

## WEEK 3

### How to Use These Prayer Updates

We invite you to watch the video, as Michael Oh, Lausanne Movement Executive Director, shares an invitation to join in the month of prayer by visiting [www.lausanne.org/pray](http://www.lausanne.org/pray)



We ask you to set aside time each day – a holy, consecrated time – to savor the great gift of God in the Gospel, and to bring before Him the needs of a world where so many have yet to hear and experience the transforming news of the Gospel.

Some updates include sample prayers, while others include specific prayer points. These are provided as beginning points for your own communion with God and intercession for the nations. Don't allow the format to restrict the way that you respond to God. Just as we come from many cultures and traditions, may our worship and prayers be expressed in manifold ways to the glory of God.

In addition to reading and praying, consider how you might further consecrate yourself to God during this time. Would you consider fasting one meal a day, a day each week, or perhaps giving up something else that is precious to you like your morning coffee or your internet surfing? Would you be willing to go without these things in order to express to God your deep need for him to make himself known in you and in the world? Might this discipline of prayer and fasting be an aid to stirring up a holy hunger to see God glorified in those places where men and women are serving creation instead of the Creator.

How else might we together declare to God that we are expectant, waiting, and attentive to his Word and his Holy Spirit, wholly dependent upon him and completely his?

When the month is over, may it be that God has been lifted up and glorified, the world made further ready for the Gospel, and God's people renewed, rejoicing and ready to serve him!

Please join us in this prayer journey.

WEEK 3, DAY 15:

## *A World Apart from the Gospel*

We invite you to watch this video from Michael Oh, The Lausanne Movement Executive Director, as he shares on the topic "A World Apart from the Gospel".

Why do we care that there are people without the Gospel? The reasons are varied, and in some cases obvious. As we contemplate three of them, let's also be motivated to increase our prayers for the world without the Gospel.



John Piper has written, "Mission exists because worship does not,"<sup>1</sup> making the point that one day, all mission will cease, but that worship of God will resound throughout Eternity. Mission serves worship; it is the winning of worship for God from all nations. It is the heralding of the good news that Jesus is Davidic King, that his reign has begun, and that soon his reign will reach its full power as promised throughout the Old Testament when he comes again. Therefore, we call people around the world to submit to and give due worship to King Jesus. This desire to see God glorified by all nations, to see Him receive the worship due him should compel believers to make him known throughout the earth.

We also care that the world is without the Gospel because men and women without Christ are facing an eternity of suffering apart from God. More than any other suffering taking place on the planet, the thought of an eternity without God should break our hearts. Just as Paul's heart for his fellow Israelites who didn't know Christ was filled with "great sorrow and unceasing anguish," (Romans 9:2) and just as God desires that none "should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9), the heart of every believer should be stirred for those who are without the hope of Christ. Remembering that we too were once lost, without hope, and in need of a Savior should fuel our desire to see the Gospel go forward.

Finally, we care that the world is without the Gospel of God not only because we are concerned about eternal suffering, but also with present suffering. We see a world of manmade systems and worldviews that allow, if not actually promote, exploitation and violence against men and women, young and old. Only when the Gospel breaks forth in the hearts of people will true, lasting, God-honoring care for humanity be possible. There is no other worldview than the biblical one which declares, "God made us in his image. He loves us. Don't ruin the image of God or exploit those made in his image!"

***As we lift up our eyes from looking inward – being people shaped by the Gospel – and look outward at the world without the Gospel, pray that the Lord will break into your own heart and give you a heart like his for the world. Pray, too, that he would use you in his plan for redeeming men and women who will join in the eternal song of praise to the Lamb who purchased us all with his blood.***

<sup>1</sup> John Piper Let the Nations be Glad, Baker Academic 2010, 15.

