

NLIF 2016

# International Day of Prayer

- Prayers from all nations for every nation -

*Though we are many, we are one body in Christ — 1 Corinthians 12:12*

## Praise & Adoration

Let us remember God's greatness and goodness to us, His people

*Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel — He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!*  
*Psalm 68: 35*

Let us praise God, for He is worthy to be praised

*Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the nations!* Psalm 113:1-4

Let us take comfort in the fact that God hears our prayers and is powerful to answer them

*The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*  
Philippians 4:6

## Theme 1: Leadership and governance

*“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You.” - 2 Chronicles 20: 6*

Myanmar: Wisdom for the new government and for God's agenda to be the biggest reform agenda.

Cambodia: For peaceful elections in 2018 and its people to accept the outcome of the elections.

Kenya: For peaceful elections in 2017 and its people to accept the outcome of the elections.

USA: Pray for the election and the new leaders who will be elected;

That Christians in the USA can be peacemakers and not be defensive, argumentative or fundamentally political in their worldview.

Nigeria: For its leaders to see their leadership as an opportunity to serve.

Malawi: Pray against corruption. More than \$1 billion has been stolen by politicians. Civil servants' corruption has become a way of life.

## Theme 2: Religious Persecution

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I  
be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to  
devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will  
stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my  
heart will not fear; though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.” - Psalm 27:1-3*

All those who are persecuted for their faith; particularly for all children who suffer persecution.

Pray that Christians can stand strong in persecution and continue to faithfully proclaim Christ’s word.

### Harassment and intimidation by governments or social groups includes:

- Physical assaults, arrests and detentions
- Desecration of holy sites
- Discrimination against religious groups in employment, education and housing
- Verbal assaults on members of one religious group by other groups or individuals

### Countries with Very High Social Hostilities Involving Religion

Pakistan	Yemen
India	Afghanistan
Iraq	Palestinian territories
Sri Lanka	Egypt
Bangladesh	Russia
Somalia	Saudi Arabia
Israel	Indonesia
Nigeria	

### Countries with Very High Government Restrictions on Religion

Egypt	Myanmar
Indonesia	Russia
Maldives	Vietnam
Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Afghanistan	Azerbaijan
Iran	Algeria
Uzbekistan	Belarus
Tunisia	*North Korea not included
Eritrea	due to lack of data, but
China	religious persecution well
Syria	noted

**(Lists based on data from 2010)**

Source: Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life, *Rising Tide of Restrictions on Religion*, September 2012

## Theme 3: War, Conflict, Peace and Security

*“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” - Isaiah 2:4*

**Syria:** For all who are grieving and afraid; For all who are struggling to find food and water daily because of the conflict; For leaders who can bring a means of peaceful resolution; For God’s mercy and intervention in the roles being played by regional and world powers in the conflict; For the challenge posed by the rise of the jihadist group Islamic State (IS).

**India:** For peace - there is tension and fear of conflict with Pakistan; For wisdom for leaders; For God’s will to be established

**Philippines:** For all who are affected by the ongoing extra-judicial killings; For God’s mercy to be at work in President Rodrigo Duterte’s administration; For God to speak to the anger in the hearts of those perpetrating the killings; For all families, households and communities suffering because of the drug trade; For fair and just ways to prevail in dealing with drug dealers and users.

**Myanmar:** For the ongoing conflicts across the country, particularly in Kachin and Shan state; for an end to armed conflict in Myanmar; for peace and justice.

There are many ongoing conflicts around the world. Some experts classify conflicts in the following way:

**High intensity:** frequent armed clashes (involving fatalities) between governments, government forces and insurgents, or among non-state armed groups.

**Medium intensity:** sporadic armed clashes between govts., govt. forces and insurgents, or among non-state armed groups.

**Low intensity:** occasional armed clashes between govts., govt. forces and insurgents, or among non-state armed groups.

