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## *Koinonia Prayer Requests*

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Nigeria (9) and India (10) are this week's two countries on the World Watch list that we are praying for.

- It is said that almost half the population of Nigeria is Christian (I don't know if that just means church-going Christians or committed ones) and the majority live in the south of the country. Northern Nigeria is largely Muslim. It is here in the north and the central region of Nigeria that the most persecution of Christians happens. More Christians are murdered for their faith than in any other country, attacks are usually by Boko Haram, Fulani militants, ISWAP (an affiliate Islamic State).
- Though there are about the same number of Christians in India as there are people in the UK; 67.4 million Christians. That is still less than five per cent of the population. (1.4 billion people)
- Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam.
- Christians are persecuted in all areas of public and private life, anti-conversion laws (currently in nine states, with more considering adoption) are used to harass and intimidate Christians.
- Please pray God would change the hearts of the extremists (both Muslim and Hindu) that He would comfort those who are mourning, and protect them from all extremist attacks.
- As the Church Army is the wing of the Church of England for the evangelists (300) could we this week pray for them those actively evangelising in their communities that they will lead many, many people to the cross and also those who are retired, although I guess you never retire from telling folk about the love of Christ.
- Diana has asked us to pray for a 92year old whose skin cancer needs for treatment, pray please he will be strong enough to endure it, he has surgery appointment later this month.
- Pray please for Vicki as she struggles with depression and anorexia.
- Could we continue to pray for Vicki's sister-in-law Claire whose situation has got a lot worse, as she is not eating and is very depressed. Vicki's neighbour (Maisie) would like to praise God that she was allowed to bring her baby home but unfortunately, he will need long term dialysis, so please pray for that.
- Leo and Leah have said they would like to thank us for praying for them when they were poorly and have asked us if we would pray for the situation in Colombia with the ongoing killing of social leaders and the civil war. So, could we please pray for the Christians and churches who are reaching out and spreading the gospel and for the charities like IMC who are trying to help children and families to break the cycle of poverty.
- Because of the pandemic there is a lot more suffering, famine, persecution in the world, especially in the poorest countries. Clare has asked us to pray that God would move us, His children who have everything, to support some of these countries through prayer or even financially, through a Christian organisation like Agape Outreach Ministry, or others that we

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support as a fellowship. Thankfully, there are so many to choose from such as Open Doors, Toybox etc. There are so many suffering folk out there, I pray that God will lay on your heart someone that He wants you to encourage.

Again, like last time, I am reminded of the teaching of Jesus about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25.

- Tony and Barbara have asked as to pray for Bob Proia, who should be returning to England on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Could we pray for journeying mercies for him and his family.
- Pray also for folk within the fellowship who are poorly and who, like Eileen, are going through treatment. For Geoff as he recovers at home and Brenda as she looks after him; I guess it will be life changing for them both. Also, for Ian who is struggling with pain at the moment and Robin who also has some pending medical issues. For all those in need of love and compassion and as there is a chink of light at the end now, just let us all keep focusing on Jesus.
- Also thinking of Maria and her parents Barry and Sandra. Susan and others have asked if we could continue to pray for them that they would know God's presence and peace as they deal with difficult times.
- Maria herself has asked us to pray and thank God for all the frontline staff; carers, shop workers, delivery drivers, posties, bin people, volunteers, as well as all NHS staff who have kept (and are continuing to keep) the country running through these difficult times. Many have suffered with their own exhaustion, sickness and grief. Also, I would add all HM Forces to that list.
- Mary has requested that we pray for and continue to pray for church leaders and Don our own church leader for wisdom for him at this time.
- This Sunday we have Kenny Waring as our visiting speaker Ian has asked us to pray that God will bless us as we hear his word and He would show us if he is the man that God wants for our Pastor.
- After her testimony last Sunday, we pray that God would show Mary, that as a Christian, she will never be alone again and pray that we, as a Fellowship, will make sure that she and others who are on their own, are not left to be lonely ever.
- I would like to finish with a quote I saw while studying for last week's Bible study: "Wisdom is living out Gods truth, if we do it well the beauty of the designer might just show through"

Thank You,

Stay safe.

*Billy*

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