

World Focus for November

Working for Peace

Peace and reconciliation are recurring themes in Scripture. These include peace between God and mankind and peace amongst human beings.

The word peace is used in a variety of ways. One is that peace occurs when overt armed conflict is brought to an end. Some conflicts have an honourable, negotiated resolution, others end with one party surrendering to the other, allowing the victor to impose whatever terms they choose. Some conflicts appear to grind to a halt as all parties get tired of fighting. Whatever the process, reconciliation and rebuilding need to occur; both are frequently long term undertakings.

Our world today has all too many conflict zones of various intensities. Some are on the news regularly, others occasionally and some rarely if ever. Let us remain faithful in praying for an end to each one. Let us also not neglect to pray for rebuilding and reconciliation initiatives. Such activities typically take persistent effort and require far longer than the typical attention span of most news media.

On a different level, we are all called to be people of peace, bringing harmony and reconciliation to whatever situations of strife between individuals or groups that we encounter.

The Balfour Declaration was signed on 2nd November 1917; so this month marks the 100th anniversary. The Declaration, signed by the then Foreign Secretary, declared the support of the British government for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. The Declaration remains controversial, including in some Christian circles: some celebrate it as the UK acting to fulfil God's purposes; others lament it as the worst piece of colonial meddling in British history. One group is hiring the Albert Hall for a celebration, another is planning a march on parliament. The Declaration is one act in the chain of events that created and maintain the continuing Israel-Palestine conflict. We pray for peace for Israelis and Palestinians; we pray for respect amongst Christians with differing views.

Intercessions on Sundays:

Please use a selection of the following.

Working for Peace - outward:

- For any situation of overt conflict
- For those directly affected by violent criminal actions; pray too for effective law enforcement to apprehend offenders and potential offenders; pray too for all Christians engaged in inter-communal issues that reduce tensions and the causes of criminal activities
- Remember that amidst conflict, God is often at work strengthening and enlarging His church

Working for Peace - inward:

- Pray for the disturbed, that they will encounter and embrace God's presence and peace

- Pray that Christians everywhere will model being people of peace and demonstrate the inner peace that being in Christ brings; pray that such examples lead many to explore the source of such peace

Specific Mission Partners:

- For Corrie Sissons' moved from South Sudan to Bangladesh in late October to contribute to her organisation's response to the Rohingya people displaced from Myanmar/Burma
- For Ian & Wendy's research and writing on Middle Eastern issues where overt violence is all too common
- For all in addressing fear and facilitating constructive outreach to non-Christians

Knowing Jesus Christ and sharing His hope:

- Pray that many find peace with God because of how each of us lives our daily lives
- Likewise, pray that all involved with each of our mission partners will make Jesus accessible to many by how they live their lives and do what they do