<b>High Intensity Conflicts</b> (Data as of 2015)	
Afghanistan Iraq Libya Nigeria (Boko Haram)	Somalia South Sudan <b>Syria</b> Yemen (Houthis/AQAP/SMM)
<b>Medium Intensity Conflicts</b> (Data as of 2015)	
Central African Republic Central American Northern Triangle (security forces of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala in a standoff with transnational drug cartels) Colombia Democratic Republic of the Congo Egypt (Sinai) India (Naxalites) <b>India-Pakistan (Kashmir)</b> Israel-Palestine	Mexico (Cartels) <b>Myanmar</b> Pakistan (Balochistan) Pakistan (KPK and Northwest) Pakistan (Sectarian violence) Russia (North Caucasus) Southern Thailand Sudan (Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan) Mali (the Sahel) Turkey (PKK) Ukraine
Source: Armed Conflict Database, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)	

## Country context information

Syria: Between 2011-2016, protests turned into an ongoing civil war. More than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives. The conflict pits a Sunni majority population against the president's Shia Alawite sect who have been traditional political elites; Syria is of geopolitical importance, which has caused regional and world powers to intervene and complicate the situation. Through the instability caused by the conflict, the jihadist group Islamic State (IS) has arisen and seized territory in both Syria and Iraq, as well as instigating a number of high-profile terrorist attacks.

More than **4.5 million people** have fled Syria since the start of the conflict, most of them women and children: **6.5 million people** are **internally displaced** inside Syria; 70% of the population (22.85 million people) is without access to adequate drinking water; 1 in 3 people are unable to meet their basic food needs, more than 2 million children are out of school, and 4 out of 5 people live in poverty.

Philippines: President Rodrigo Duterte took office in June 2016. His administration has sparked controversy for condoning **extra-judicial killings** carried out by both citizens and the police **against suspected drug dealers and users**. As of September 2016, over 3,000 fatalities have been reported, including those killed in government operations, those killed by unknown persons (vigilantes), and police officers killed.

India: India and Pakistan both gained independence in 1947 but ambiguity about which country Kashmir should belong to became a source of long-running conflict. The first Indo-Pakistani war over the territory in 1947 left it partitioned between Pakistan and India, and the second war in 1965 failed to affect the status quo. Many of Kashmir's majority Muslim population oppose India's rule. India sees the issue as

an internal domestic matter, while Pakistan considers it to be an international dispute. Outbreaks of violence and regular skirmishes between security forces on both sides continue to occur and are influenced by the outlook and actions of national leaders in both countries.

## Theme 4: Refugees & Human Trafficking

*“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” - Leviticus 19:33-34*

*“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.” - Ephesians 2:19-20*

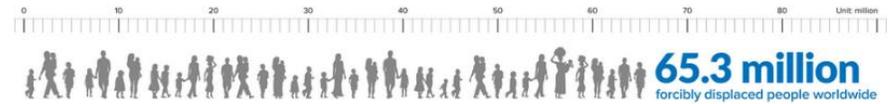
Pray for refugees and all Christians who are refugees.

Australia: Turning to God and God’s word as opposed to man’s wisdom; A growth in compassion for those in need; Repentance for our treatment of refugees.

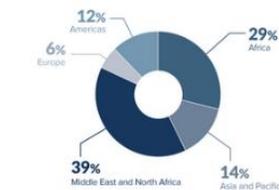
*“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners” - Isaiah 61:1*

Pray about the problem of human trafficking around the world, and the extra vulnerability of stateless persons and refugees to being trafficked.

Pray for the rescue of those who have been trafficked, and for the restoration of dignity for victims burdened by feelings of guilt and shame.



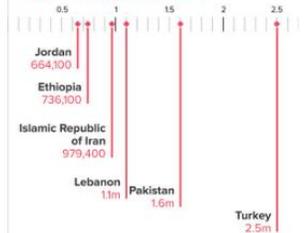
Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



54% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top hosting countries



- **65.3 million people** around the world who have been forced from home
- **21.3 million refugees**, over half of whom are under the age of 18
- **10 million stateless people** who have been denied a nationality, access to education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement
- **34,000 people** being forcibly displaced every day
- Remember Somalia, Afghanistan and Syria for the conditions that have caused so many to become refugees.
- Remember the countries bearing the burden of hosting refugees.
- Remember the regions of the world that are most affected by the effects of displaced people.

