

World Focus for November Working for Peace

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. We have much to be thankful for; we are reminded of the value of 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.

Christian mission in many locations chooses to engage with the consequences of conflict. One area is support for forcibly displaced persons. Another is in trauma care and post trauma debriefing. A third is in peace building, working to re-establish a true sense of community amongst and between those affected by strife and conflict.

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. What are you aware of in your neighbourhood and the locations that your *daily labour* (paid or otherwise) takes you to?

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' continuing involvement in Oxfam's response to the Rohingya people displaced from Myanmar/Burma and for her work in a complex and fraught situation in the Middle East
- For Ian & Wendy's research and writing on Middle Eastern issues where overt violence is all too common yet where persistent, systemic discrimination on ethnic, gender and religious lines causes more pain and displacement
- For Mike Workman's work with migrant workers in Singapore and for Mike & Barbara as they move their base to London (Nb. Barbara is already living in London supporting their daughter Anna; Mike relocates in 2019)
- For Bible Society's "Bible based trauma healing care" which is available in multiple languages and has been used by 1.3 million people (see link below)

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

You are welcome to pray for any of the church's Mission Partners you know well.