## WEEK 3, DAY 16: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

### *Faithfulness to the Task for the Glory of God*

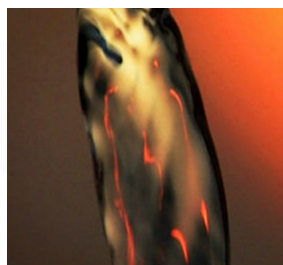
*"Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns!'"*  
Psalm 96:1-4, 7-10

What a great day it will be when people from all the nations join together in praise to our God. When the nations bring their gifts of praise before King Jesus, worshipping and acknowledging that he is King! When every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord!

**Can you picture it?** Now consider these words from John Stott, author of *The Lausanne Covenant*, who also served as Lausanne Honorary Chair until his death in 2011:

*"If God desires every knee to bow to Jesus and every tongue to confess Him, so should we. We should be 'jealous' (as Scripture sometimes puts it) for the honor of His name—troubled when it remains unknown, hurt when it is ignored, indignant when it is blasphemed, and all the time anxious and determined that it shall be given the honor and glory which are due to it. The highest of all missionary motives is neither obedience to the Great Commission (important as that is), nor love for sinners who are alienated and perishing (strong as that incentive is, especially when we contemplate the wrath of God), but rather zeal—burning and passionate zeal—for the glory of Jesus Christ".<sup>1</sup>*

As you watch the following video filled with images of men and women from Asia who don't know Christ, ask God to open your eyes to see these people as he sees them.<sup>2</sup>



Most researchers agree that over 2 billion people have not even had the opportunity to respond to the Gospel of Christ. These 2 billion people are giving worship that belongs only to Christ to someone or something else. Read John Stott's words again, then pray and ask that God would give you a holy jealousy for his name, and that his name would be magnified among the nations. Plead with God until "zeal—burning and passionate zeal—for the glory of Jesus Christ" sets fire inside of you. Then ask yourself, "Am I personally, or corporately, doing what I can to reach the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world for the glory of God?"

Day 16 Extra Resource: VIDEO - Jason Mandryk "State of the Gospel"

<sup>1</sup> John Stott, *The Message of Romans* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 53.

<sup>2</sup> We acknowledge that the stats in this video differ from those given by others. We encourage you to allow the video to challenge you nonetheless. For more widely accepted stats, go to <http://tinyurl.com/buns4p6>.

WEEK 3, DAY 17: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

***Faithfulness to the Task for the Joy of the Nations***

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" Romans 10:13-15*

Missionary and founder of the China Inland Mission (now OMF International), Hudson Taylor, was speaking to a large gathering of Christians in his native England, and told the story of a man to whom he had been witnessing who fell out of a boat and into the China Sea while on their way to Sungkiang. Nearby was a fishing boat with large nets that could be used to save the man who could not swim. Here is the conversation between Taylor and the fishermen:

*"Come," he cried, "come and drag over this spot. A man is drowning!" "Veh bin," was the amazing reply: "It is not convenient." "Don't talk of convenience! Quickly come, or it will be too late." "We are busy fishing." "Never mind your fishing! Come - only come at once! I will pay you well." "How much will you give us?" "Five dollars! Only don't stand talking. Save life without delay!" "Too little!" they shouted across the water. "We will not come for less than thirty dollars." "But I have not so much with me. I will give you all I've got." "And how much may that be?" "Oh, I don't know. About fourteen dollars."*

Upon this they came, and the first time they passed the net through the water, they brought up the missing man.

The man was dead. The crowd of Christians in England was outraged at the behavior of the fisherman. They did not, however, expect Taylor's next words:

*"Is the body, then, of so much more value than the soul? We condemn those heathen fishermen. We say they were guilty of the man's death because they could easily have saved him, and did not do it. But what of the millions whom we leave to perish, and that eternally? What of the plain command, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature?'"*



We can ask ourselves the same thing that Hudson Taylor asked his audience, "What of the millions we leave to perish, and that eternally?" Right now, where you are, ask God to raise up laborers for the unreached and unengaged and ask the Lord for a renewed passion to share Christ. This is not to denigrate other kinds of ministry, but to draw attention to something dear to the heart of God. Have we been like those fishermen...too inconvenienced to save another person or to serve as Christ's hands in seeking and saving the lost?

