

Generations PRAISE



**World Weekend
OF PRAYER
FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

2-3 JUNE 2018



PRAYER RESOURCE

Even in the midst of their hurt, poverty and tragedy, we believe God is always present for the world's vulnerable children, with His enduring, immeasurable love and compassion.

As we join together for the 2018 World Weekend of Prayer, let us do so with an attitude of praise, not forgetting God's goodness and faithfulness.

Praising God helps us:

- **remember** what He has done in the past,
- **see** how He is at work now, even in the tough places, and
- **trust** that He will shape the lives of generations to come.

How marvellous that God's power and the effects of our answered prayers today will ripple throughout the years!

In this prayer resource:

- Bible verses to meditate upon
- Examples of answered prayer from around the world to praise God for
- Activity ideas
- Prayer points
- What could you do next?

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100: 1-2, 5 (NIV)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3: 20-21 (NIV)

Only the living can praise you as I do today. Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next.

Isaiah 38: 19 (NLT)

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Psalm 8: 2 (NIV)

Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ICB)

What a good God we have!

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8: 28) Below, Christians from around the world share something they are thankful to God for, demonstrating how he wonderfully and graciously answers prayers. **Use these examples as a starting point in which to lead activities and prayers where you live. They can work in different settings, with all ages.**

BOLIVIA (FAMILIES)

During last year’s WWP, a young boy called Patrido who is helped by a Comprehensive Care Centre in Oruro initially said he was not attracted to the idea of praying for his parents who are separated. During the event, though, he did pray for them – and soon afterwards he told the network that **the Lord is answering his prayers because his father came to visit him** and wants to get closer to his family again. Patrido now says he will continue praying for the family to be together again – praise God!

Activity:

Ask everyone to write down three families (or family members) they know well or to find a photo of them. Tell each other about each person and then, personally, write down prayers for them. Commit to regularly praying for them.

Pray for:

- Struggling families in your community.
- Wisdom in how the church can reach families.
- Social services to improve to support them.

COSTA RICA (COMMUNITY)

We give thanks for the expansion of the network in Costa Rica where churches come together from areas where there are many families in conditions of socio-economic vulnerability. Children are from communities where drug addiction, alcoholism, poverty, sexual assaults and physical violence are common. **The Lord is surrounding and protecting these children** through united ministries.

Activity:

In twos or threes, go on a prayer walk around your community, particularly to places that are vulnerable to problems. Thank God for the people and pray that he may transform their lives.

Pray for:

- Protection of children in difficult places.
- Families who are struggling.
- Churches to find ways of providing support.

INDIA (HEALTH)

“My name is Chiranjiv. I am nine years old and I live with my family in Patna. My younger brother Kundanlal was born with a hole in his heart. Doctors said he would not survive. My family was very upset as we are very poor and couldn’t afford surgery. I started to attend Sunday school and church with my family, and there learned that Jesus answers our prayers. I started to pray regularly for my brother. I love him very much and want to play with him every day. **I am very happy God has answered my prayers and Kundanlal is doing fine.** At present he is four years old.”

Activity:

Draw a picture of a body, or around the outline of a child. Write on it, giving thanks for the amazing ways in which our bodies work, but also praying for those who are unwell, focusing on different parts.

Pray for:

- Healing for those who you know who are unwell.
- Those suffering hidden illnesses like mental health.
- Medical professionals who are often overworked.

NEPAL (CREATIVITY)

Praise God for the success of the women empowerment programme run by CarNet Nepal, which is ensuring family life is more secure and sustainable for children at risk of being trafficked. Training focuses on different types of income generation projects. Fifteen members of a group in Kathum receive goat farming training whilst 29 women in Shikherbesi are learning about vegetable farming and how to be tailors. **Each group is growing in love and unity, and able to set an example for others in their community.**

Activity:

Ask what you could grow or make in the coming months: sow flower seeds, grow herbs, knit a jumper, weave a rug. Once made, give them to people in need or sell them to raise money for a local project.

Pray for:

- Church members to use their creative talents.
- Further opportunities to collaborate together.
- People who use their hands like farmers and tailors.

PANAMA (HOMES)

Thank God that many churches and schools in Panama City participated in WWP 2017 and the event opened doors for the government to get involved. One boy, Paulino, asked that he would have a decent home to live – and thank God **his prayer was answered** just ten days later the construction of his family house was approved. The network says: **“We also believe that many prayers were answered for thousands of Panamanian children.”**

Activity:

Use Lego or wooden blocks to build a toy home. Talk about what we love about our homes, and take time to pray for those lacking a good house to live in.

Pray for:

- Families without a permanent home.
- People who live and sleep on the streets.
- Government to find solutions to housing problems.

