



GLOBAL DIASPORA NETWORK

Prayer requests for 16 Peoples in Diaspora

1. The conflict in Syria has produced over 3 million externally displaced refugees. These **Syrians** have fled, usually with very few possessions, mostly to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Because these countries are overwhelmed by the sheer number of refugees, the United Nations has been looking to resettle Syrian refugees in other countries, which are typically places such as the United States, Canada, and Australia.

While we grieve over the violence which has forced many people from their homes and long for peace to come, we praise God for being able to work all things for the good of those called according to His purpose. Pray that the God of all comfort will make His presence known to the scattered Syrians through His people, His Word and through dreams and visions. Pray that Syrians will find safety temporarily in new countries and eternally through the Lord Jesus. Pray for our Syrian brothers and sisters to be protected and healed physically, spiritually and emotionally.

2. Pray for Mali to have long-lasting peace and stability. Pray that as the over 1 million **Maliens** living in diaspora observe what is happening in their home country, they will discover the God of all comfort, the Prince of Peace, is not far from them. Ask Jesus, who was a refugee as a young boy, to reveal Himself to the nearly 150,000 Malian refugees currently in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. Pray for Christ-followers serving the Malians in Paris and New York City to see much fruit.

3. According to Operation World, the **Rohingya** are “one of the most neglected and unwanted peoples on earth.” The United Nations has called them “one of the world’s most persecuted minorities.” Almost completely Muslim and speaking a language related to one spoken in Bangladesh, the Rohingya have been denied citizenship in their homeland of Burma (Myanmar). After the Burmese army’s began various tactics to drive out unwelcome “foreigners,” many Rohingya fled to Bangladesh and Thailand over twenty years ago, only to face malnutrition, violence, slavery and even incidents of being forcibly put out to sea.

According to Scripture, the Lord Jesus ransomed with His blood “people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:8) – including Rohingya. Pray that this neglected, “unwanted” and country-less people will know that God demonstrated His great love for them through Jesus’s death on the cross. Ask God to reveal Himself to many Rohingya through dreams and visions as One who sees and hears them and as One who identifies with their sufferings. Ask God to use the Church to deliver the Rohingya from the spiritual, physical, social and political oppression they face and to bring them the hope of “a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Hebrews 11:16).

4. Last year, the treatment of 1.2 million **migrant workers in Qatar** drew attention due to the deaths of 44 Nepalis in nine weeks over the summer (with a total of over 150 Nepali deaths in 2014). The preparations to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022 have created many construction projects which are using a labor force of

migrant workers. Most of these workers are from India and Nepal. The conditions in which these migrants live and work have been deemed by some critics as modern day slavery.

Please pray that the migrant workers in Qatar would be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as people made in God's image. Pray that they will know the Lord's protection and come to worship Him as their ever-present refuge. May the Lord Jesus visit these workers in dreams and visions to offer hope and relief. Ask God to move in the hearts of Qatari employers and government officials to pursue better living and working conditions for these laborers. Pray that God will also bring comfort to migrant workers in other countries facing harsh treatment whose stories are not yet known.

5. Centuries ago, the **Romani (also known as Roma)** began slowly migrating from northern India across the Middle East and North Africa, reaching Europe by the 1300s and spreading from there to the Americas. The Romani are now the biggest ethnic minority in the European Union; they frequently face discrimination for jobs, education and health services and have been stereotyped as thieves and kidnappers.

Praise God that there are at least a few evangelical Christ-followers among almost all of the Romani groups around the world. We praise God in particular for the Filadelfia movement among the Spanish Romani, which according to Operation World is the largest evangelical body in Spain. Pray for the good news of Jesus to spread through the Romani communities and thus throughout many countries. Pray for churches throughout Europe in particular to demonstrate this good news by extending compassion and grace to the Romani around them. Pray that Christ-followers will lead their countries to end discriminatory practices against the Romani and to reject the outright hatred of this group loved by God.

