

# A P R A Y E R G U I D E

## THE LEAST, THE LOST, AND THE FORGOTTEN

**USE IT** during personal prayer

**SHARE IT** with family and church

**PRINT IT** and highlight key phrases

**WRITE ON IT** using extra wide margins



Dear Friend,

Christian pastor and writer, Andrew Murray, once said, "The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history." The point he makes here is not about the greatness of the man who motivates others to pray, but rather the greatness of prayer itself.

What you do in prayer is as vital and important as anything you will ever do in your life. Why? Because through prayer, humans actually have the amazing privilege of participating in God's will being accomplished on earth.

That's why we spend so much time in prayer at FEBC. We pray that God's anointing will be upon every sermon preached, every radio broadcast and every missionary on the ground, knowing that the fruit of prayer will be many people coming to the knowledge of Christ.

So, we ask that you stand with us in prayer especially for the children of the world, developing nations, unreached people groups, persecuted believers and the Muslim world.

And as you pray for these people, know that you are doing the real work of evangelism.

Praying Alongside You,

Edward W. Cannon

President and CEO of Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC)

## in·ter·ces´ sion (noun)

“the action of pleading on someone’s behalf.”



**Prayer, in its simplest form, is communication with God. In fact, the Greek word for “prayer,” *proseuchomai*, means to “call upon,” or “to ask.”**

One of the wonderful things about our relationship with God is that He is available to us 24/7. Like all relationships, however, communication is key. We find intimacy with God by communicating with Him in prayer. And, because God created us and knows everything about us, there is nothing we can’t bring before Him.

### Praying for Ourselves

Not only do we pray in order that our knowledge of God may increase, but we also pray because God is all powerful and has the ability to answer our prayers. Jesus said, “*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*” (John 14:13). God not only hears our prayers, but acts upon them.

### Praying for Others

It is also God’s desire that every believer be active in intercessory prayer. Paul tells Timothy, “*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Again, in Ephesians 6:16-18, Paul exhorts the Ephesian believers on the fundamentals of the Christian life, which includes intercession “on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Clearly, intercessory prayer is part of the Christian life for all believers.

First and foremost, we pray for the salvation of the millions who do not know Christ; that God will, by the preaching of the Word, bring them to repentance.

The great preacher, Charles Spurgeon, underscored the necessity for all Christians to pray, especially for the lost when he said:

*The soul-winner must be a master of the art of prayer. You cannot bring souls to God if you go not to God yourself. You must get your battle-axe, and your weapons of war, from the armory of sacred communication with Christ. If you are much alone with Jesus, you will catch His Spirit; you will be fired with the flame that burned in His breast, and consumed His life. You will weep with the tears that fell upon Jerusalem when He saw it perishing...*

### Praying for the World

We also pray for the needs of the people of the world; that God will “do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Jesus said, “*Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*” (Mark 11:23-24).

Jesus is saying that the greatest possible difficulties of life can be removed when a person prays in faith.

**Next:**  
we will focus  
on prayer for  
5 key areas:



FOR THE  
CHILDREN



FOR THE  
DEVELOPING  
WORLD



FOR THE  
UNREACHED



FOR THE  
PERSECUTED



FOR THE  
MUSLIM WORLD



# Praying for *Children*

## OVERVIEW

A disciple once came to Jesus and asked Him, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus didn’t answer immediately. He looked around until he spotted a small child standing in the crowd. Jesus called out to him and asked him to stand beside Himself. With the child standing there, Jesus said:



*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (MATTHEW 18:3–6)*

Jesus views children as the ultimate illustration of the “greatest” in the kingdom of God. Jesus loves children! But Jesus also warned that great judgment would fall upon those who took advantage of children.

Presently, there are 2.2 billion children in the world, many of whom have never heard the stories of Daniel in the Lion’s Den, David and Goliath, or Jesus finding the one lost sheep. And, research tells us that almost two-thirds of those who give their lives to Christ do so before the age of eighteen; that if people have not accepted Christ by the age of twenty-one, the probability that they ever will is only 23 percent!

It is heartbreaking to realize that in 2003, 10.6 million children died before they reached the age of five due to lack of simple things like vaccinations and clean water. And, between 27 and 28 percent of all children in developing countries are estimated to be underweight or stunted.

## *So, when we pray for children, remember to:*

- **Pray for all children in the world** that they would hear the story of Jesus and believe.
- **Pray that churches and missions organizations** will do more to focus on reaching children for Christ.
- **Pray for the children living in poverty:** 1 billion children—that’s half the children in the world—live in poverty.
- **Pray for the 1.9 billion children** from the developing world. There are:
  - ~ 640 million without adequate shelter (1 in 3 children)
  - ~ 400 million with no access to clean water (1 in 5 children)
  - ~ 270 million with no access to health services (1 in 7 children)
- **Pray for the government leaders** of the nations of the world that have neglected the cry of children that they might simply have enough food to fill their stomachs each day.
- **Pray for the 15 million children** who have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. And, pray that God will send missionaries to these orphans to care for them.
- **Pray that education will be afforded to all children.** There are 121 million children around the world who have received little or no education whatsoever.