UGANDA (IDENTITY)

“I am an orphan with nothing to my name but, after the prayers at church last June, I have seen God’s handiwork in me. **I am thankful for His daily provision.**” *A little girl at Kampala Baptist Church*

Activity:

In a circle, ask everyone to write their name at the top of a piece of paper and pass to the person on their right. Everyone write at the bottom of paper why they appreciate the person whose name is written. Fold over to cover and pass to the right. Repeat till everyone has written, then read aloud the encouragements.

Pray for:

- More opportunities to encourage each other.
- Those who are lacking confidence and self-esteem.
- Everyone to know ‘God’s handiwork in them’.

UK (EDUCATION)

Children at a school Christian Union in Oxford said they were most thankful for family, good health, having Jesus in their lives and for the “little things that make me smile!” Another group of young people, taking part in a course about Christianity, said that they gave thanks for buses, their pets, teachers, where they live and **being able to have an education “because lots of people don’t and that makes me sad”**.

Activity:

Using newspapers or online news, find articles about

education in your city, country or elsewhere in the world. Talk about your experiences of schools: what is good, what is not so good, and pray.

Pray for:

- An opportunity of an education for every child.
- Children who are facing tests and exams.
- Wisdom for school teachers.

ZAMBIA (CHILDREN’S WORK)

“Our church would like to **thank God for his sustaining grace over the years for the consistent growth in the children’s and youth ministry.** Children are attracted to attend even though their parents don’t come to church – but some parents have joined the congregation as a result.” *Dominic, BIGOCA church, a member of Samalani Children at Risk Network, Lusaka.*

Activity:

Invite the children’s and youth leaders to share with your church members how things are going. Produce bookmarks and ask different groups within the church to pray regularly for different parts of this ministry.

Pray for:

- Inspiration and sensitivity for children’s leaders.
- Your church to support this work in all ways.
- Children to be given opportunities to lead too.

ZIMBABWE (NATION)

Pastor Henry, who leads ROCO, a member of Viva Network Zimbabwe, praises God that “75% of children in Learning Support Centres will transition back to formal schools in 2018.” He adds, “I’m thankful that, despite the hard economic situation in Zimbabwe, many churches, organisations and individuals have **continued to provide and give hope to children at risk in our nation.**”

Activity:

Draw an outline of your country on large pieces of paper or mark it out in chalk outside. Stand in the middle and everyone pray together, out loud, for your nation’s current situation and the future.

Pray for:

- Stability for your nation.
- Wisdom for your country’s leaders.
- The Church to be carriers of hope.

Go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com for more resources.

Join our Facebook page at facebook.com/WWPrayer

Please pray for:

- **Children** around the world who live in poverty, in fear of abuse, without an education, in need of a loving family and have little hope – may they know God’s goodness today in spite of their situation. Pray that they would recognise God’s immeasurable love and compassion for them, and give them the strength and boldness to praise him first and foremost, no matter what.
- **Parents** to be positive role models for their children in leading God-inspired lives that radiate his joy, love and peace. Pray that they would spend time with their children, enjoying God’s Word together, and in praise and prayer.
- **Church leaders** to ensure that praise and worship – in song, word and action – is a priority for their ministry. May children be valued members of churches and empowered to be leaders and messengers of praise to God. Pray that churches would be known as places of good news amidst bad times.
- **Each of us** to be able to count our blessings each day in all circumstances. May we believe God’s promises for us, and trust him to guide us and lead us, and remain faithful to him.

Join us in prayer

Father God,

We praise you for all the good things you give us, and the many ways you bless us. Thank for sending your son Jesus to save us and free us from our mistakes.

Even in the midst of life’s hard situations, which can leave children and families hurt and sad, we thank you that you are always present, and that your compassion never fails.

Let us remember with a grateful heart all the ways you’ve answered our prayers in the past; we trust you will do so in the future for ourselves and for the generations to come.

Send your Spirit to impart love, joy and peace into the lives of vulnerable children, so that they may know you, follow you and praise you all the days of their lives.

In your precious name. Amen.

What could you do next?

CONTINUE TO PRAY Commit all these things to prayer throughout the year. Perhaps you could hold regular prayer events, every one, two, three or six months?

START A BLESSINGS DIARY Each day, list something you are thankful for in your life. Each month take a look back and praise God for his blessings.

TAKE ACTION Look for opportunities to be a positive influence in your church and community. For example, could you mentor and encourage children, helping them to grow in their faith and to praise God?

GIVE GENEROUSLY Reflect God’s goodness to you by making a gift towards work with children where you live, or to the work of an international charity for children at risk, such as Viva.

The World Weekend of Prayer campaign is a global initiative held over the first weekend of June every year, uniting hundreds of thousands of adults and children across more than 40 countries.

Viva inspires lasting change in children’s lives through the power of collective action in 38 community networks worldwide. Registered charity no 1053389

