

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 9, MARCH 1 - 7


Creation care


The gospel is God's good news, through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for individual persons, *and* for society, *and* for creation. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God's people' (The Cape Town Commitment).


In the first chapter of Genesis God describes Creation six times as 'good' and once as 'very good'. Birds, fish, trees, rivers, mountains, sun, moon, stars and 'all creation' glorifies God. And Creation waits in 'eager expectation' for the children of God to be revealed because it will be 'liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God' (Romans 8:19, 21).

At the same time, environmental devastation is often associated in scripture with sin and judgement. Caring for creation is part of serving Christ and witnessing to his goodness and grace. At the same time, environmental degradation from lack of creation care affects the poor most profoundly. So creation care is also a justice issue for the poor and the unreached.



 Pray that we will learn how to borrow, rather than hollow out earth's resources for human development.

 Pray that we will learn to glorify God and anticipate the New Creation by caring for Creation.

 Pray for all those who are developing technologies and policies that lead to human thriving that is in harmony with a healthy Creation. God can provide, and the world needs, many creative solutions to face global warming, flood, drought, species loss, habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing, exhausted farmland and fossil-fuel dependency.

THE NATIONS


BANGLADESH



The mostly-Muslim South Asian nation of Bangladesh (165 million people) stands on the fertile plains between the Himalayas and the sea. Bangladesh has made impressive progress in tackling poverty, even while huge floods and cyclones, and volatile politics, work to set the country back.

Over 20,000 registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) try to meet the many social needs. Some solutions to poverty, such as small 'micro-credit' loans, often made to groups of poor women, were popularized in Bangladesh and exported to the world. NGO work has improved the lives of many.

Praise God for the growth in the number of followers of Jesus, both inside and outside the official churches! Traditionally, most Bangladeshi Christians have come from a Hindu background. Some growth has come from tribal groups. But over the last generation, tens of thousands of people from a Muslim background have started to call on Christ as Lord. Some of these movements keep many aspects of Muslim culture and could be called 'Jesus mosques'. The gospel has spread through family networks, and via visions and dreams.

 Pray for these movements to Christ to spread throughout the country and across ethnic lines, and to flourish and mature.

Praying for the World is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit www.lausanne.org/pray to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.