

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 14, APRIL 3-9

Global health challenges

With millions of deaths and hundreds of millions of recorded cases around the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has been the greatest global health challenge of the recent decades, leaving a trail of damage around the world: lockdowns, loss of schooling, debt, unemployment, uncertainty. Not all Covid deaths are recorded as Covid, but excess deaths over the 2020-2022 period – deaths higher than the long term average – may be reasonably guessed at 20m. In a normal year, 55m people die, so Covid and its consequences became briefly the leading cause of death on the planet. Covid restrictions meant that all the success reducing poverty from 2015 to 2020 was erased and 2020 was the first year this century the number of the very poor rose. The fall in global poverty has since resumed. Loneliness, fear, grief, money worries, idleness and overwork have led to a 25% increase in anxiety and depression, an increase concentrated on women and the young.



Beyond the pandemic, the battle against communicable diseases (respiratory infections, neonatal infections and diarrhoea) is slowly being won, but non-communicable, and in some cases lifestyle-dependent causes of death—heart disease, stroke, lung disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes—continue to grow.

Give thanks for the extraordinary effort to develop vaccines and treatments, drastically reducing Covid's threat to life

Pray for days of restoration and rebuilding. 'Comfort, comfort my people says your God' (Isaiah 40:1). Pray that the churches worldwide will be 'like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm' (Isaiah 32:2) and that the Kingdom will advance.

Pray the Church will make the most of new post-Covid opportunities. For example, Covid normalized video-conferencing for billions of people and has multiplied opportunities to learn and pray together.

Praise God for initiatives like the Global Fund for Malaria, TB and HIV. Deaths from malaria have dropped by 60% since the year 2000, and HIV is no longer one of the world's ten leading causes of death. To keep up this rate of improvement is a huge challenge. Pray for the continued fight against preventable diseases!

Pray for Christians working in health-care around the world - that many will be healed through their service, and that they will be a compelling witness to new life in Christ.

THE NATIONS



The central African state of Chad is a jigsaw of 150 different ethnic groups. Drought, civil conflict, distance from the sea and poor infrastructure make it one of the world's poorest countries. Subsistence farming is the main occupation. Chad's population of 15 million is growing fast; 47% of the population were under 15 in 2018. Chad also hosts 400,000 refugees from conflicts in Darfur and the Central African Republic.



Chad has an open door to Christian missions, even though it is a majority-Muslim nation.

- Pray for the Christian community (38% of the nation) as it grows in a soil of poverty and animism.
- Pray for the leaders of the nation as it struggles with insurgency, corruption and great need.
- Pray for Chad's women who can expect to give birth to five or six children if they survive their child-bearing years, and whose life expectancy is just 55.



This South American nation of 18 million people has made rapid strides in poverty-reduction and good government. As in the



rest of South America, many people have turned from a folk Catholicism to Pentecostalism. In Chile, however, an increasing number, currently around a quarter of the population, are choosing to give up on the Christian faith altogether.

- Pray for renewal of the Christian faith in Chile!

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.