6. In 2013 Typhoon Haiyan / Yolanda hit the Philippines and left thousands of people dead, tens of thousands more wounded and millions without homes. People from all over the world have provided assistance. Remittances have increased from the ten million or so **Filipino** workers abroad, joined by donations from the larger non-migrant Filipino community. Dozens of countries as well as international organizations are contributing to relief efforts.

Please continue to pray that those affected by the typhoon would have their physical, emotional and spiritual needs met, by God's grace. May God be glorified even in the midst of national pain and hurts. Pray that many of the internationals with NGOs will hear the good news of Jesus from local believers. Ask God to bring comfort to Filipinos working abroad whose families and friends have been affected. Pray that the scattered Filipino Church will seize more opportunities to share their faith and hope with co-workers, bosses and neighbors. Let these brothers and sisters be like Nehemiah, who prayed fervently for his homeland and whose favor with the king facilitated the restoration of his beloved city for the glory of God among the nations.

7. Praise God for the cooperation among the almost 30 nations with citizens in **Antarctica**. Pray that the 37,000 tourists and the two to five thousand scientists and crew members will know the physical and spiritual protection of the Lord. Ask the Lord to provide lay leaders among the scientists and crew members to make disciples of many nations. Pray that the seven church buildings in Antarctica would be known as houses of prayer to the Triune God.

8. The **Tuareg** form a cluster of unreached people groups totaling nearly 3 million people primarily in Saharan Africa with a significant minority in France. The Tuareg are traditionally nomadic and many continue to cross the boundaries between Niger, Mali, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Almost all Tuareg are nominally identified as Muslim; in practice, most are more concerned with protection against evil spirits than in observing the Five Pillars of Islam.

As the Lord blessed and made Himself known to Jacob, a wandering Aramean, may the Lord reveal Himself to the Tuareg nomads. Ask God to send dreams and visions to key leaders and people of peace within each Tuareg community so that they may learn of the Name that is above all other names. Pray that followers of Jesus in the countries where Tuareg travel will make the most of every opportunity to share Christ with them. Pray that the Lord will send forth laborers to live and move among the Tuareg.

9. There are about 150,000 **Tibetans** living in diaspora, mostly in India, a significant number in Nepal and the US, and smaller numbers scattered elsewhere. Most notable among them is the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists and the former political leader of the Tibetan government in exile.

Pray for Tibetans to find their identities as God's beloved children and seek His kingdom and righteousness above all else. Ask the Lord to send Light into the hearts of Tibetans, including the Dalai Lama, so that they may experience truth and reconciliation in place of deceit and bitterness. Pray that recently completed Bible-based resources in Tibetan languages will be available worldwide and that God's Word will accomplish His purposes. Pray that Christ-followers will welcome Tibetans living in diaspora with the sacrificial love.

10. On April 14, 2014, hundreds of **young women taking a physics exam in northeast Nigeria** were abducted. Although dozens escaped their captors, reports are that the other 250 or so have been sold into marriages to Boko Haram militants hiding along or just beyond the border. The northeast region of Nigeria has now been in a state of emergency for over a year due to Boko Haram's violent insurgency. The UN estimates 57,000 Nigerians have fled to Niger, Cameroon and Chad in the past year.

Ask our Heavenly Father to stretch His hand to bring these young women healing and return them to their families. Pray that by God's grace the militants would resist the enemy's schemes and embrace Christ. Ask God to strengthen Nigerian followers of Christ so that they may persevere in their faith, extend grace and forgiveness, and pursue peace. Pray that God will reveal Himself to many Nigerian refugees and their new neighbors through dreams and visions.

11. The link between Japan and Brazil is strong enough that each country is the other's second most popular destination for migration. After the first immigrants arrived as coffee plantation workers over a century ago, Brazil now has the largest Japanese population outside of Japan. The 1.5 million or so **Japanese Brazilians** are increasingly assimilating into mainstream Brazilian culture, with greater numbers intermarrying, speaking Portuguese at home, and joining the Catholic church. A couple decades ago, many Brazilians, mostly of Japanese descent, moved to Japan due to its favorable economic conditions and immigration policy.

