

Universal Prayer Priorities for 2014.

You are invited to pray with us these prayers throughout this year of our Lord, Jesus Christ, 2014! The idea is to embrace these prayer priorities and through a six week cycle focus on all of them, repeating the 6 week cycle for the rest of 2014.

The A section about the Church and God's work has been developed for a 6 week cycle that runs simultaneously with a 6 week cycle for the needs of the world and humanity in Section B.

A Section. Prayers for the work of the Church and for God's work through us:

Gracious Father of all creation and our Father in Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit,
we pray, o Lord of hosts, during this year of our Lord Jesus Christ:

(Week 1)

Enable Christians of all denominations and traditions to respect and honour each other and to work and pray in unity that the world may believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed is the Saviour of the world and the Prince of Peace and that his Kingdom is coming into our world!

Enthuse all believers to carry forward the torch that saints have carried from generation to generation, since the beginning of the Church, without compromise or fear, that the Light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, will guide all nations to follow God's reformation plan for their countries and for humanity.

(Week 2)

Show through the witness of all believers to Africa, and to our beloved country, the only truth that reconciles, brings forgiveness and discovers growth and progress which is the biblical Christian Faith.

Send the Holy Spirit to enable every Christian to proclaim the Gospel in the rural areas and amongst the poorest communities and to liberate through Jesus our Lord, the Truth, the Way and the Life, everyone from fear, superstition and false religion who is lost as the result of human wisdom, worldly leadership and manmade initiatives. May we all, because we are in need of salvation, put our trust in the only Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

(Week 3)

Unite all ordained servants of the Word and sacraments, all pastors and priests, all leaders in the church, all ordained and lay leaders, to, in harmony, selflessly seek to evangelise all who have not been reached with the Gospel - in every part of the world.

Unite preachers of and listeners to God's work, both the leaders and the members of all faith communities, to work together without envy, personal agenda's or personal politics to accomplish their best endeavours for the work of God, sparing nothing and giving everything for the redemption of all people and the growth of God's work in local churches and in the worldwide assembly of the faithful.

(Week 4)

Send missionaries during this year to every province and country on earth to, with gladness and enthusiasm, announce that the Kingdom of God has come and that salvation, truth and love reign through King Jesus, our Lord.

Inspire all Christians by the faithful proclamation of the Word of God, to dutifully serve the poor, the suffering and the lost.

(Week 5)

Call young people to a life of ministry and grant them the spiritual formation to pursue their calling, providing godly mentors and Spirit filled teachers.

Call young people to accept the Lord's invitation to surrender to Christ and to, with obedience, proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives.

(Week 6)

Inspire through the power of the resurrected Lord, hope in the lives of all who experience pain, sickness, affliction and anxiety and may they see in the lives of your people the love of Jesus Christ that shows us the love of God, our Father.

Grant God's people Christian parents that keep their vows to pass on to their children the gift of faith in God the most holy, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that the next generation will also benefit from the apostles' teachings and become authentic members of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, found in all truly Christian traditions and denominations.

B Section. Prayers for the needs of the world and for humanity:

Almighty God, protector and provider of Your creation -
we pray, o Lord of hosts, to during this year of our Lord Jesus Christ-

(Week 1)

Grant us enough rain, good weather and a growing economy providing for the needs and advancement of all peoples.

Bless all endeavours for the protection of Your creation and our environment and natural resources.

(Week 2)

Grant peace to peoples worn out by civil war, violence, unrest and military threats to their countries.

Provide for generosity to refugees, all foreigners, all who had to abandon their homes and motherlands and Lord, protect their safety and dignity.

(Week 3)

Heal all who suffer from depression and are lonely, sad and afraid and grant that Your children will help them to see and experience the mercy and the love of God and his Church.

Call and help health workers who will bless community health programs, clinics and hospitals to provide for excellent care of all who are ill, treating those who are sick with respect and love.

(Week 4)

Provide jobs for the unemployed, make mentors and enablers available to them and restore their serenity, confidence and self-esteem.

Love all who live with disabilities and help them in all they need to enjoy dignified lives.

Sustain and protect the elderly.

(Week 5)

Grant respect for the rights and significance of women in all communities and strengthen, heal and protect all our mothers and sisters who are vulnerable and suffering.

Protect all children and heal those children who have been hurt, abused and neglected.

Help and enable all who work for the proper education of all children, repair dysfunctional schools and call teachers and mentors who selflessly, creatively and with passion develop the God-given talents of every learner.

(Week 6)

Restore all men to be strong, honest and kind men of God and help them to, with love, provide for and to protect their families and Your family, according to Your example, o gracious Father.

Defeat criminality, corruption, violence and those who cause it and are guilty of it. May wickedness come to a fall during this year. Redeem and deliver those who repent and seek Your gracious forgiveness and bring to justice all who with hardened, unrepentant hearts embrace darkness and evil.

Our Father who is in heaven,

Glorify your Name and

may your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us each day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And protect us from temptation.

Father, have mercy on us!

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Amen.

After researching the prayer priorities of a couple of global denominations and prayer movements and as a result being inspired by them, these prayer priorities were compiled by Andries Combrink to be used as part and parcel of the prayer strategy of the Centurion West Presbyterian Church in Tshwane, South Africa. He invites all Christian faith communities to utilise, adapt to your own circumstances and promote these prayer priorities in any way you are led by the Holy Spirit.

- Andries.