Pray with us

Introduction
Welcome to the January prayer sheet. This is a temporary resource replacing the prayer diary until April 2021. Do print or forward to anyone you think would be glad to receive it so as to aid them in their prayers.

This January, we highlight prayer requests from our country programme in Colombia, and reflect on the achievements of the programme in Angola which came to an end in 2020.

There are also points for prayer on upcoming UN International Days that were once a feature of the monthly prayer e-mail.

You can sign up for the prayer e-mail using the link available on the prayer diary page: caid.org.uk/prayerdiary

Thank you for joining with us in prayer.

Reflection on prayer
‘When we pray on another’s behalf, we become connected to that person through God. And we become connected to God through that person because maybe these silken threads of prayer which connect us to God and to one another and even to our enemies are how God is stitching our broken humanity back together.’

From Makers’ Youtube video, ‘God Doesn’t Have A Vending Machine | Have A Little Faith with Nadia Bolz-Weber’.

Praise and petition
Give thanks for new beginnings. This month marks the start of a new year but is also a time when many churches reflect on the baptism of Jesus and members of congregations renew their baptismal vows and commitments to God. Pray for 2021 to bring a sense of new life and hope, and that through our actions this year we will learn more of God’s heart for the world and its people.

Give thanks for the Christian Aid country programme in Angola which concluded at the end of 2020 after 37 years. Christian Aid initially responded to the suffering caused by years of conflict, and later worked on strengthening civil society and building peace. Pray that the young people who have been equipped as catalysts for change will influence their families, communities and the wider country as a living legacy of the programme.

Give thanks for the many volunteers of Christian Aid who give their time to be part of this movement for change. Pray for all the volunteer speakers who give talks about Christian Aid’s work and for their training on 13 January.

Faustino Epalanca’s family spent years living on the streets until the local government built this neighbourhood for families like his. Christian Aid’s local partner Omunga in Angola campaigned for years to see this happen, training people to lobby for their homes.
Prayer requests from Colombia
Christian Aid has been working with partners in Colombia to tackle violence and build peace for more than 20 years. Christian Aid’s local partners are among the most important organisations in the social movement. They have a permanent presence in key regions and strong links with local communities.

Our Christian Aid Colombia programme aims to build communities’ resilience by helping them claim their rights, particularly their right to land and territory.

We also help communities and our partner organisations to hold the state to account, to make it more responsive to civil society, and to actively protect human rights defenders, including local leaders.

Pray for the people working to achieve peace in Colombia that are being threatened and killed because of their conviction and work.

Pray for the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the country that are facing forced displacement and violence in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Pray for the victims of the armed conflict that are seeking justice and truth, and for our partners that represent them.

Prayer requests provided by Alejandra Albizu (Programme Officer, Christian Aid Colombia).

A prayer for a new year
At the dawn of a new year, we come to welcome hope for a new world.

Let the darkness lift, to welcome a dawn of plenty, with enough for everyone and people ready to share.

Let the day begin, with new energy for the struggle to protect our children and to care for the vulnerable.

Let the light shine, to open a path to safety for all who are seeking home and longing for life.

Let the sun rise, on new talks and new resolve to end the bombing and the terror and to find solutions that will last.

At the dawn of a new year, we come to declare our hope and to welcome a new world.

Words by Rev ’d Dr Susan Durber.

International days in January
4 January: Pray for all those living with visual impairments and give thanks for all the innovations in inclusivity on World Braille Day.

18 January: Pray for all those continuing the struggle for Civil Rights around the world on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

24 January: Pray for all those who struggle to access adequate schooling and give thanks that for the opportunities that learning can bring to so many people on International Day of Education.

27 January: Pray for all those who still suffer from the effects of the Holocaust which echo down the generations on International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18-25 January is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme is ‘Abiding in Christ’ and materials have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland with Christian Aid providing the ‘Go and Do’ action points for each of the daily reflections. You can download resources from the CTBI website: ctbi.org.uk

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