisingeurope

UPRISING AUSTRALIA (Sydney, Australia) -- July 14-18, 2020

FB: UPRising Australia

IG: @uprising.australia

UPRISING NEW ENGLAND (New England, USA)-- Nov 19-21, 2020

FB: United Prayer Rising - New England

UPRISING MINDANAO (Mindanao, Philippines)-- dates TBA

- UPRISING BUKIDNON (Northern Mindanao)

- UPRISING CARAGA (Butuan, Bislig, and Surigao)

- UPRISING DIGOS (Davao Del Sur)

- UPRISING CENTRAL MINDANAO (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos)

FB: United Prayer Rising Mindanao

FB: United Prayer Rising North Mindanao

IG: @uprisingmindanao



Resources

14 Film - 'Peacemakers: Crossing the Divide'

The Film - 'Peacemakers: Crossing the Divide' brings a message of hope in the midst of the seemingly intractable conflict between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. The power of the gospel to transform lives through forgiveness and reconciliation is communicated by powerful personal stories of Jewish and Arab followers of Jesus.



This unique one-hour documentary film, along with an in-depth study guide, speak to deep issues of division in the church worldwide. Ultimately the film is about Jesus' prayer for his followers:

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me..." John 17:23

Peacemakers: Crossing the Divide is officially released and available to download from the website: www.peacemakersfilm.org

Please feel free to promote this as widely as possible. Our goal is to not only see the film reach the English speaking audience, but also to have it translated into multiple languages. We believe the message of reconciliation and unity in the body of Christ is a message for the global church.

We are looking for advocates who share this vision and can help distribute the film through their networks.

Pastor Kevin Turpin, Associate Pastor, New Life Church, VA Beach, VA said, "Peacemakers is more than a film about conflict between Jews and Palestinians. It is a story that profiles the power of Christ. To nullify

generational, religious, and political ideologies of hatred and division. To create a pathway for hearts to be reconciled and restored. It is, indeed, a magnificent story of redemption.

The film shows the extraordinary steps taken by individuals to experience reconciliation. Get ready for your own epiphany. Areas of your heart become open to reconciling with those who are different and you once opposed. The walls that divide are torn down through a full embrace of a small group of the Cross of Christ. Bob and Kathryn have chronicled well the hostility between Jews and Arabs. Therefore, the unique ways that God transforms hearts. Hearts which leads to a willingness to “cross the divide”.

15 - 9 Ideas to Increase Attendance at Your Prayer Meetings!

If you have a weekly/regular prayer meeting and it has dwindled down to the “faithful few,” it’s time to take stock. If you are the organizer(s) of the prayer meetings, it can get discouraging if people are not participating in arguably the most important spiritual act designed by God and so prolifically practiced in the Book of Acts and the rest of Scripture.



Harvest Prayer Ministries have published a useful resource that will help you to review and bring your prayer meetings back on track.

Click Here: <https://www.harvestprayer.com/9-ideas-to-increase-attendance-at-your-prayer-meetings/>

ARE YOU A CHURCH PRAYER LEADER?

If so, consider checking out the Church Prayer Leaders Network! The CPLN exists to help individuals (pastors and lay people) who are working to raise up more prayer in their churches. They want to encourage, challenge, inspire, and resource you as you seek to motivate and mobilize your church toward deeper levels of prayer. The website offers more than 700 ideas, articles, and training videos to help you or your church be more effective in prayer.

Click Here: <https://www.prayerleader.com/>

About IPC

16 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 fulfilment 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 fulfilment 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.

17 Credits

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