Praise God for His plans in connecting Japan and Brazil; may the movement of people facilitate the spread of the knowledge of Christ in these two countries. Pray that many in these two diaspora groups will discover and grow in their identities in Christ. Pray that God will send forth people to address the spiritual poverty in these communities. Ask the Spirit to give unity to Japanese and Brazilian Christ-followers who sometimes worship in the same building but do not interact.

12. The first **Ebola** cases of this most recent outbreak were reported in February 2014 in southern Guinea. From there, it soon spread to neighboring Liberia and Sierra Leone, perhaps as traditional burial practices facilitate the spread of the disease. Air travel and exposure during medical relief work led to isolated cases appearing in other countries, including Nigeria, Spain and the United States. But the outbreak continues to ravage Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2015.

May the Great Physician, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, bring physical and spiritual healing to those suffering from Ebola. Pray for our heavenly Father to heal broken hearts. Pray that medical workers will find both temporary and eternal protection through the Lord Jesus. Pray against the enemy's plans to hijack the movement of peoples with this outbreak. Pray that those struggling with fear and turning to spirits will instead experience the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit. Ask for wisdom for government leaders as they look to rebuild their nations.

13. According to UNESCO, over 4 million **students** were enrolled in a higher education degree program outside their country of residence. China, India and Korea are the top three sending countries while the US, UK and France are the top three receiving countries but the most mobile students are in Central Asia and sub-saharan Africa. In some cases, students go abroad due to a lack of opportunities in their home countries. The Saudi Arabian government, meanwhile, has been encouraging tens of thousands of its students to go abroad to act almost as ambassadors to create more goodwill and understanding about their homeland.

Please pray that internationally mobile students will know the comforting presence of the Heavenly Father as they are separated from their families. Pray for these students to do well in their studies and to gain the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of all wisdom. Ask God to bless these students as He did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah; may He give them learning and skill, wisdom and understanding so that they may become godly leaders of influence. Pray that the Church will demonstrate the sacrificial hospitality of Christ toward and regularly lift up in prayer internationally mobile students.

14. **Mexicans** make up one of the largest groups of people in diaspora. In addition to the 12 million in the United States, there are also significant populations across Latin America, in the Middle East and even in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Praise God for the millions of Mexicans in the US who have developed personal relationships with the Lord Jesus. Some Mexicans living abroad are doing the work of drug cartels; ask God to stop evil plans and to change hearts in miraculous ways. Pray for the strengthening of families who are separated due to migration. Pray for more Mexicans in diaspora to be more active in reaching out to other Mexicans and cross-culturally in the places they live.

15. Ninety percent of world trade is carried out in part by about 1.2 million **seafarers** from almost every nationality. Besides the inherent risks of their jobs, these men and women also face a higher risk of being exploited, such as by being unpaid or underpaid or even by being abandoned at a foreign port. Depression seems to be common: international seafarers are often away from their families most of the year and sometimes they are unable to effectively communicate with other crew members.

Praise God, who made the heavens, the earth, the seas and all that is in them, for being Lord of the entire globe. Ask Him to bless the seafarers with the knowledge of His comforting presence and the joy and hope found in Jesus Christ. Pray that God will watch over them as they travel and defend them against injustice. Pray for ministries reaching out to seafarers to be able to offer Bibles and other resources to every crew member and to expand to every major port.

16. Paris is home to one of the largest populations of Muslims in Europe. Most of the 1.7 million **Parisian Muslims** are of North African Arab or Berber descent and live in very dense housing complexes in the suburbs. The strained history between France and its former colonies, high unemployment rates and discrimination have contributed to much resentment and hopelessness among many Arabs and Berbers.

Praise our Lord Christ, who has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility and made reconciliation between Arab, Berber and French possible. Pray that as many Parisians reflect on and discuss recent terror attacks, the Spirit will move to bring conviction, repentance and belief. Ask God to help Christ-followers of all national, ethnic and religious backgrounds in Paris to be ready to share the message of hope and peace during this time. Pray for the discontented of North African backgrounds to investigate the life and teachings of Jesus and to discover their identities as beloved children of the Living God. May we soon see abundant fruit from previous efforts to cover Paris in prayer and to distribute the Word among North Africans there.