

178



WEA  
WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

EST. 1846

YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY



**UNITED IN PRAYER: A GLOBAL CALL TO  
ACTION ON THE 178TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE**

# WORLDWIDE PRAYER IS IN THE D.N.A. OF THE WEA

The future of the Christian church often looks challenging. The more the Gospel is proclaimed across the world, the spiritual warfare we face gets fiercer. That is not surprising. Satan is losing territory. Fifty years ago the WEA represented 100 million evangelical Christians. In 2024 it represents 625 million. God's kingdom on earth is growing each year. Satan is getting desperate.

In physical warfare success depends on the personal commitment, courage and training of the soldiers, but during actual battles an essential additional element of success is constant communication with the commanding officer in order. Without communication to achieve coordination there will be chaos and the adversary will win. Spiritual warfare is no different. We have a fierce adversary but our heavenly Commander is in charge. He is omniscient (He knows everything), omnipresent (He is everywhere) and omnipotent (He is all powerful). He expects us to listen to him through prayer and through his written Word and obey to His commands because "the battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47).

When the World Evangelical Alliance was established in 1846, prayer was a critical component of its vision to achieve unity amongst the different Christian denominations in the great missionary initiatives of the nineteenth century. Our predecessors designated the first week of January in each year as the Universal Week of Prayer to pray that the Lord would bless their efforts globally in the coming year. In 1946, in his book entitled "Goodly Fellowship" to mark the centenary of the WEA, John W. Ewing wrote "From the beginning of the Evangelical Alliance, prayer has been the secret and inspiration of its life, and it has laid stress on the need of prayer as essential to everything good. With this in mind it has appealed for special and united prayer during the first week of each year, desiring thus to encourage a habit and obtain a grace for the hallowing of the entire year".

Exactly 150 years later, in 1996, the WEA Religious Liberty Commission launched the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and designated the first Sunday in November (the second Sunday in some countries) to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. In that first year over 100 countries participated, since when the number has grown and many denominations and para-church organisations have joined the united effort in promoting that special day of prayer each November.

As the WEA's seven regional alliances and 143 national alliances look to the future to fulfil their mission in today's uncertain, dangerous and ungodly world, it more important than ever for them to undergird their efforts in united and concentrated prayer. As it has since 1846, the WEA will play its part in emphasising the need for the whole Body of Christ to be united in prayer in its witness to the Gospel across the world. As Jesus prayed in his High Priestly prayer, we must demonstrate to the world that we are one in our mission so that the world will believe that Jesus was sent by the Father to save the world (John 17:21). The battle is the Lord's. We must keep in constant touch with Him through prayer.

John Langlois

# UNITED IN PRAYER: A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION ON THE 178TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

*As we commemorate the 178th anniversary of the World Evangelical Alliance, we reflect on the myriad of challenges and opportunities facing our global community. In this pivotal moment, we invite you to join us in prayer for the world. These prayers address critical issues affecting humanity, from global unity and peace to economic justice and environmental stewardship. Together, let us lift our voices to God, seeking His guidance and intervention in these pressing matters.*

## **1. PRAYER FOR GLOBAL UNITY AND PEACE**

Heavenly Father,

As we celebrate the 178th anniversary of the World Evangelical Alliance, we come before You with a heart full of gratitude for the unity You have fostered among us. We pray for global unity and peace, especially in regions torn apart by conflict and division. May Your love bring reconciliation and harmony to every nation. Help us to be peacemakers in a world that desperately needs Your shalom.

Guide our leaders with wisdom and understanding, that they may work towards peaceful resolutions and just policies. We ask that You heal the wounds of those affected by war and conflict, restoring hope and rebuilding lives. May the Church stand as a beacon of Your love, bringing together people from all walks of life in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Empower us, Your followers, to be agents of change, spreading Your message of peace and unity wherever we go. May our actions reflect Your love and commitment to a world where every person is valued and every conflict is resolved with grace and compassion.

Amen.

## **2. PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Lord Jesus,

We lift up our brothers and sisters around the world who face persecution for their faith. Strengthen their resolve and provide them with the courage to stand firm in their belief. Surround them with Your protection and grace. We ask that You soften the hearts of their persecutors and bring about a change that allows for religious freedom and tolerance everywhere.

