

WORLDVENTURE

31

DAYS OF PRAYER

THE GIFT OF THE
GOSPEL

2017
DECEMBER



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Savior! You are holding in your hands an invitation to change the realities of our world and to impact eternity through prayer. WorldVenture has compiled current prayer needs from some of our field colleagues living among and working with people who have yet to receive the Gift of the Gospel.

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to be on mission with him in our world.

As followers of Jesus, we enter in to the work of prayer for the advancement of the gospel among all peoples.

As followers of Jesus, we align our lives with what Jesus is all about: he is still seeking and saving the lost, and he is building his church.

Christmas provides a unique opportunity for the advancement of the Gospel as believers share the story and significance of the birth of Jesus. And don't forget, we all have the unique opportunity to share the good news with those around us this season.

May this prayer guide give you the tools needed to enter into this work of praying for those who are loved by God and in desperate need of knowing Jesus.

For the renown of Jesus among all people,



Jeff Denlinger, DMiss
President
WorldVenture



'TIS THE SEASON... FOR PRAYER!

Christmas has become a worldwide phenomenon... which means it has become a global opportunity. All over the world, people give gifts on Christmas. While Christians may lament the secular and commercial trappings that obscure the sacred reality, the now-ubiquitous celebrations of Christmas create open doors for the Gospel as believers everywhere have the opportunity to share the origin of the holiday: the birth of Jesus.

The story of Immanuel, God with us, is good news to every tribe and tongue. While beliefs around the world range from ancestor worship to atheism, pantheism and polytheism to strict monotheism, all have in common a penchant for creating fear in their followers. Darkness, hopelessness, restlessness and uncertainty about not being good enough or not doing enough good bring fear to hearts and minds of people worldwide.

But the message of the Gospel is different and the season of Christmas highlights this contrast. Instead of darkness, there is the light of life that shines for all people. Instead of a dead patriarch demanding sacrifices, the Living God gave Jesus to be the sacrifice once and for all. Rather than a cold, unloving deity demanding submission, Christmas tells of the Father loving the world and sending His Son, extending grace to all who would receive it by faith! Instead of fear, there is God's perfect love!

The Gift of the Gospel is the gift of knowing that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life! Jesus commanded His followers to give this gift freely, to preach the good news to one and all. This Christmas, will you join us in prayer that people all over the globe would receive this gift?

With over 500 missionaries in over 65 nations, WorldVenture is committed to giving the Gift of the Gospel to as many people as possible. As you use the prayer guide this Christmas season and to the end of the year, pray about how God might use you to give the Gift of the Gospel to others.

Perhaps you might adopt a WorldVenture missionary in prayer for 2018? Or make a meaningful, year-end financial contribution to the Gospel ministry of WorldVenture? Or learn more about using your gifts and talents with WorldVenture to reach people who have yet to hear the Good News?

Let your prayers move you to action this Christmas as you join in God's mission to save the world by giving the Gift of the Gospel!

WHERE WE ARE PRAYING

The numbered pins
on the map indicate
the corresponding
day's location.

WorldVenture is
engaging the world for gospel impact.
By praying with us, you are doing the same.
Thank you!







DAY 1

December 1—Friday

We start our 31-day prayer journey by thanking God for the many missionaries He has sent into the world, and asking the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers!

“...therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

—Matthew 9:38 (ESV)

DAY 2

December 2—Saturday

“We are hosting an Advent concert for children today in our new facility in Vienna. Approximately 8,000 apartments are being built here, near the main train station and so this children’s concert will be our first foray into reaching out to our new neighbors. Pray for what the Lord might have in store!”

*-Peter Persson, Austria
worldventure.com/persson2017*



DAY 3

December 3—Sunday

Pray for your church. Pray that your church family would be filled with an urgency to take the Gospel throughout the world and throughout your neighborhoods. Pray that the members of your church would begin to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to visit your church services this season.

Pray also for Christmas outreach happening in Indonesia:

“The response was great and many churches are fired-up... to use Christmas as a way to share the Gospel!”

