

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 48, NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 5

Peacemaking and reconciliation initiatives

Jesus taught, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' However, different situations require different kinds of reconciliation and peacemaking as there are many types of breakdowns of community. Beyond personal conflict, strife can break out along religious, political, ethnic, regional, or even, sadly, denominational lines. Reconciliation of believers one to another is a Scriptural imperative, not a negotiable extra! But in a world where such fault lines exist virtually everywhere, the power of Christian peacemaking is also a profound evangelistic tool.

An example from Egypt

On April 9, 2017, as Egyptian Christians were celebrating Palm Sunday, carrying palm branches and chanting 'Hosanna in the Highest', coordinated bomb attacks on major churches in Alexandria and Tanta in northern Egypt left tens of people dead and hundreds seriously injured. The joyful celebration turned into mourning across the country. The attack was one in a series of attacks on churches and Christians that has left thousands dead and injured.

While many Christians struggle to choose between leaving the country or enduring more suffering, the extraordinary Christian response to the violent attacks that have taken place since 2013 has provided many opportunities for witness to the gospel and a renewed sense of mission to the larger community. Christians did not seek revenge; instead they extended forgiveness to those who murdered



their loved ones.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
John 14:27 ESV

Such powerful Christian testimonies had a lasting impact on the larger Muslim community that was stunned by the Christian response.

Meanwhile, many Christians have been empowered by the testimonies of those who boldly extended love and forgiveness, leaving them a renewed sense of mission amid suffering.

What is happening in Egypt is not a remote event in church history, but a leaving testimony to the power of the Christian faith.

🙏 Thank God for the service and suffering of the Church in Egypt. Pray for them.

🙏 Pray that persecuted churches everywhere will transform suffering into mission through forgiveness.

🙏 Pray for a zeal for peacemaking and reconciliation to spread through the whole Church.

THE NATIONS

UGANDA



Uganda is poor, but stable and growing. Revival and church growth continue in this East African state of 46 million people. For decades, the proportion of evangelicals in Uganda has been one of the

highest in the world. Public prayer is common even in government and judicial buildings. Government and churches worked hard to reduce Uganda's AIDS problem from one of the world's highest.

The president recently removed age limits on the presidency so that he could serve a fifth term in office; repression of political opponents is a concern.

🙏 Pray the government will not slide further into autocracy and corruption, but will be a force for good in the nation.

🙏 Pray that the Kingdom of God will make an impact on all areas of Ugandan life.

UKRAINE



Communism fell nearly twenty years ago but its oppressive legacy remains in this rich, fertile land of 44 million people

that forms a bridge between Europe and Russia. The old communist dictatorship has been replaced by crony capitalism—politicians using influence to make themselves and their friends rich. Democratic change through the peaceful 'orange revolution' in 2005 was derailed by corruption and infighting. Then Russia annexed the Crimea, a Russian-leaning part of Ukraine's territory. Despite setbacks, campaigning for a freer, fairer Ukraine goes on.

Ukraine has a thousand-year-long Christian heritage. Churches suffered greatly in the communist era through much of the twentieth century. Millions of Christians died, but the faithful perseverance of the Church now bears fruit. Today it impacts most of society.

🙏 Pray for all who work for honesty, justice and peace in the Ukraine.

🙏 Pray for reconciliation and unity among and between the three main confessions of Ukrainian Christianity (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant).

🙏 Ukrainian mission agencies send out workers both into Ukraine and throughout the former Soviet Union. Pray for more workers, and for fruitful partnership with mission workers from other nations.

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.