

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

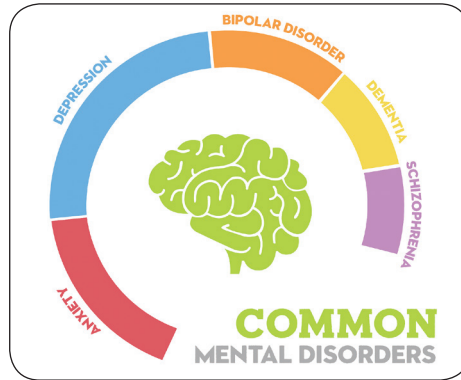
WEEK 40, SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4

Mental health

Mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, are often said to be a 'gaping hole in the global church's holistic response to human need' (Lausanne Movement). Some facts about mental health globally (Source: World Health Organization):

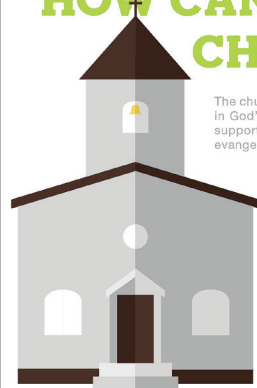
- Around one in five of the world's children and adolescents have mental disorders or problems.
- Mental ill-health is deadly. Nearly 800,000 lives are lost through suicide every year.
- Wars and disasters increase mental health problems dramatically.
- Poor mental health leads to poor physical health.
- Many people worldwide deny themselves mental health treatment and cure because of shame and embarrassment.
- Mentally ill people in many countries are locked up, restrained or have their human rights violated in other ways.
- It's not very expensive, even in the poorest countries, to start to tackle the problem. The WHO estimates that \$2 per person per year in a health budget could make a real difference in a poor country.

Pray that Christians will break the cultural taboos and stigmas associated with mental health issues, and address them in a holistic and loving manner.



Pray that care for the mentally ill and traumatized will become a hallmark of the Christian Church. 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit' (Psalm 34:18 NIVUK).

HOW CAN THE CHURCH HELP?



The church has a responsibility to care for everyone made in God's image. Every Christian is capable of loving and supporting the mentally ill with acts of service and evangelism.

Calls to action:

- ADVOCATE FOR ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR THOSE FORGOTTEN
- EDUCATE HOW ALL OF US CAN HELP
- MAKE OUR CHURCHES SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE PLACES
- TALK ABOUT IT TO REDUCE STIGMA
- BRING THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL TO ALL WHO SUFFER

THE NATIONS

PHILIPPINES



The Philippines is one of only two Asian countries with a Christian majority population (the other is East Timor), and one of only 13 countries in the world with a population of 100 million or more. The Philippines is a blessing to the world. Around 8-10 million Filipinos live abroad, working as nurses, engineers, domestic servants, nannies, casual labourers and sailors. Many go as witnesses for Christ, and are enthusiastic and effective in doing so. They can be found in countries where the Christian faith is most restricted or persecuted, and some have suffered greatly for their faith.

The Philippines' own struggle against poverty and injustice is slowed by corruption, poor infrastructure, unreformed land laws, tropical storms, and heavy-handed government. Extra-judicial killings have claimed thousands of lives, but the victims have rarely been those actually responsible for the rampant drug trade that evoked the wave of murders. The government's 'war on drugs' can look like a war on the slum-dwellers, because most of its victims are from the slums. The Church in the Philippines is majority Catholic, but includes some vibrant and charismatic grassroots movements which devotedly follow Jesus and move in the Spirit. Protestants account for at least 13% (and probably more) of Filipinos, and are increasing rapidly. Their problems are those associated with rapid growth: splits, false teachings, personality cults. Addressing widespread poverty is a challenge to the Church as well.

- Pray for Filipino Christians to be a light for Christ all over the world.
- Pray for peace and justice. Pray for the Fellowship of Christians in Government, which promotes biblical standards for public servants. Pray for Christian ministries among the urban poor, some of which have been copied around the world.
- Pray for a hunger for the fruit of the Spirit as much as for the power and gifts of the Spirit.

Praying for the World is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit www.lausanne.org/pray to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.