*-Brian & Holly Underhill, Indonesia
worldventure.com/underhill2017*

DAY 4

December 4—Monday

Pray for the Evangelical Church of South Sudan and WorldVenture workers who are partnering with them to plant churches, reconcile inter-tribal violence, and promote peace.

"The needs are staggering since this region was an epicenter of the civil war. But God is working!"

*-George Renner, Africa
worldventure.com/prayforECSS*

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

—Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)



DAY 5

December 5—Tuesday

Pray for TRC Magazine, a quarterly online publication produced by WorldVenture's appointee to social media missions, Nikole Hahn. The newest edition of TRC Magazine will be out in December, featuring weekly Facebook Live gatherings focused on Advent. Pray that people would come to know the Gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, through social media.

Learn more about TRC Magazine!
worldventure.com/TRCmagazine



DAY 6

December 6—Wednesday

Pray for local outreach events and activities happening all over the world during the Christmas season. For example, Fred and Janet Young in Brussels, Belgium, are reaching out to their community by organizing a neighbors' night, hosting a youth basketball camp during the school break, and setting up a book table at local Christmas markets to share God's Word with others. Pray that their efforts, and the efforts of believers worldwide, will see more people receive the Gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, this Christmas!

Learn about Fred & Janet's work:
worldventure.com/young2017

DAY 7

December 7—Thursday

"Lord willing, we will have our annual English outreach at Christmas time. Because of the changing situation, we need prayer about security, wisdom on how much to say, and we are asking that the spirit would move in the lives of friends to receive the good news."

—International Worker in East Asia



DAY 8

December 8—Friday

Gifts may be bought and sold, but buying and selling people is wrong! Pray for Anti-Human Trafficking efforts happening all over the world, including a seminar being held this week in Cebu City, Philippines. Pray that churches will become more aware of the need, and that more people will get involved to fight this injustice.

worldventure.com/ralston2017



DAY 9

December 9—Saturday

Pray for the Christian minority groups in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Pray that our brothers and sisters would embrace their profound opportunity to build bridges of outreach to the their neighbours, and not become inward focused and stuck in traditions contrary to the Gospel.

Pray also for international workers, like Jonathan [above right], as they train and equip the next generation of leaders to disciple children in Myanmar.

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

—Mark 10:14 (ESV)

*Learn more about Jonathan’s work:
worldventure.com/stone2017*



DAY 10

December 10—Sunday

Pray for your church to experience greater unity this Christmas. Pray that churches all over the world will experience that same unity for which Jesus Himself prayed! And that the unreached would be drawn to the unity they see in us.

Pray for churches in Brazil to be one in spirit and purpose for Christ!

DAY 11

December 11—Monday

Pray for missionaries who are able to open their homes as places of ministry to neighbors who do not yet know Jesus. Pray especially for Russ and Ramona Simons, having recently moved into a condo in Davao City, Philippines. Pray that as they open their home, their neighbors will open their hearts!

You're invited to meet the Simons!
worldventure.com/simons2017



DAY 12

December 12—Tuesday

"Our Arab evangelical church in Amman, Jordan has a vibrant, holistic ministry to Iraqi refugee families who escape ISIS and settle in the neighborhoods around the church. They are a vital part of our worship community. During the Advent season, we have special services for women and children with Christmas music, speakers, refreshments and small gifts. Olive wood verses (lower left) are given to each refugee woman, many of whom are celebrating their Savior for the first time at Christmas. Pray that these ministries will be both encouraging and effective."

-International Worker in Jordan



DAY 13

December 13—Wednesday

Pray for Bible translation efforts happening all over the world. Pray especially for a very unique translation being made by WorldVenture missionaries in Japan. Over 300,000 Japanese people are deaf, and an effort to translate the Bible into Japanese sign-language is underway. Please pray for the resources to complete the task!

