

# Operation World - Church Engagement Pilot Project

## Getting Started

*We want your church to have the freedom and flexibility to implement the **CORE COMPONENTS** in ways that most encourage and bless your fellowship. We welcome you to try approaches and ideas that will make sense for your culture, and context, and will engage the people in their own journey of prayer.*

*Some of you may already have ideas springing to mind!*

*Others may be helped by questions to guide your planning process, or by taking a few tips from our **RESOURCE IDEAS**. These questions and activities will help get you started thinking of possibilities.*

### WEAVE IN PRAYER

#### **EXERCISE 1: When does your church family already gathers together?**

*EXAMPLES: "Sunday service at 10.30am" or "Friday night youth meeting at 7pm", "Wednesday night prayer group", etc. Don't forget things like men's breakfasts, seniors' outings, or home groups. Also staff meetings, elders or church leadership meetings, and so on...*

**ASK** – How can we incorporate prayer for the country of the day, into these times?

#### **EXERCISE 2: What are the different groups in your church?**

*EXAMPLES: "young people" or "university students" or "maintenance team" or "deacons", etc. Some will overlap with the list above, but others will be very different. Don't forget those who are homebound (who often have a lot of time for prayer!), or those who work in the crèche/nursery.*

**ASK** – How can we make sure that people in each of these groups has opportunity to hear about and pray for different countries?

#### **EXERCISE 3: How do we communicate information (either among ourselves, or from the leaders to the rest of the congregation)?**

*EXAMPLES: "Sunday service bulletin" or "Facebook page". Also "announcements from the pulpit at the Sunday service", or "pre-service projection of announcements/info, etc. Don't forget things like Whatsapp groups or email chains, or pastor's blogs!*

*It's going to be important to look through your answers in Exercise 1 and 2 to make sure all different groups in the church are being considered. Some may read, others may not. Some might be switched on to social media and technology, others quite the opposite! Some may always be in Sunday morning services, others may not.*

**ASK** – How can we leverage these channels of communication to mobilise awareness and prayer?

#### **EXERCISE 4: Where are the spaces and places the church gathers?**

*EXAMPLES: “the main auditorium” or “the church hall”, “the lobby”, “the parking lot”, “the gym”, etc. Don't forget places youth might gather, and places staff gather and spend time together. Remember people may be gathering virtually as well.*

**ASK** – What can we make visible for people to see, related to this project?

### **HOST AN EVENT**

*The following questions might help you make plans for your prayer event. There is no pressure for it to be large or formal – simple works, too!*

#### **ASK**

Will we make prayer for the nations the main focus of an event we already hold, or will we add a separate, special event?

Would we want to do it in conjunction with a special date in our church calendar? (Easter, Pentecost, national holiday, church anniversary, missions weekend, etc.)

Will this be an event for our church family only, or will we invite other churches to join us? Perhaps yours is a multi-congregational church, and all groups that meet in your building could come together for such a prayer event?

Will it be a one-day or one-evening event, or something that stretches across a period of time? (A week of prayer for the nations, a focused prayer room that runs across a long weekend, and so on.)

### **COVER THE WORLD**

In taking up the challenge to pray through the whole world in a year, you might want a creative way for your church family to 'mark' progress!

Is there someplace you might put a map, or a list, or any number of creative displays, where different members or groups can mark countries they've prayed for as they go? Or where the church can mark countries prayed for each week?