*I believe Jesus is God, but he’s not part of my life. Look at me. I’m a leader of a street gang. My mom drinks, and I’ve never met my dad. Jesus wouldn’t be interested in me. I’ve sinned more than most adults.*

- Dima, age 11, St. Petersburg, Russia



# Praying for the *Developing World*

## OVERVIEW

At least 80% of all humanity lives on less than \$10 a day. Hundreds of thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world are living in homes without running water or electricity. And many do not have the education or professional training to provide enough food to keep their families from feeling hunger pangs before they go to sleep at night.

The Word of God is prolific about our responsibility for the poor.

When the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, God specifically included instructions for assisting the poor:



*Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. (EXODUS 23:6)*

*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God. (LEVITICUS 23:22)*

*If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. (LEVITICUS 25:35)*

In the New Testament, there is the familiar story of the Rich Young Ruler:

*Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (MATTHEW 19:16-22)*

## *So, when we pray for the poor, remember to:*

- **Pray that the word will be preached to the poor.** One of the signs of the Messiah's coming was that he would preach to the poor. (Matthew 11:5).
- **Pray the God will raise up voices to preach the Gospel in these nations.** Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names. Therefore, tracts or copies of Scripture cannot be used to reach these unsaved. Paul asks, "And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).
- **Pray for the governments in the developing world,** that concern for the total populations of these countries, in spite of tribe or color, will be seen in the practice of justice for the poor. "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24).



*Thirty years ago I was a devout Buddhist. But this belief did not meet my needs, so I looked for another faith. I cannot read, but I was given a radio and one day I heard a powerful sermon. It touched my heart so I accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. This year I am 80, my memory is fading, but I feel blessed and thankful to God. - Mr. Quang, Southeast Asia*



# Praying for the *Unreached*

## OVERVIEW

It is estimated that of the 6.8 billion people alive in the world today, 2.8 of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. According to one mission source, there are approximately 16,500 unique people groups in the world with about 6,900 of them considered unreached. Because some of these people groups are in inhospitable regions, less than 10% of all missionary work is done among these people.



Peter tells us that God is patient,

*“not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* (2 PETER 3:9)

The Great Commission, of course, is the rallying cry for Jesus’ army of believers:

*“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”* (MARK 16:15)

***But in this day of mass media, this is not only a physical “going.”***

- We go into the world and preach the Good News by radio.
- We go into the world and preach the Good News via internet.
- We go into the world and preach the Good News by texting.
- We go into the world and preach the Good News through air-dropped Gospel tracts.
- We use every means possible to reach the unreached!

## ***So, when we pray for the unreached, remember to:***

- ***Pray that God will miraculously enable them to hear the preaching of the Word.*** Paul reminds us that “...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” (Romans 10:17).
- ***Pray that they would seek to know the true and only God.*** God has created us with an internal longing for Him. We believe that when a person longs after God, He will be faithful to reveal Himself to them. “But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 4:29).
- ***Pray that Satan would be prevented from blinding them to the truth.*** Scripture declares that, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- ***Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in them.*** The Holy Spirit is always at work in the hearts of individuals to reveal that Christ is, indeed, the Savior of the world. “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment...But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” (John 16:8, 13).
- ***Pray that they would believe in Christ as Savior.*** “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24).



*I am captivated by the stories I am hearing about Jesus. In all my life I've never heard such things. This message is totally new to me but after tuning in for a week, I confessed Jesus Christ as Lord.*

- Bai Lee, Southeast Asia



# Praying for the *Persecuted*

## OVERVIEW

According to the World Evangelical Alliance, over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied fundamental human rights solely because of their faith in Christ with many paying the ultimate sacrifice. In their 2009 report, the International Bulletin of Missionary Research estimated that approximately 176,000 Christians were martyred from mid-2008 to mid-2009. This means that nearly 500 of our brothers and sisters die every day for their faith in Christ.



*“For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.”* (MATTHEW 5:10)

Why does Jesus use the present tense “is” rather than the future, “will be?” The natural conclusion is that, though the full blessedness of those described in this beatitude awaits the consummated kingdom, they already share in the kingdom’s blessedness so far as it has been inaugurated.

While the persecuted face tremendous physical, emotional and mental hardship, Jesus promises special blessing in their present circumstances.

## *So, when we pray for the persecuted, remember to:*

- **Pray that all governments will work for justice and righteousness.** While Jesus says that in this world we will have trouble, (John 16:33) He does not say that it will always be present in every place.
- **Pray that leaders of democratic nations will use their influence** to find ways to reduce, if not end, persecution in countries where it occurs. Just as Paul appealed to Caesar to seek justice (Acts 25), so Christians can appeal to secular governments.
- **Pray for the growth of the Church where persecution flourishes,** remembering that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”
- **Pray for strength and courage for those undergoing persecution,** and for peace that only God can bring. Thank Him that His grace is sufficient for their needs (2 Corinthians 12:9). Pray that their faith will not fail, but that their suffering will draw them closer to Him and increase their faith.
- **Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable persecuted Christians to forgive and love their persecutors** (Matthew 5:44) and that their Christ-like reactions will have an impact on their persecutors.
- **Pray that God will be at work in the hearts of those who currently persecute our sisters and brothers** to bring them to a saving knowledge of Christ, as He did with Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9).
- **Thank the Lord for the privilege of entering into the sufferings of our sisters and brothers,** remembering that “if one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).
- **Pray that Christians who are experiencing persecution will not lose the ability to accept or trust genuine approaches** from those who have formerly persecuted them, as when the believers in Jerusalem learned to accept the reality of Saul’s conversion (Acts 9). Pray that the Lord will give discernment and relief from unnecessary fears.



