

# Daily Devotion



**Praying for the continents of the world**

Monday, 22 – Sunday, 28 July 2024





# Cell Groups

**Do you want to sign up to a cell group but not sure which one?**

Scan this QR code to register your interest in joining one and we'll try our best to match you to one.





**Do you already know which group you would like to join?**

The scan the QR code below or follow the instruction below on how to sign up using the 'My ChurchSuite App' on your phone...



## Sign up via 'My Churchsuite App'

1. Open the App and Log in.
2. Click on the menu button - (Bottom Right) 
3. Click on 'Cell Groups'.
4. Click on the group you'd like to join.
5. Click the 'sign up' button - 
6. Finished.



<sup>7</sup>Now to **each one of us** grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

<sup>11</sup>And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.

How do you read **each one of us** in the context above:

- a. each one of us who are apostles?
- b. each one of us who are Jews?
- c. each one of us who are in Christ?
- d. each one of us born in Tarsus?

The context suggests the whole body not a few



AdewaleAdefuye

# 6:00am

Daily Corporate Devotion

at:

Ipswich International Church

[iic.io/daily6am](http://iic.io/daily6am)



## **We Pray for the Continents of the World**

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. <sup>3</sup> "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God." <sup>4</sup> But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain." <sup>7</sup> The king proclaims the LORD's decree: "The LORD said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father.' <sup>8</sup> Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession. <sup>9</sup> You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.'" <sup>10</sup> Now then, you kings, act wisely! Be warned, you rulers of the earth! <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities— for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him! Psalm 2 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. <sup>10</sup> And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Ephesians 1:9–10 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying: <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as a prophet to the nations." <sup>6</sup> "Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "I surely do not know how to speak, for I am only a child!" <sup>7</sup> But the LORD told me: "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' For to everyone I send you, you must go, and all that I command you, you must speak. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and plant."

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (BSB)

## We Pray for Africa

Christianity has grown to become the religion of almost half of Africa's population, and nearly two-thirds of sub-Saharan Africa. From 1900 to 2010, Christian numbers grew from 9.1% of the population to 48.8%, and from 7.5 million to 504 million. Of the world's evangelical Christians, over 33% live in Africa – a proportion that increases annually! It is very possible that within our lifetime, over half of the world's evangelicals will be from Africa. Pray that the spiritual vibrancy of Africa's believers will spread to the rest of the world's Christians.

### Religion & Geography

Category	Statistic
<b>Continent:</b>	Africa
<b>Population:</b>	1,494,993,924
<b>% Urban:</b>	43.9 %
<b>Languages:</b>	2,110
<b>% Christian:</b>	48.8 %
<b>% Evangelical:</b>	17.7 %
<b>Largest Religion:</b>	Christian
<b>% Largest Religion:</b>	48.8 %

Reducing local causes of poverty, particularly corruption, would reinject many billions of dollars back into the grassroots economy. Were greater economic accountability imposed and budgets actually spent on developing trade and production, many could be lifted out of poverty. Were wars and conflicts ended, infrastructure developed and education and health improved, a massive difference could be made. If Western and Chinese economic interests were less rapacious and dealt fairly and justly with African nations, Africa could make great progress. Pray for economic justice for a region that has endured centuries of plunder.



Nigeria and the Sahel, through which runs the north-south fault line between Muslim and Christian majority areas, are in profound need of prayer. The sporadic outbreaks of violence in Nigeria escalated into more frequent and intense pogroms against Christians by increasingly bloodthirsty fundamentalist Muslim groups (often importing fighters from farther afield). The Nigerian-originated Islamist and anti-education movement Boko Haram now assumes the role of most-feared terror group in Africa. Christian response to Islamist predations has been largely peaceful, but not always. Besides the religious fault line, the conflict also touches upon tensions over land between southern settled farmers and northern pastoralists. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and other West African nations face similar tensions. Should something as terrible as north-south civil war in Nigeria break out, the likelihood is high of meltdown in much of the rest of West Africa. Pray for those orchestrating violence to be foiled and for those on both sides who love peace to prevail through wisdom, discipline and graciousness. Pray also for Christians to continue evangelizing the region's Muslims with love and without fear.

The prayer focuses were adapted or modified from Operation World website  
[Pray for the World & Regions - Operation World](#)

## **We pray for North America**

Population: 381,159,108

% Urban: 80%

Most widely spoken languages include English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.



Pray for willingness in the Church to confront social and economic injustices in a biblical way. One of the main benchmarks of evangelical effectiveness in the 21st Century will be how churches and ministries share and live out the Gospel in contexts of systemic injustice. The potential role of Christians in societal transformation is limitless, but addressing needs positively must accompany recognition of previous failures – including slavery, genocide and Christianization done with cruelty and insensitivity. A humble approach to reconciliation and reparation for sins of the past will empower believers to minister into the present day. Evangelical Christianity is an easy target for critics of religion in the Americas today. But, in the face of opposition, when the Church truly embraces Christlikeness and adopts the character and priorities of the one it calls Lord, critics are silenced, enemies become sisters and brothers, and above all, God is glorified.

