



PRAYER RESOURCES

YOU MAY FIND A MAP OF THE WORLD USEFUL THIS WEEK

Friday 11th September

I. Praying for the least reached to hear the Gospel (OM)

Pray for Southern Europe

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.
"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,
"From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"
Matthew 21:16 (NIV)

In Southern Europe, the countries of France, Italy, Portugal and Spain have a combined population of approximately 185 million people. According to the national Evangelical Alliances in these countries, an estimated 1.2% of the population are evangelical Christians who belong to a vibrant community of Jesus followers. About half of this 1% are immigrants, mainly from Latin-America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Pray for the support and development of more national youth workers in Southern Europe, who can reach out to teens and young adults and lead them into a deep faith-filled relationship with Jesus.



2. Praying for freedom of religion or belief around the world (CSW)

Pray for the powers and principalities

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12

Haile Naizge, Kuflu Gebremeskel, Million Gebreselassie, Futsum Gebrenegus, Tekleab Menghisteb, Gebremedhin Gebregiorgis and Kidane Weldou have been imprisoned in Eritrea for over 20 years. All were prominent church leaders in Eritrea. Some belonged to denominations the government theoretically permits to operate, while others belonged to groups whose religious practices have effectively been outlawed since May 2002.

Eritrea is one of many countries where the government places heavy restrictions on freedom of religion or belief. Others include China, Iran, North Korea and Vietnam. In some countries, religious or belief groups are required to register for a range of activities - only to find the registration process to be complex, open to abuse, or intentionally inconclusive. In others, specific groups are criminalised outright. In all of these countries, belonging to an unrecognised or 'illegal' group guarantees government harassment, often escalating to violence, torture, imprisonment or even execution.

Affirm God's authority over every power and principality. Give thanks that no government or political party or system will ever outlast him, and pray that he would either change hearts or even entire regimes such that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and respected for everyone, everywhere.

