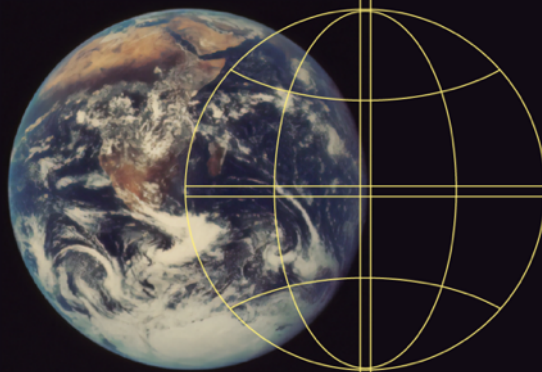


PRAY FOR
THE NATIONS
5-19 SEPTEMBER
2021



Pray for the Nations

The Anchor Family invites you to Pray for the Nations individually and in Gospel Communities, with a focus on the Afghanistan and Covid Crises and our partners—Compassion, Open Doors, and Scott and Ruth Buchanan.

Dates: Sunday 5–19 September 2021

How to use this Prayer Resource

This resource has been developed by Anchor’s Prayer Team to support you and your Gospel Community. It provides a window into the needs of our mission partners and current global issues.

The resource can be used both within the context of your GC and individually. Each section contains suggestions for prayer points and activities.

We encourage Gospel Communities to choose a prayer focus to engage with together during your weekly gatherings. Use the resource individually to build prayer for the nations into your daily routine.

Areas of Focus

Pray for Compassion	1
Pray for Open Doors	2
Pray for the Buchanans	3
Pray for COVID & Lockdown	4
Pray for Afghanistan	5
Pray for Haiti	6



Pray for Compassion

Anchor Church has an ongoing partnership with Compassion Australia with a focus on the Philippines. Compassion is a Christian international holistic child development organisation that focuses on releasing children from poverty in Jesus's name. Their model is Christ-centred, child-focused and church-based, but they assist children and their families living in poverty regardless of their beliefs, gender, or background. Through Anchor's partnership, we have released over 140 kids from poverty!



Prayer Points

- That God would be using Compassion as a way of not only ending poverty but bringing people into lifelong relationship with him
- For wisdom in distributing resources and providing support amidst the pandemic
- For provision, that people would be able to continue to sponsor children despite potential loss of income
- That God would heal the children, families, and staff who are ill with COVID-19

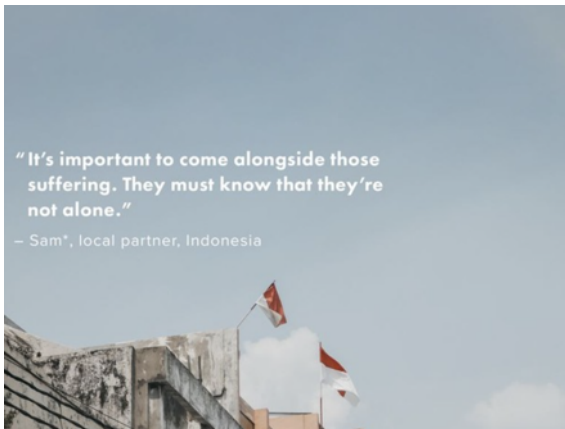
Prayer Activities

- If you already have a child, pray for him/her daily. Put their photo on the fridge as a reminder.
- If someone in your GC has a child, commit to upholding them in prayer for the month of September
- Spread the word! Invite family members, colleagues, and friends to sponsor a child.



Anchor Church also has a partnership with Open Doors Australia, an organisation that serves persecuted Christians around the world. Open Doors builds long-term relationships with local partners, in over 70 countries around the world, to help the local church transform their nation for Jesus. It works to strengthen and prepare Christians living in persecution, by providing and delivering Bibles, materials, and training and equipping them to maintain a witness to the Gospel of Christ.

In Australia, Open Doors seeks to mobilise the Australian church to identify with the global body of Christ and become more involved in assisting persecuted churches, with the belief that “when one member suffers, all members suffer with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26). The support from Christians and local churches in Australia enables believers living in some of the darkest places on Earth to be a light for Christ.



Prayer Points

- Remember God’s heart (Matthew 28:18–20)
- Declare his character (Psalm 10:17–18)
- Pray that the work of the church worldwide will be fruitful in growing disciple-makers in every nation and people group.
- Pray for people who are suffering due to conflicts, health issues, and economic hardship—that God’s people will bring light and hope into dark places.
- Pray we would have compassion and not be numb to the suffering of others and ask God to show us how we can help.

Prayer Activities

- Use the [Open Doors Daily Prayer Guide](#), which highlights key prayer points for each day, to commit to praying for Christians in other countries throughout the month of September.
- The [Open Doors Blog](#) reports the experiences of those facing persecution across the world. Select one or two posts to read together as a GC and take some time to reflect, discuss and pray.
- Listen to the song ‘For the One’ by Jenn Johnson and meditate on and worship through the lyrics
- Donate to their [Smuggle Bibles](#) campaign

Pray for the Buchanans

Having returned to Australia in April 2020 due to COVID, the Buchanans are continuing their Tagalog language studies five days a week. Scott is serving on the pastoral team at Maitland Baptist Church, while Ruth is helping coordinate the kids ministry. They love leading their Connect Group and are both discipling a young man and woman.

