

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 10, MARCH 4-10

Women and girls



In the image of God he created them, male and female he created them' (Gen 1:27). Yet women disproportionately suffer injustice.

- Women account for two thirds of the world's poorest citizens.
- Nearly two thirds of illiterate people are women. This proportion has stayed the same for two decades.
- Globally, women are paid less than men.
- A cultural preference for male babies has led to 30 million or more deaths of unborn or baby girls, mostly in India and China. This fuels the growth of trafficking of women as brides or sex slaves.

We Christians need to repent of our failings and model Christlike male/female relationships. Let us pray for:

Multiplied Godly Leaders – God looks on the heart... what do we look at in choosing leaders? Pray that multiplied women and men would be recognized,

equipped, and released into service based on their giftedness and godliness.

Humble, Christlike Models – Common, prideful examples of 'hierarchical machismo' and 'angry feminism' destroy the unity that God designed and desires. Pray that Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Atheist, and Tribal people groups would see amazing unity in the Body of Christ between men and women – causing them to turn to Jesus saying, 'We wish we had such strong, pure, and peaceful relationships! How is that possible?'


Empowering, Door - Opening Churches – The task remaining requires the whole Church! May churches follow the Holy Spirit's lead in sharing power as they provide generous opportunities for both men and women to serve others in: planting churches, casting vision, developing leadership, preaching the Word, evangelizing the lost, inspiring prayer and worship, ministering to the broken, and in making disciples.

THE NATIONS

BHUTAN

This Himalayan mountain kingdom of 800,000 people has a history of persecuting Christians (who currently number around 18,800, or 2%). Government and society are keen to keep Buddhism as the country's heritage. People turning to Christ face opposition, surveillance, and pressure to turn back. No churches are recognized, so all Christian worship is technically illegal.




 In these difficult days, pray that Bhutanese followers of Jesus will be 'shrewd as snakes, innocent as doves' (Matthew 10:16).

BELGIUM



Belgium, a Western European nation of 11 million people, is sharply divided between a Dutch-speaking north and a French-speaking south. It is also home to many immigrants, to the EU and NATO headquarters, and to many officials from these organizations.

Belgium's traditional Catholicism is fading fast; mainline Protestants are declining too. The non-religious population is growing; so is the small evangelical community - half of whom were born overseas.

 Pray for the truth, light, wisdom and peace of Christ to rule here!

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.