Pray for wise and just leadership in the region to guide the countries towards progress, unity and harmony

Pray for the urban poor. In North America, they usually live in the decaying hearts of major cities. Churches have a great role to play and are well positioned to do so. Pray for the light of Jesus to shine through Christian ministry, effecting urban renewal with a reduction in crime, violence and substance abuse and a growth in education, employment and, most importantly, the winning of lives into the Kingdom.

The prayer focuses were adapted or modified from Operation World website:

[Pray for the World & Regions - Operation World](http://www.operationworld.org/Pray-for-the-World-&-Regions)

## We pray for South America

Population: 443,021,225

Predominant language: Spanish. Other main languages include Portuguese, Quechua, Guarani, English, Aymara, German, and Italian.

Urban Population: 81.87%



The growth of evangelicals in Latin America in the last century, especially the last generation, is spectacular. In 1900, evangelicals numbered about 700,000, or 1% of the population (only about 200,000 of these being in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries). They have now surpassed 100 million, or 16.8% of the population. Most of this growth was fuelled by the steady, faithful proclamation and witness of tens of thousands of laymen and pastors planting small churches out of a passion for the gospel – praise God for such growth and pray that it might continue! The New World is home to over 35% of the world's evangelicals.

Missions vision has rapidly grown and matured in Latin America. The 1987 COMIBAM (Cooperacion Misionera Iberoamericana) conference in São Paulo, Brazil, generated continent-wide interest and sparked numerous initiatives to reach the unreached. At that time, there were around 60 agencies with 1,600 missionaries. Today, there are over 400 agencies representing more than 10,000 missionaries! In 2020, The Send Brazil (a mission mobilization event) saw 140,000 gather in three stadia in one day. Of these, 10,000 committed themselves to serving in mission. An increasing proportion serve outside Latin America and in the unevangelized world. Major sending nations are Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Peru, but missionary sending structures are developing in most lands. Quite apart from this are the thousands who serve God abroad as economic migrants or deliberate tentmakers. Pray for consistent, loving, fruitful witness of these servants of God to their host cultures.

We are witnessing the resurgence of indigenous peoples and their fight for recognition, greater autonomy and self-determination. From Arctic to tropics to Antarctic, natives were routinely exterminated, subjugated and swindled out of their lands and rights. In many regions this struggle took on violent overtones – Guatemala, Peru, Mexico – while in others it has been chiefly legal and political. Such trends also foster growth in the pre-Christian religions and superstitions once held by these peoples. Additionally, the legacy and progeny of the 11 million African slaves brought to the New World are issues that likewise demand repentance, reconciliation, and arguably, reparations from the European colonizers. It was chiefly Christians who fought to end the slave trade and evangelize the native peoples of the Americas; it should be Christians who lead the way in walking out the path of full reconciliation. Pray that God would create humble hearts in His people. May we be willing to truly listen to one another and do whatever it takes to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph 4:3)

The prayer focuses were adapted or modified from Operation World website:

[Pray for the World & Regions - Operation World](#)



## We pray for Asia



### Religion & Geography

Category	Statistic
<b>Continent:</b>	Asia
<b>Population:</b>	4,785,060,131
<b>% Urban:</b>	51.7 %
<b>Languages:</b>	2,322
<b>% Christian:</b>	8.8 %
<b>% Evangelical:</b>	3.5 %
<b>Largest Religion:</b>	Muslim
<b>% Largest Religion:</b>	26.4 %

Praise God for the growth of the Church into new places. Lands previously cut off from overt Christian ministry are now home to dynamic, growing churches and unprecedented numbers of believers. This started with China in earlier decades, then moved to the former Soviet countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus Republics and Mongolia in the 1990s, and most recently in a number of Southeast Asian countries. Even in the heart of the Muslim world, thriving ministry to Christian populations (and other expatriate, non-Muslim peoples) is happening. Only in Saudi Arabia and Maldives are there no public-meeting Christian congregations; even in these countries (and many others), there are numbers of believers meeting together privately or in secret.

Praise God for the indigenization of Christian ministry and leadership in Asia. The recent growth of the Church has largely been through the work of national workers, local evangelists and ordinary believers. These churches are, more than ever, Asian in structure, style and leadership – taking forms relevant for those they are trying to reach. Beyond the continent itself, Asian Christian leadership is assuming a much greater role in the global body of Christ. This includes countries such as South Korea, China and India but also places such as Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The region that witnessed the birth of the Church now sees its rapid decline. Large-scale and sustained emigration after centuries of tenacity has denuded the Middle East of most of its Christian communities. This slow burning process rapidly accelerated along with the violence in Syria, Iraq, etc. over the last several years. For the Church to have endured this long, despite discrimination and persecution, is remarkable. The rise of Islamic extremism in the region increased the pressure to marginalize and even eliminate Christian presence. Orthodox Jewish pressures on Messianic Jews are also acute. Pray that the ancient Orthodox and Catholic communities might come to new life and vigour to become effective witnesses. There is an encouraging, almost unbelievable, acceleration of new movements of people to Christ in the region, but these are not yet large enough to offset the losses of traditional Christians.

