



RESOURCE GUIDE

06 - 07 JUNE 2015

When you see the world through the eyes of a vulnerable child it can be painful, frightening and lonely.

One billion children worldwide live in poverty, with

- **6.6 million** under-five year-olds dying from preventable causes
- **15%** of children engaged in work
- **One in ten** girls married before their 15th birthday
- **57 million** primary-aged children out of school

In addition, child poverty has increased in **23 developed world countries** since 2008.

And yet we believe that God brings **protection, provision** and **promises**. Our plea on behalf of children at risk is that God would give them strength, carry them through their desperately tough times, and ultimately change their situations for the better.

The 2015 World Weekend of Prayer campaign is focused on the words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel: "I am with you always".

We know that during the weekend thousands of children across the world will turn to God in prayer – thanking him for **his goodness and faithfulness**, and **asking for change in their situations**.

Please join them, and pray that children, whether close to your home or further away, will know that God is with them always.

Pray too that we, as parents, caregivers and role models, would act in a Christ-like way, **keeping the children around us safe and well, and helping them to fulfil their God-given potential**.

God protects

'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.'

PSALM 23: 4

'But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.'

2 THESSALONIANS 3: 3

God provides

'My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.'

PHILIPPIANS 4: 19

'Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.'

MATTHEW 6: 31-32

God promises

'He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.'

ISAIAH 40: 29-31

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

JEREMIAH 29: 11

The power of children's prayer

Through times of fear and insecurity, and in a country where widespread poverty makes life tough, a Christian programme in **Cambodia** sees huge value in teaching children, and those who work with children, about the power of prayer.

The **Children's Prayer Movement programme** has developed a year-long prayer teaching curriculum, and aims to make pastors and children's workers more aware of child spirituality. It is changing the landscape of the Church in relation to children.

Programme director Pang Sophany says,

"We believe that children's prayer is one of the most powerful weapons to bring change to their families, communities and the nation."

Twelve year-old **Bun Ngong Kim** is cared for by his grandmother because his parents are divorced. Although life isn't easy for him, and his education is uncertain, his faith is simple and unshaken.

He says, *"I always pray for God to help me to go to school regularly. May God bring my parents back together so that I can live with them as a family. By God's grace, everything in my life will be taken care of by faith."*



Pray with us

Please pray:

- For every child, wherever they are, to feel the **presence of God** in their lives, knowing he is with them always.
- That children who are afraid **would know God's protection**. May they feel safe in his loving arms and turn to him in all circumstances.
- That children in need **would trust in God's provision**. May he ease their anxieties and, by his power, supply them with life's essentials.
- That children who feel insecure would **remember God's promises**. May they feel encouraged and empowered, and trust in his faithfulness.
- That we as parents, caregivers and role models would keep **the children around us** safe and well, and help them to fulfil their God-given potential.

A prayer for the 2015 World Weekend of Prayer

Father God

We thank you for your faithful promises, and that you protect us and provide for us. Thank you for your strength when we are weak, for your unconditional love when times are hard and your hope when we despair.

We pray that children who are vulnerable and marginalised would know more of your powerful presence in lives that are often marked by pain, fear and loneliness. May the words of your son, Jesus, 'I am with you always', be a reality for them today.

We pray that, through the power of your Holy Spirit, we would be your hands and feet, showing love in action, shaping communities of joy and hope, and committed to inspiring lasting change in children's lives.

In your name we ask this. Amen.

Get more

Go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com to download further resources including:

- Activity ideas for children, teenagers and all-age services
- A reflection on this year's theme
- A short PowerPoint presentation
- A meditation video
- An editable poster for you to advertise your WWP event

Join our Facebook page at facebook.com/WWPrayer to see what others are doing.

The World Weekend of Prayer campaign is a global initiative held over the first weekend of June every year, uniting hundreds of thousands of adults and children across more than 40 countries.

Viva is an international Christian charity that is inspiring lasting change in children's lives through the power of collective action in 34 community networks worldwide.

powered by
viva
together for children

Registered charity number: 1053389