Upon their return to the Philippines their heart is to help indirectly church plant/church revitalise among marginalised people on the island of Mindoro. These people include the indigenous tribal people (some of which are still unreached with the gospel), incarcerated men and women, impoverished people, and those sex trafficked in the town. They hope to do this through discipleship of men and women, training of local indigenous pastors, and by serving the people in whatever way the Lord leads.



Prayer Points

- Praise God that while in Australia their marriage has been strengthened and they have enjoyed incredible family time and personal growth
- That God would save Brittany who Ruth has been journeying and reading the Bible with
- That the Lord would continue to sanctify them, and that the Lord would continue to grow Scott in ministry
- Please pray for supernatural understanding and ability to speak Tagalog
- That the Lord will make it clear of his timing for their return to the Philippines and that they would be granted an exemption to enter the Philippines and apply for a missionary visa status
- That the Lord would protect friends and mission partners in the Philippines in the midst of this pandemic

Prayer Activities

- As a GC write a letter/email to the Buchanans with encouragement and what you have prayed for them
- Meet up in a pair (if within the same LGA/5km radius) and do a prayer walk, praying for salvation of the people on the Island of Mindoro
- Meditate of Psalm 67 and pray this over the Philippines

Pray for COVID & Lockdown

The COVID-19 lockdown in NSW is affecting our entire community. It has been a long time of isolation from friends, family, and other loved ones. This developing situation is not only seeing more people being hospitalised but it is also impacting our lives in many different ways.

Prayer Points

That people would turn to God

- for healing, for wisdom, for grace, and for Salvation!
- Teach us what you are doing and how we can join you Lord

Leaders and Decision Makers

- Scott Morrison, Gladys Berejiklian, other Premiers
 - Health, strength, sleep, self-care, support and advisors
 - Home and family
 - Wisdom to make decisions
 - Hospital, Police force, ADF, and other frontline workers
 - Patience and wisdom in dealing with the public

Vaccination services

- Bless the process of getting vaccines
- Bless the development of vaccines to deal with new variants
- Vulnerable population needing protection from the virus
- Covid would cease

Creative solutions to current needs

- Relational innovations
- Business innovations
- Church innovations

Mental health

- Peace in homes, people pressing into peacemaking skills
- Mental health workers; strength, stamina and wisdom
- Marriages (pray against domestic violence)
- Parenting; grace and patience

Home-schooling, education

- patience for teachers, students and parents
- that children's education wouldn't be too disrupted

Globally

- Countries that don't have the ability to practice social distancing
- Countries whose health care systems are overburdened
- Countries who are in the middle of natural or political disasters

Prayer Activities

- Pick 3 prayer points and put them on your fridge to remember to pray for them when you're getting a snack
- Ask the Lord to bring to mind 3 essential workers you might keep in particular prayer
- Bless your leaders and tell God why you're grateful for them
- Meditate on Hebrews 13:17 and pray what comes to mind
- Read Romans 13:1-7 and pray what comes to mind
- Choose 3 people you think might be at a mental health risk, put their names on a post it on your bathroom mirror so you can pray while brushing your teeth



Pray for Afghanistan

Pray for the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis.

'The unfolding conflict in Afghanistan is forcing thousands from their homes and raises immediate and ongoing fears for vulnerable communities across the country.' TEAR Australia



Prayer Points

- God's church welcoming and reaching refugees in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Europe and elsewhere
- Pray for Afghan seekers to have dreams and visions to lead them to Jesus
- Pray for global Persian church in efforts to reach Afghans
- Pray for NGO work to be allowed to continue helping the country
- Pray for the word of God (digital or written) to go out to many
- Protection from hostile eyes
- Pashtun NT translation to be completed (almost there)
- Pray God would bring His miraculous peace and stability over Afghanistan through its leaders
- Pray for protection over Afghan believers and the strength to follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

Prayer Activities

- Read a scripture about a time God's people were persecuted, be reminded of God's goodness and praise him
- Research people/language groups in Afghanistan, pick one to pray for consistently
- Pick three items from the prayer list that really move you and put them on your fridge so you can remember to pray for them when you are reaching for a snack
- Write Afghanistan on a post it note and put it on your bathroom mirror so you can pray for the country while you are getting ready for the day
- Check in with your GC over the course of the week. You may wish to use your GC group chat as a forum to type up your prayers so others can agree with your prayers and so you can encourage one another to continue in corporate prayer.

Pray for Haiti

On Saturday 14 August, Haiti experienced a devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake which killed over 2,000 people. Haitian officials estimate there are 600,000 people in need of emergency assistance. The delivery of aid has been further hampered by heavy rains brought by Tropical Storm Grace in the following week. The earthquake compounds problems facing the impoverished nation, which is already reeling from a political crisis following the assassination of its president six weeks prior. Haitians fear this tragedy will further exacerbate medical shortages affecting the nation that also faces one of the worst outbreaks of COVID-19 in the western hemisphere.



Prayer Points

- Pray God would heal those injured and provide shelter to those displaced
- Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones and for those who are fearful for their future
- Pray for quick and safe transportation of humanitarian relief and equitable distribution of help to all the victims
- Pray for political breakthrough and stability and that citizens can live in safety and order
- Pray for protection and that covid would be controlled quickly
- Pray for powerful witness of Christian compassion during the crisis

Prayer Activities

- Commit to praying for Haiti daily over the next week
- Prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially contribute to relief efforts
- Pray a Psalm of blessing over Haiti; e.g. Psalm 67.



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