Learn more about this project:
worldventure.com/japan2017sign

"...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

—Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)



DAY 14

December 14—Thursday

"The elementary children at Faith Academy, Manila, Philippines will be sharing the Christmas story with parents and the community through music and testimony [tomorrow] on December 15 at Faith Academy. The Elementary Christmas program is always a highlight for the children to be involved in as they lead in worship and share the Christmas story as an outreach to the community."

—Karen Spain, The Philippines
worldventure.com/karenspain

DAY 15

December 15—Friday

"Christmas time is a good opportunity for us to share the Gospel with Muslim immigrants. We first invite families with children for a small feast of celebrating Jesus' birthday. We tell the story of the birth of Jesus and then we tell the families why Jesus came. After the message, we invite the families to talk to one of our missionaries present in the feast if they have any questions. After a snack, we give some gifts to the children. So please pray that God will use the message and the gifts to touch their hearts."

—WorldVenture Missionaries in Europe

DAY 16

December 16—Saturday

Please pray for various Christmas events that are taking place at the Friendship House in Madrid, Spain. One is a Christmas party for the 90+ kids who participate in the after-school ESL/homework-help program. These are kids from first through eighth grades. Other events include Christmas presentations in SSL (Spanish as Second Language) classes for adult men and women. Pray that in all these events, the light of Christ's love and life would stand out to those who participate.

worldventure.com/friendship2017

"...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

—Acts 2:11b (ESV)

DAY 17

December 17—Sunday

Pray for your church to be salt and light to your community. Pray also that churches around the world would be salt and light to their communities this Christmas! Pray especially for churches in India and Russia, that they would embrace the calling to be salt and light.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

—Matthew 5:16 (ESV)



DAY 18

December 18—Monday

Pray for a Christian medical facility in Pakistan that provides physical relief from suffering to thousands of Muslim people. This is also the only facility in the region that serves women. WorldVenture partners with this facility so that people will have the chance to experience the true healing that can only come from accepting the Gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ.

DAY 19

December 19—Tuesday

Please pray for Christmas outreach events happening all over the world. For example, *The Grace Place* in Chiayi, Taiwan will host their Christmas celebration, where members are encouraged to invite their non-Christian friends and family. This celebration, and events like it, are great opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus.

Learn more about Peter & Debbie Dodd's ministry in Taiwan:
worldventure.com/graceplace2017



DAY 20

December 20—Wednesday

Pray for “Treasure Hunt,” a pocket-manga (similar to a comic book) designed by WorldVenture workers to reach young people with the Gospel. Having already impacted more than 25,000 young people in Albania, “Treasure Hunt” is about to be published in Kosovo, Macedonia and France. Pray for funding, for distribution, and for transformation among young people who read “Treasure Hunt,” particularly among Muslim youth.

Learn more about the author of “Treasure Hunt,” Dr. Andy Meeko
worldventure.com/meeko2017





DAY 21

December 21—Thursday

Christmas can be a bittersweet time for missionaries away from home. Pray for them, especially those in their first year...

"This is our first Christmas abroad... it's unknown to us what invitations we'll entertain or who we'll be spending the holidays with... [Pray for chances] to share about the Truth of the promise of Christmas to those who have never heard... and for the hearts of our children."

DAY 22

December 22—Friday

Please pray for the Christmas activities at the Asian Friendship Center in London, UK. There are many opportunities throughout the Advent season to share about Jesus. The Center is full to overflowing with Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, enjoying fun, food, and a clear presentation of the Gospel. Pray that many will decide to follow Jesus this Christmas.

worldventure.com/afc2017



DAY 23

December 23—Saturday

"Tonight, we will host our traditional 'Parranda Navideña' ('Christmas Spree'). It's a Christmas carol party potluck where people sing Christmas songs until they're hoarse. It's a real hoot! We read the Christmas story and have time for thanksgiving and testimonies. Then we sing and sing until late... or until the neighbors complain. This is an event where family, friends and neighbors join us, many of whom wouldn't feel comfortable visiting our church just yet. Please pray that God would use this time to reach those who will be joining us."

