

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 51, DECEMBER 20 – 26

Evangelism



The gospel is carried by communities of Christians to people who don't know Christ. Other factors help or hinder this work, such as: the reputation of Christians, whether Bible translations and other media are available, and the presence, or not, of the works of the Kingdom. The gospel is much more thoroughly mixed into the world than it was 100 years ago or 500 years ago, and this mixing continues.

Researchers suggest that more than a quarter of the world's population are still out of reach of the gospel. That means they are unlikely to meet a Christian, have access to a church, find or pick up a Bible in their language, or meet something in their daily life that gets them thinking about Jesus. Eighty-one percent of the world's non-Christians do not personally know a Christian.

The problem is cultural as well as geographical. Christians are not physically present in some areas. In other places Christians are

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

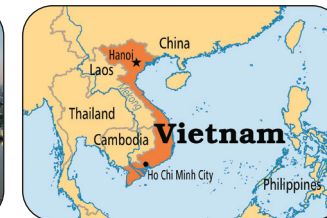
Matthew 24:14

present, but ethnic or language differences make communication difficult. Jesus told his followers to make him known, loved and worshipped in every language, and for all ethnic groups to be united in devotion to him. This is a job for all of us: working to make our Christian communities wonderful testimonies to Jesus; taking every opportunity to see the gospel spread, being mindful that the good news has to cross many barriers of language and culture before everyone can enjoy it; and working for the unity of the Church.

Let us pause before God and pray that we will fulfil our part of this story. May God make His people a 'good news people'!

THE NATIONS

VIETNAM



The communist government of this Southeast Asian nation of 97 million people has freed the nation's economy, but not its politics. Similar to its neighbour (and rival) China, Vietnam is being transformed by economic growth, but the Government still attempts to keep a monopoly on power. This leads to persecution for religious groups and political activists.

The church is growing fast, especially among some of mountain tribal peoples, but also among the majority Vietnamese.

- Pray for the Christian community (around 10% of this mostly-Buddhist country) to become a great force for good in a nation that has suffered trauma and warfare in recent decades.
- Pray for an easing of anti-Christian violence and the repeal of unjust laws.

YEMEN



This Gulf Arab country of 30 million people has long been very poor. Now it is the battlefield in a civil war. Outside powers make the war worse: the conflict is propped up by rich Gulf states on one side and Iran on the other. The nation is unravelling. Aid ships can't deliver food or medicine because docks are bombed. Water is short. Weapons are plentiful. Cholera has broken out. The degree and scale of human suffering is intense - arguably unparalleled in any other country in these times.

Christians are in yet further danger in this Muslim country because they face persecution from family, tribe, and Islamic militias. Even so, thousands of people follow Christ secretly and meet together to worship. The Church among Yemenis is, in the face of great tribulation, growing rapidly.

- Praise God for the miracle of a Yemeni church.
- Pray that where evil and suffering flourish, grace will flourish all the more.
- Pray for daily bread; a culture of forgiveness; deliverance from evil; and that Christ will be worshipped throughout the land.

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.

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