***Finally, after taking time to pray and seek the Lord, would you go to the Operation World website, and sign-up to pray daily for the nations? They have wonderful resources to help as you, "Join people from every nation, praying for people in every nation".***

## WEEK 3, DAY 18: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

### *The Persecuted Church*



What does your faith in Jesus Christ cost you daily? If it costs a great deal, may the Lord strengthen you and comfort you. If it costs you very little, may the Lord give you wisdom as you seek to risk more for the sake of the name of Christ. Watch the video of a brother who is paying the cost to serve Christ (Testimony - Benjamin Kwashi).

Our love of Christ calls for solidarity with one another. Loving each other as brothers and sisters in Christ includes the privilege of caring for those who are persecuted and in prison for their faith and witness. If one part of the body of Christ suffers, all parts suffer with it. We commit ourselves to sharing in the suffering of members of the body of Christ throughout the world, by keeping ourselves informed, by focusing our prayers, and by engaging in urgent advocacy. We see this sharing not as an exercise of pity, but rather as a true longing to learn what the suffering Church can teach us and give to those parts of Christ's body that are not suffering in the same way. We are warned that the Church that feels itself at ease in its wealth and self-sufficiency may, like the Church of Laodicea, be the most blind to its own poverty, and the one in which our Lord himself feels a stranger.

How can you respond to the challenge of the persecuted church? Perhaps you are a part of the body that is currently suffering persecution. Know that we are praying for you, that the Lord is pleased with your sacrifice for him, and that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to you.

What about those of us who are not overtly persecuted for our faith? Consider two things: first, commit to daily prayer and fasting on behalf of persecuted brothers and sisters. Start today. Second, consider whether, in fact, we are not persecuted because we are not heralding the Gospel of the only true God and living as Gospel people in a "perverse and crooked generation". Where might God ask you to die to safety in order to risk for his glory? It doesn't matter where you live, or your vocation, the call to risk is for all who belong to him. From Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah, the Disciples, and now to us, God has led his people into risk that his name might receive honor, and that many more people would have the opportunity to claim Christ for themselves.

*Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who suffer on behalf of Jesus and for his name. Strengthen and comfort them. Let their experiences equal what is spoken in your Word which says that there is joy in suffering for Christ. And we pray that your people in all places would risk for your name. Pry our fingers away from the hold we have on safety, security, and comfort. Set us free from our need to be safe anywhere but in your arms.*



WEEK 3, DAY 19: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

## *Global Day of Prayer*

Today is the Global Day of Prayer (GDOP, [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com)). We encourage you to join in local expressions of the GDOP, whether in your church, city, or nation.

*We pray that the video below will stir up your heart for this day set apart for global prayer. Join in praying, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations" Psalm 67:1-2.*



## WEEK 3, DAY 20: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

### *A Survey of Fallenness*

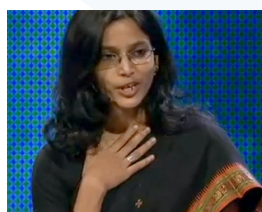
When we look at the world, what evidence of the Fall of humanity is visible? Perhaps you don't need to read further because that simple question has given you enough about which to pray. For those that read on, let's look at two pieces of evidence, and allow them to lead us into prayer for our world.

First, consider how the world and its systems compare to the biblical call for justice. There is no earthly government that meets God's standard, yet we seek to obey biblical teaching to be good citizens, to seek the welfare of the nation where we live, to honor and pray for those in authority, to pay taxes, to do good, and to seek to live peaceful and quiet lives. The Christian is called to submit to the state, unless the state commands what God forbids, or prohibits what God commands. If the state forces us to choose between loyalty to it and our higher loyalty to God, we must say "No" because we have said "Yes" to Jesus Christ as Lord.