Grant them the peace that surpasses all understanding, even in the midst of trials. May they find comfort in Your presence and assurance in Your promises. We pray for the families of those persecuted, that they may also be fortified with strength and unwavering faith.

Let the global Church be moved to action, offering support, advocacy, and intercession for those who suffer for Your name. May the testimonies of the persecuted inspire others to faith and boldness in their own spiritual journeys.

Amen.

### **3. PRAYER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Creator God,

We thank You for the beautiful world You have entrusted to us. As we commemorate our 178th anniversary, we pray for wisdom and responsibility in caring for Your creation. Help us to address the environmental challenges we face, from climate change to pollution. Guide us in making choices that honor and protect the earth, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

Inspire us to live more sustainably, reducing our ecological footprint and preserving natural resources. May we become better stewards of the environment, recognizing the intricate balance You have designed in nature. We pray for the restoration of ecosystems and the protection of endangered species.

Awaken the hearts of people worldwide to the urgency of environmental care, fostering a collective effort to combat climate change and environmental degradation. May our actions reflect a deep respect for Your creation and a commitment to leaving a healthier planet for future generations.

Amen.

### **4. PRAYER FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Merciful Father,

We pray for those suffering from poverty and economic injustice. May Your provision reach those in need, and may Your justice prevail in systems that are unfair. Inspire us to be generous and compassionate, working tirelessly to alleviate poverty and bring about economic equity. Help us to reflect Your love by caring for the least among us.

We ask for Your guidance in creating opportunities for sustainable development and economic growth that benefit all people, particularly the marginalized. Strengthen the efforts of organizations and individuals dedicated to fighting poverty and promoting economic justice.

Help us to address the root causes of poverty, advocating for fair wages, education, healthcare, and equal opportunities. May our actions contribute to a world where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive.

Amen.

## **5. PRAYER FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

Gracious God,

In a world plagued by illness and disease, we ask for Your healing touch. Comfort those who are suffering and bring restoration to their bodies and spirits. We pray for healthcare workers and all who are on the front lines of combating diseases, especially in the wake of the global pandemic. Grant them strength, wisdom, and protection. May Your healing power flow through our world, bringing health and wholeness.

We pray for the research and medical communities working tirelessly to develop treatments and cures. Bless their efforts with breakthroughs and advancements that improve health outcomes. Provide resources and support to healthcare systems worldwide, especially in underserved regions.

May Your Church be a source of comfort and aid to those who are ill, offering not just prayers but also tangible support. Help us to show Your love through our actions, bringing hope and healing to those in need.

Amen.

## **6. PRAYER FOR WAR AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Prince of Peace,

In a world scarred by war and conflict, we turn to You for solace and intervention. We pray for an end to hostilities and for peaceful resolutions to disputes. Heal the nations and bring comfort to those who have lost loved ones and homes. May Your peace reign in places where violence has been a way of life.

Guide the leaders of nations to pursue diplomatic solutions and to prioritize the well-being of their people over power and greed. We ask for Your protection over innocent civilians caught in the crossfire, and for the provision of their needs during these tumultuous times. Mobilize Your Church to be active in peacemaking efforts, offering support, sanctuary, and advocacy for those affected by war. May we be Your hands and feet, bringing hope and healing to the war-torn areas of our world.

Amen.

## 7. PRAYER FOR FAMINE AND HUNGER RELIEF

Provider God,

We come to You with heavy hearts for the millions suffering from famine and hunger. We pray for Your provision and for the mobilization of resources to reach those in desperate need. Bless the efforts of aid organizations and volunteers who work tirelessly to bring food and relief to the hungry.

Open the hearts of those with plenty to share with those who have none. May we all be moved by compassion to address the root causes of hunger, from conflict to climate change, and to work towards sustainable solutions.

Grant wisdom to leaders and policymakers to create systems that ensure food security for all. Let the abundance You have provided be shared equitably, so that no one goes to bed hungry. May we, as Your Church, be active participants in bringing about a world where everyone has enough to eat.

Amen.