The prayer focuses were adapted or modified from Operation World website:

[Pray for the World & Regions - Operation World](#)



## We pray for Europe

The Caucasus region remains a centre of unresolved tensions – with its ethnic and religious diversity, history of war and repression, and its position, straddling the oil-rich but politically sensitive region, where many major powers (Russia, Turkey, Iran, the West) have conflicting areas of concern. In all likelihood, decades of unrest lie ahead. Its peoples represent one of the most difficult challenges for evangelization, with many ethnic groups still unreached. Pray for God to somehow break through these seemingly unscalable barriers to the Gospel.

The growth of Islam through immigration and a higher birth rate is such that Islam has become the second religion of Europe. It is the largest religion in Albania, Bosnia and of other potential new nations – Kosovo as well as several republics in the Russian Federation. Integration and extremism remain serious but unresolved issues. But higher birthrates, the continued immigration of Muslims, savvy lobbying for concessions to Muslim sensibilities and a fundamental inability to exist as a placid minority mean the rise of Islam's influence in Europe. Some Muslims seek to assimilate into a multicultural Europe on their own terms; others intend to dominate Europe's future and impose shari'a law. Many simply seek an existence far from the violence, destruction, and poverty of the homelands they fled. Alarm and fear characterize the response of many, including Christians. Yet Muslims form a possible bulwark against further secularization and atheism. Most are deeply moral people, and many are not far from the Kingdom of God. Pray that Christians might cooperate with God-fearing Muslims when appropriate and, at all times, extend the love of Jesus and power of the gospel.

### Religion & Geography

Category	Statistic
<b>Continent:</b>	Europe
<b>Population:</b>	741,651,866
<b>% Urban:</b>	75.1 %
<b>Languages:</b>	269
<b>% Christian:</b>	71.3 %
<b>% Evangelical:</b>	2.5 %
<b>Largest Religion:</b>	Christian
<b>% Largest Religion:</b>	71.3 %



## We pray for the Pacific



<b>Continent:</b>	Pacific
<b>Population:</b>	46,109,212
<b>% Urban:</b>	68.3 %
<b>Languages:</b>	1,250
<b>% Christian:</b>	74 %
<b>% Evangelical:</b>	17.8 %
<b>Largest Religion:</b>	Christian
<b>% Largest Religion:</b>	74 %

Countries: American Samoa, Australia, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna Islands.

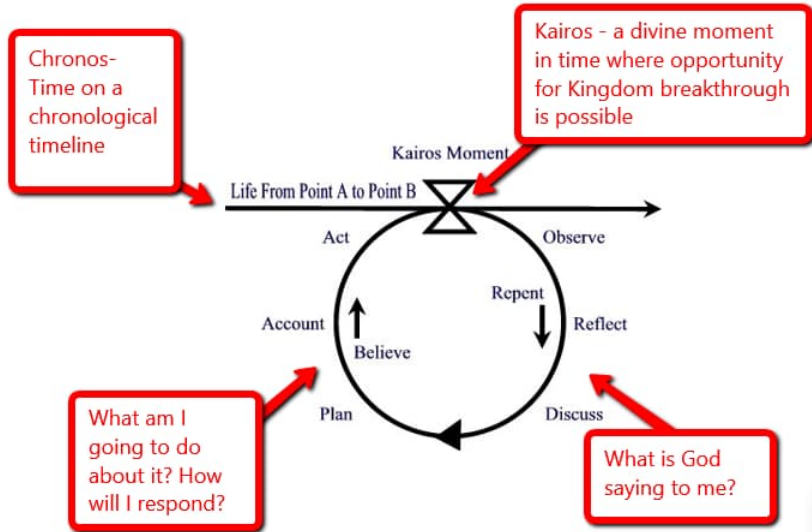
Thank God for the strength of Christianity in the Pacific Islands. The Pacific was one of the first areas to be evangelized in the modern Protestant missionary era. By the end of the 19th Century, most of the Pacific region had become Christian through the sacrificial labours of early LMS (London Missionary Society), Methodist, Anglican and Pacific Islander missionaries. Missionary casualties were high through disease, violent death and cannibalism, and the gospel arrived alongside Western colonialism, but great people movements brought whole peoples and islands to Christianity. Praise God for the continued legacy of their work, and for continued spiritual life to the churches they planted.

The younger generation in many Pacific Island nations feel disenfranchised and betrayed by their forebears. In these small and remote island nations, they often have little opportunity for meaningful employment or education. Emigration, restlessness, frustration, mischief and even organized crime are the result. In some countries, those under age 25 comprise up to 40% of the population. Pray for viable, God-honouring solutions to these challenges, for the younger generation to find hope and purpose in Christ.

The prayer focuses were adapted or modified from Operation World website:

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## Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, \_\_\_\_\_

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# Our Priorities