This "Yes" includes our call to always speak and act for justice. There is no contradiction between being willing to personally suffer the abuse or loss of our own rights for the sake of Christ, and being committed to advocate and speak up for those who are voiceless because of the violation of their human rights. In what ways are God-ordained human rights violated in the region where you are? Is poverty rampant due to corruption or greed? Are men, women, and children in need of help with the essentials of food, shelter, and clothing? Are people marginalized or injured unjustly? Pray now for those situations and for the people involved that they will experience true biblical justice.

A word of caution. The world defines human rights differently than God. The "right" to take the life of the unborn child in many nations is, in fact, calling good, "evil" and calling evil, "good." Our rights, and those of all people, come from God, not from others.

Second, consider the scattering of people around the world due to economic, political, and social upheaval. The Cape Town Commitment declares, "People are on the move as never before. It is estimated that 200 million people are living outside their countries of origin, voluntarily or involuntarily. Vast numbers of people from many religious backgrounds, including Christians, live in diaspora conditions: economic migrants seeking work; internally-displaced peoples because of war or natural disaster; refugees and asylum seekers; victims of ethnic cleansing; people fleeing religious violence and persecution; famine sufferers – whether caused by drought, floods, or war; victims of rural poverty moving to cities...We are convinced that contemporary migrations are within the sovereign missional purpose of God, without ignoring the evil and suffering that can be involved."<sup>1</sup>



*Will we care for and welcome the "stranger" in our midst? Will we seek justice for those suffering under injustice? Pray for the scattered and oppressed, and ask God to use you as an answer to that prayer. Pray against injustice, and then act on behalf of those who desperately need King Jesus' righteous reign manifested in their lives and countries. Watch the following video (Pranitha Timothy – Human Trafficking) and allow it to stir up further prayer for the Fallen world.*

<sup>1</sup> The Cape Town Commitment, 95-97.

## WEEK 3, DAY 21: A WORLD APART FROM THE GOSPEL

***Not the Way it's Supposed to Be***

***"Pray then like this:** 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'" Matthew 6:9-13*

Yesterday, we prayed for those suffering under systems of injustice, and for those who have been scattered from their homelands due to violence and other factors. Today we conclude our prayer theme on a World without the Gospel. Reflect on what we've seen. Genesis 3 continues to haunt us. We've seen a world that suffers daily – that groans unceasingly for all things to be made right. This suffering culminates in lost men and women who are blinded by the enemy, and who are living without a Savior. Billions find themselves in this terrible situation, and at least 2 billion people have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. This is NOT the way it's supposed to be.

**And so we pray...**

**WE PRAY** that God's Kingdom would come and that his will would be done on earth, in every place and in every life, just as it is done in heaven, that the Christ would crush the serpent's head finally and fully, and that all things would be made new!

**WE PRAY** that God would propel laborers into the harvest fields, to unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window, to the families living down the street from us who don't know Christ, and to the man working next to us who needs a Savior. We must plead with and persuade men and women to receive the good news and live under the reign of Jesus.

**WE PRAY** that God's people would rise up with courage, risking everything for Jesus' sake to preach the Gospel of truth and to speak out on behalf of those suffering under the hands of evil men.

**WE PRAY** that the worship, which Jesus alone deserves, would be given to him alone, and in greater measure with greater passion and purity.

**WE PRAY** that Gospel-loving Christians would be appointed into every area of leadership, from governments to churches, and from NGOs to educational institutions, and that they would have the wisdom and courage to act as Kingdom agents in their posts.

Don't stop. Keep praying. Pray for the lost and for the found. Pray for the just and the unjust. Pray, brothers and sisters, **PRAY!!!** We cannot **NOT** pray! We **MUST** have God's intervention. We **NEED** him to make himself known in our world for his own glory, and for the joy and salvation of people everywhere. **Pray...**

***And, as we move tomorrow to the theme of Partnership for the Gospel, we need him to make his people one – united in the Gospel with a unity from him, through him, and to him. Amen.***