

Operation World - Church Engagement Pilot Project

Ideas and Resources

Let's enjoy the privilege of praying for God's world – together! Churches differ widely, and are set in very different contexts, so the Operation World team is eager for you to find ideas that work for YOUR church. Please do not feel obliged to use what doesn't fit for you. The suggestions below are not requirements – we simply hope that some of the ideas will help you. And please share your own ideas – we want to learn from one another as well!

“We do not merely pray about the many points featured, we pray towards something, and that something is magnificent – the fulfilment of the Father's purposes and His Kingdom come.” (Operation World, page xxiii)

*“...a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”
(Revelation 7:9)*

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Highlight the country for prayer in the pre-service notices onscreen (if you use one).
- Pray for a different country in every Sunday service. This will see 52 countries prayed for during the year
 - present the information for the country for that day from the front
 - keep it brief (only the most basic introduction and 1 or 2 prayer points)
 - express it simply, so that everyone can understand what to pray for
 - explain that more information is available - from the app, the book, etc - for those interested
 - Supplement with a verse of Scripture or a short inspirational quote
- Use different styles of prayer different weeks
 - people turn into small groups to pray
 - everyone prays aloud simultaneously (including music, if necessary)
 - individual silent prayer
 - showing the relevant Prayercast video
 - a worship song, with relevant words

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lead all the children in praying through the world, in ways appropriate to their age:

- simple bits of information
- stories they can understand
- interactive and visual focus
- teach kids how to pray AS kids
- what do kids care about when they learn about kids from other countries?

CHURCH PRAYER MEETING

At the regular church prayer meeting, include a time of prayer for the world or the country of the day. Establish this as the normal pattern.

WORLD PRAYER ROOM

Set aside a dedicated space in your church focused on praying for the world:

- the prayer space could be for a week, a month, a year or become a permanent feature!
- Be creative! Encourage prayer with bright, engaging, interactive information
- See the 24/7 Prayer website for other great ideas about prayer rooms and spaces

SPECIAL EVENTS OF PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

- **Worship and intercession** – an evening where the two are woven together
- **All Night or Half Night prayer** – incorporate various ways of prayer to keep things fresh and vibrant (how to get through several countries in one night – or the whole world!)
- **Week of prayer** – set aside a week that focuses on prayer for the nations in various ways
- **24-7 prayer room** – a week of unbroken, 24-7 prayer focused on the world
- **Away-day** – Arrange a church day out focused on praying for the world
- **Weekend of prayer** – go from Friday to Sunday with various events and ways of stimulating prayer for the nations
- **International Food Night** – dishes from different parts of the world, and opportunities to pray for those places

HOMEGROUP CYCLE OF PRAYER

- Each week, a different home group commits to praying every day using the Operation World app
- Country prayer focus for that week can include the OW calendar as well as any natural connections for prayer to other countries

PRAYER WALK

Walk around the area, on your own or with friends. See what reminds you of other countries (people, restaurants, shops, adverts) and pray for these places, preferably as you walk, or when you're back home. Pray for the people wherever you walk.

FAMILIES

Families can pray through the world together at home:

- at or after a meal time
- at the start of a day
- before bed

NATIONALITIES

Does your church have people from other countries? Ask them to share/lead in prayer!

INDIVIDUALS

Help individuals find ways to make prayer for the world a part of their daily prayer life:

- on their own or with others
- joining a 'prayer triplet' (3 people committed to meet regularly for prayer)
- creating a 'prayer chain' with people from church (one person starts the prayer, then calls the next to take over, and so on)
- creating a Whatsapp group (or other chat/social media platform) to link with others, in general or each one focused on regions, countries, themes, etc.

MARKING YOUR PROGRESS

Find ways of showing the progress that the church is making towards praying for every country during the year. This can encourage everyone, as they see what they are achieving collectively. It can also help focus attention on the countries not yet prayed for.

- Display a world map, and when a country is prayed for (during a church service, or in a homegroup, or by a family), put a small sticker on that country.
- Display a 'scratch map', and scratch off the country when it is prayed for
- Make a list of countries prayer for and countries remaining
- Get or print flags for every country and moved them from 'needing prayer' to 'prayed for' spaces

STORIES

Give opportunities for people to share their own stories of how praying for different countries has impacted them, or testimony of their experience with God during these prayer times.

- Shared as a testimony during a service or event
- written in the notice-sheet
- on screen before services – words, or short video

Share inspiring stories of what's happening in global mission to encourage the church to keep going.

TEACHING

Dedicate pulpit time to teaching about prayer and intercession

- The theology of prayer
- The priority of prayer in the life of the Christian
- How to pray for the world, and Jesus' own prayers
- The place of prayer in mission and ministry, including spiritual warfare and fasting

RESOURCES AND LINKS

Operation World app

Free on both Android and iOS devices

<http://www.operationworld.org/prayer-app/>

Operation World website

Use the website to access OW resources and information.

Link to published resources via the OW website as well!

<http://www.operationworld.org/>

<https://www.ivpress.com/operation-world-resources>

Operation World/Lausanne church bulletin project (forthcoming)

A weekly bulletin insert to cast wide the vision of praying for the nations. A co-production by OW and the Lausanne Movement.

- highlights an Operation World country for prayer from that week's prayer calendar
- highlights other strategic and/or current regions or issues or news for prayer
- brings to focus spiritual and theological snippets on prayer, mission, evangelism, etc.

Prayercast videos

<http://prayercast.com/>

These are short prayer videos, available for most countries in the world and several thematic issues. Free to stream or download and show.

24/7prayer resources

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/helpmychurchpray>

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/prayfortheworld>

Prayer guides (there are countless guides out there!)

Seek God for the City - <https://waymakers.org/pray/seek-god/>

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World - <http://www.30daysprayer.com/>

15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World - <https://pray15days.org/>

Other resources

International Prayer Connect – an umbrella network of prayer networks - <http://www.ipcprayer.org>

PrayerMate – customizable app with a range of prayer resources to choose from -

<https://www.prayermate.net/>

Children's Resources

Window on the World – an updated edition due out July 2018!

40 Days 40 Bites is an excellent resource (and its sequel: 40 Days 40 More Bites)

International Prayer Connect has a lot of links to children's prayer resources and training

<http://www.ipcprayer.org/children-in-prayer.html>