*We face a lot of persecution from the local government. They are forcing many believers to return to the practice of worshipping evil spirits. Please pray for us.* - Listener from Southeast Asia



# Praying for the *Muslim World*

## OVERVIEW

Nearly one-fourth of the world's population today is Muslim. The Muslim population is a diverse community of believers spanning the globe. Over fifty countries have Muslim-majority populations, while other groups of believers are clustered in minority communities on nearly every continent.

In many Muslim countries, publicly preaching the Gospel of Christ is punishable by death. But never underestimate the work of the Holy Spirit as you pray for Muslims. Vast numbers of Muslims have come to Christ as a result of supernatural encounters. Many have dreams and visions of Jesus. It is only God who can open blind eyes and soften hearts. Only God can bring true conviction of sin and create new life.

## *So, when we pray for the persecuted, remember to:*

- **First pray that God will give us a heart** filled with love and compassion towards Muslims.
- **When praying for Muslims, pray that they will have a full revelation of the true God** and His loving character (Hebrews 8:8-9). Muslims believe that while Jesus was a good prophet, He certainly was not God's son. As a result, Allah holds himself apart from all mankind and is a rather angry god. The Muslim worldview is strongly influenced by an awareness of the supernatural and the presence of evil spirits known as jinn. Jinn are greatly feared and are often thought to be responsible for illnesses and misfortune. Superstitions control many aspects of a Muslim's everyday life and often result in a sense of constant fear. This fear reveals a heart cry and desperate need that can only be met in the person and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Pray for Muslim's to be saved, that they will be convicted of sin and know true repentance.** We are also praying that they will experience God's total forgiveness and thus be able to forgive others. We are also praying that they will know the assurance of salvation through Jesus, something Islam can never offer. Islam teaches that a person must do enough good deeds to outweigh the bad in order to make it to paradise, with angels taking note of every action. Even then, there is no guarantee of salvation. As a result of this belief, it is difficult for many Muslims to fully understand the basis

of forgiveness of sins. It is also difficult for Muslims to understand repentance.

- **Pray that they would confess Christ as Lord.** "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10).
- **Pray that those Christians living in the Muslim world will continue to be strong and courageous in the faith.**



*I used to be Muslim. I regret every moment passed in my life without knowing Jesus Christ.*  
- Ati, Egypt

*This prayer guide has been brought to you by FEBC.*

For more information on the ministry of FEBC and how you can pray for the world, please contact us at:

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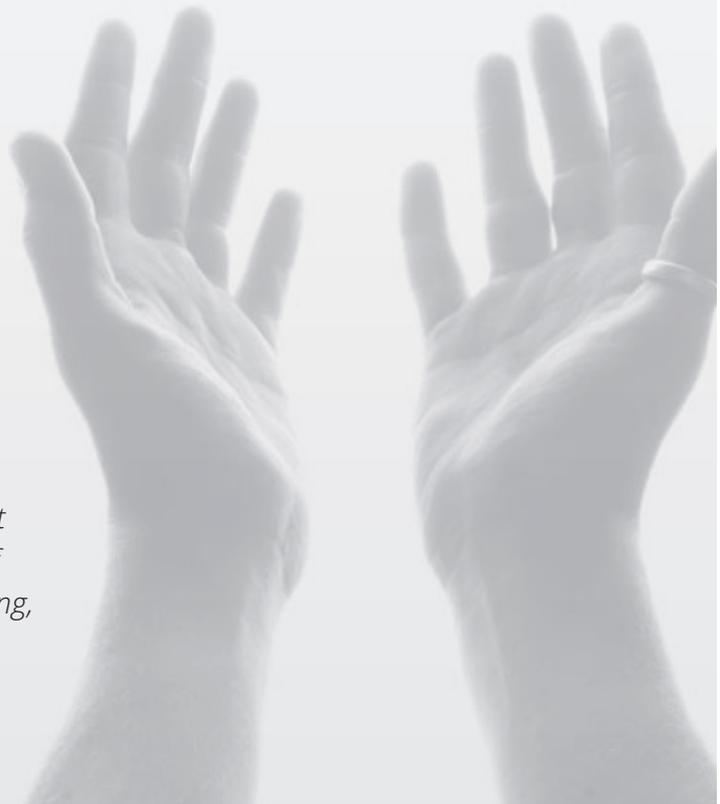
Visit us online at **febc.org**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by*

# PRAYER

*and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

PHILIPPIANS. 4:6-7



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