PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

Prayer movements and houses of prayer

In August 1727 the Moravian community in Herrnhut, a German town near the Polish and Czech borders, started a 24/7 prayer watch that sent an unbroken stream of prayer to heaven for more than 100 years. Moravian influence on John Wesley helped start the 18th century Wesleyan revival. The Moravian vision of sending missionaries (they sent hundreds) helped spark the 19th century Protestant missions movement that took the gospel to most countries of the world.

The Bible-smuggler Brother Andrew in 1982 initiated 7 years of intercession for the fall of the Iron Curtain. In 1989 the Berlin Wall fell, marking the beginning of the end for European Communism and a re-opening of Eastern Europe to the Gospel. In 1991 he initiated 10 years of intercession for the Muslim world. In 2001, 9/11 was the tragic catalyst that brought immense change to the Muslim world, including many great breakthroughs for the good news of Jesus.

In the past quarter century, 26 years of the annual publication '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World' have coincided with 26 years of unprecedented numbers of Muslims encountering Jesus.

Today, grassroots movements that get Christians together to pray are bigger, wider and deeper than at any time in history. International Prayer Connect (ipcprayer.org) attempts to track these and join them together in collaboration. Started on the same day in 1999, 24/7 Prayer (www.24-7prayer.com) and Ihop (International House of Prayer) draw thousands of people into a worldwide, unbroken stream of prayer and worship to God.

The Operation World books, app and this bulletin enable people to join in one rolling program of prayer for the nations throughout the year. (www.operationworld.org)

Most countries have their own prayer initiatives or houses of prayer; find out what is happening in your nation and get involved.

Pray that the body of Christ would recover the centrality of prayer in devotional life and corporate worship.

THE NATIONS

MOROCCO

A North African country of 37 million people, Morocco has enjoyed a degree of stability and peace. The King takes the lead both in politics and in religious affairs. He is attempting to spread wealth beyond the main cities, and to open a limited space for political discussion. Positive change is slowed by corruption, political repression and unemployment. Young people and rural-dwellers show their frustration in sporadic protests.

Morocco is 99% Muslim. Moroccan followers of Christ number a couple of thousand, each one born into a hostile environment. Few Moroccans have heard the gospel; many have come across slanderous reports about the Church. Christian workers have been expelled. It's hard to gather Christians together for fellowship and discipleship.

Pray for the King, and for fresh hope for the people of Morocco.

Praise God for Morocco's Church, for expatriate believers, and for the internet and satellite TV which are lifelines for Moroccan Christians and seekers. Pray that the mustard-seed Church in Morocco will break up hard ground and grow.

MYANMAR

After decades of repressive military rule, which have battered and divided this diverse nation, Myanmar (54 million people) has taken small steps on a democratic path. The continuing persecution of the Rohingya people (a Muslim minority ethnic group in this majority Buddhist country) has attracted international condemnation and shows how hard it is to get past old habits of repression and violence.

Most Christians belong to minority groups who themselves have faced armed conflict with the military. It is a persecution-toughened and bloodstained Church. More recently God has raised up prayer movements to unite believers across ethnic divides.

Pray for reconciliation and unity among Christians, and for churches to grow also among the Burmese (Buddhist) majority and other groups like the Chinese and the Rohingya.

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.

Lausanne Movement

OPERATION WORLD