—David Berkey, Venezuela
worldventure.com/berkey2017



DAY 24

December 24—Christmas Eve

Pray for your church's Christmas Eve service, and for Christmas Eve services happening all over the world. This day is often one of the very few times that many will attend a church service. Pray that hearts will be open to the story of Jesus' birth and to the message of the Gospel. Pray that many will receive this good news today! Pray also for a special blessing on churches in Cote d'Ivoire and Turkey, that they would boldly proclaim the Gospel.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'"

—Luke 2:11 (ESV)

DAY 25

December 25—Christmas Day

Pray that all the gift-giving and receiving this Christmas would point to the greatest gift of all, the Gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ! Pray also for believers in the Middle East as they share the good news.

"Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

—Matthew 2:11b (ESV)



DAY 26

December 26—Tuesday

Pray for all of our WorldVenture missionaries as they prepare for a new year of ministry giving the Gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, to unreached peoples everywhere!

"...We are most like the wise men. We are uncertain at times what lies ahead or what we will find. The road is rough and unknown. The tasks at hand can become paralyzing. Yet we are compelled to seek and to follow God, wherever that may lead us..."

—Lisa Atkins
Cochabamba, Bolivia
worldventure.com/atkins2017



DAY 27

December 27—Wednesday

"We are developing a way for Christians in Japan to micro-publish their testimonies for outreach to friends and family. The tool is called "My Miracle Booklets." They are beautifully designed and completely personal. Pray for completion of the website, startup funding, advertising and that thousands of Japanese will begin sharing what Jesus has done in their lives."

—Andy & Junko Meeko, Japan
worldventure.com/meeko2017

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

—1 Peter 3:15b (NIV)



DAY 28

December 28—Thursday

Pray for WorldVenture partners and supporting churches living in the Southeastern USA. 2017 was a challenging year for hurricanes, flooding, and other disasters. Pray for their full restoration, for a peaceful New Year, but most of all, pray that they will boldly proclaim the Good News that Jesus offers salvation from the worst disaster of all: sin and separation from God.

DAY 29

December 29—Friday

Pray for Christian students in Upper Guinea, and all over the world, to honor God with their bodies and bring transformation to their campuses in 2018 when they return from break.

“Over the Christmas break, University Christian groups hold trainings. One topic this year in Upper Guinea is how to avoid sexual sin. So few students make it through high school, let alone university, as virgins. University women are preyed upon, solicited for sex, and even coerced. Some find the economic realities of life hard to bear and sell their bodies.”

—Glenn Kendall
Upper Guinea, Africa
worldventure.com/kendall2017

DAY 30

December 30—Saturday

Pray for Hope Alive! a WorldVenture-founded relief and development project in Uganda focused on orphans and fragile families. Each year, Hope Alive! holds a Leadership Summit for the student leaders from its three sites. These days together are deeply significant for the students, giving them intense times of Bible teaching, worship, interaction with adult leaders, leadership training break-out sessions, opportunities to interact with peers from other parts of Uganda... and lots of good fun. Please pray for transformation for students during our Summit in January 2018.

Learn more at hopealiveafrica.org

DAY 31

December 31—New Year's Eve

Last, but not least, would you pray for WorldVenture as we enter our 75th year of worldwide Gospel ministry? Pray for new partners to join us on our mission to engage the world for gospel impact. Pray that WorldVenture would have the resources we need to share the love of Jesus with the unreached. And pray that we all would be resolute in our commitment to the Great Commission.

Thank you for praying with us this month! May God richly bless you in 2018 with a closer walk with Him and a deeper commitment to His mission to save the world!

—Your WorldVenture Family
worldventure.com

NOTES



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/worldventure

WORLDVENTURE

A photograph of three camels in a grassy field. One camel is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Two other camels are behind it, one looking to the left and one looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a rocky area.

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on the generosity of
faithful partners like
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WorldVenture
20 Inverness Pl E
Centennial, CO 80112
info@worldventure.com
720.283.2000