**“Human trafficking is enslavement: Exploitation of people, day after day. For years on end.”**

1. Many countries are still working to implement laws against trafficking.
2. Only a few countries have convicted traffickers of this crime.
3. Sexual exploitation is the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (79%), followed by forced labour (18%). Under-reported forms: forced or bonded labour; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade, and warfare.
4. A disproportionate number of women are involved in human trafficking, not only as victims but also as traffickers. Former victims can become perpetrators.
5. Most trafficking is national or regional, carried out by people whose nationality is the same as that of their victims. Europe is the destination for victims from the widest range of origins; victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations; the Americas are prominent as both the origin and destination of victims in the human trade.

Source: Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2009.

Myanmar: The national Police Force’s anti-human trafficking taskforce reports that most victims are women sold into forced marriage in China. The second-biggest group is sent to Thailand and Malaysia for forced labour. The third-biggest group is sold into the sex trade in China and Thailand.

## Theme 5: Christianity & Culture

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”- Matthew 5:14-16*

New Zealand: Give thanks for the beauty of the country and for multiculturalism; Turn the hearts of fathers and mothers back to their children; Pray that domestic violence and child abuse will cease; Pray that Christians in NZ break off the yoke of apathy, and that the word of the Lord would go forth and bear fruit; Pray against the advance of secularism in the policies and culture of the country.

USA: For peace in inner cities – that God would heal the violence; That the church in North America would grow in depth and breadth; That Christians would fulfill God’s purpose in their lives to reorient culture towards love, relationships, grace and truth, away from materialism and moral liberalism.

Malawi: For missionaries and church planters to go among the Yao and Sena peoples. For a change in societal attitudes in order to eliminate many current harmful cultural practices.

Japan: For the salvation of many. Encouragement for Christians that they may shine as light in the darkness and that multitudes will be brought into the kingdom.

Pray for those who are still suffering from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake: the combination of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant accident; and also for those suffering from the Kumamoto and Oita earthquakes this year.

Myanmar: Anointing for missionaries in Myanmar, for cross-cultural church planting, pastor training and the provision of human and financial resources, in order for the church in Myanmar to grow in a way that is pleasing to God.

Mozambique: For children in need.

## Country context information

Malawi: The Yao and Sena are minority ethnic groups in Malawi's Southern Region. The Yao are predominantly Muslim while still maintaining many pre-Islamic folk beliefs and practices. Many Sena are Christian, and there is also some Muslim influence, but traditional folk beliefs and practices are still maintained.

The impacts of various cultural practices in Malawi on the rights of girls and women are examined in this report: *Cultural Practices and their Impact on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, Particularly the Rights of Women and Children in Malawi*, Malawi Human Rights Commission, 2006.

Japan: The Christian population in Japan is very small; just about 0.4% of the whole population.

The Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded to have hit Japan. It generated enormous tsunami waves that climbed as high as 130 feet (40 meters) and destroyed coastal towns, villages and thousands of homes. Damage to the reactors at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant contaminated a wide area that still forces nearly 100,000 residents to live as evacuees in 2016.

The associated disasters cost nearly 16,000 lives and tens of billions of dollars.

Mozambique: Still suffering from the effects of a 16-year civil war that ended in 1992. The discovery of gas fields off

Mozambique's coast in 2011 was expected to transform the country's economy. Yet despite recent economic growth, more than half of Mozambique's 24 million people continue to live below the poverty line.

## Praise & Thanksgiving

Let us remember God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives

Let us give praise for things He has done and for His character

Let us rejoice that He has given us His Holy Spirit to be our helper

*"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;" - John 14:16*

*"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." - Romans 8:26*

Let us worship him for saving us and for being willing to use each one of us to accomplish His purpose in this life

Let us ask Him to speak to our hearts about how we can serve Him