

A watercolor-style map of the African continent. The top half is colored in shades of red and pink, while the bottom half is colored in shades of yellow and orange. The text is overlaid on the map.

**54 WEEKS OF PRAYER**

**FOR THE HEALING OF AFRICA**

**A weekly guide**

**25 May 2023  
to  
5 June 2024**

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54 WEEK PRAYER GUIDE IS A SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE, ENDORSED BY:



in Harmonie  
a place of change



# INTRODUCTION

THE BOOKLET WAS COMPILED BY ANNEKE RABE. A FEW WORDS FROM HER:

Dear fellow follower of Christ,

With this booklet I want to invite you as an Ambassador of Reconciliation to pray with us for the beautiful continent of Africa. Our prayers are focused towards the healing of Africa from the wounds caused by the devastating consequences of slavery, colonialism, exploitation and racism through the centuries.

One of the last prayers Jesus Christ prayed while He walked this earth as a human being is recorded in John 17:20b - 22 (NIV) **“... I pray that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us.”** Jesus also said in John 13, that if we love one another the world will know that we are His disciples. To truly love one another we need to intentionally reach out to one another. The Word says that if we know our brother has something against us, we need to go and make right. So many wrongs have been and are still being perpetrated against the people of Africa. It is time to acknowledge, repent and make right the sins of the past...

As a white South African housewife, whose ancestors have been living in Africa since about 1680, the Lord opened my eyes to the pain and depth of these wounds, two years after coming to Christ in 1997. For the past 23 years I have tried, to the best of my knowledge, to lead a weekly prayer group – praying the unanswered Prayer for Unity, Jesus prayed in John 17 and living as an Ambassador of His Love and Reconciliation. I have made many mistakes and am still learning daily. Despite all my failures, God worked so deeply as we prayed. He brought deep healing and reconciliation - especially from the pain of apartheid- to many, took me to places and people that I would never have dreamed of, forged deep friendships, brought me into contact with influential leaders, did so many miracles and is still answering our Prayers for the Unity of John 17. As a result, my only conclusion is - we are praying exactly what is currently on God’s heart for His children in the nations of the world.

The Unity Jesus prayed for is very difficult to achieve because Christians all over the world are so fractured and divided. What must encourage us, however, is that if He prayed it, it must be possible. Time and time again I have seen how God’s Spirit breaks through all the divisions, as we surrender to Him, die to self, and choose love. It is only when we do that, that we see how the Love that covers a multitude of sins start flowing through us to bring healing and wholeness. It is a daily decision. May we become less so that He can become more, so that we can be One with Him and one another, so that the world may know that we are truly His disciples.

In closing I would like to dedicate this booklet to the faithful, praying women of Mkhondo- the Esther Ladies Group. They have been faithfully praying for the fulfilment of the Prayer Jesus prayed for in John 17 for their town, nation, and continent, since 1999. They are still praying weekly. Ladies, I honour all of you and thank you for your perseverance and for teaching me so much about true sacrificial love. Thank you for your patience with me. This journey is beautiful. The Scripture in John 17 is also the Theme of this booklet – **“Lord make us One in You”**. Many of the Esther ladies are now with the Lord. I would like to especially honour those that went ahead of us for being faithful to the end– with me on the photo are Flora, Georgina, Rachel, Betty and I also honour Mavis and Paddy (who are not on the photo). I look forward to one day rejoice with all of you in heaven.

May our prayers and love for one another bring glory to God. Lord, please heal Africa!

Anneke

For more info – [annekerabe20@gmail.com](mailto:annekerabe20@gmail.com)

Flora, Georgina, Rachel, Betty, Anneke– 2001

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**WE ARE BEGINNING THIS WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY- WHICH IS AFRICA DAY! THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICA DAY: IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE AFRICAN DIVERSITY AND SUCCESS, AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL THAT EXISTS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROGRESS THAT AFRICANS HAVE MADE WHILE REFLECTING UPON THE COMMON CHALLENGES WE FACE IN A GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT.**



# BACKGROUND

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Reconcile SA is a South African Christian Leadership (SACLI) initiative, helping South Africans to journey from Racism to Reconciliation. Since 2016, SACLI Reconcile have created platforms and initiated different initiatives to move this process forward. Three of the most significant SACLI Reconcile initiatives were the following:

- In June 2016, 40 years after the Soweto riots, in which many young black South Africans died while protesting, the white Afrikaans-speaking Churches offered a public apology for the injustice of forcing black schoolchildren to be educated in Afrikaans. This day of Repentance took place at the Orlando Stadium in Soweto. 10 leaders from the World Council of Churches and almost all denominational leaders of the South African Church were present at this historic meeting, giving the event a significance for churches around the world.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, black and white Christian leaders and intercessors prayed in the parliament of South Africa. The focus was to repent for the sins of Apartheid, the 1913 land act and all the unjust laws, practices, killings, racism, and humiliation it caused. (Herewith a link to the prayers prayed in parliament <https://www.facebook.com/SAParliamentPrayerDay/videos/379847842445609/>)
- The ‘**Genadendal Pilgrimage of Grace**’ is another SACLI Reconcile initiative that took place in *September 2022* in the Western Cape, South Africa. This Pilgrimage brought together the leaders of the Moravian and the Dutch Reformed congregations of South Africa. ***This booklet originated after this Pilgrimage when Believers across the world were mobilized to pray for 54 days (26 September to 18 November 2022) – a country a day – for the continent of Africa.*** The purpose of this pilgrimage was ***Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration and Prayer.*** Deep repentance from the Dutch Reformed (the oldest congregation in South Africa) to the Moravian church (the second oldest congregation in South Africa) took place. Herewith the link to the video of the deep work God has done. <https://youtu.be/ci4QABYR4D4>
- With the daily prayer guide having such an overwhelmingly positive response, we were requested to follow up with another guide, this time praying weekly for each country, which gives people more time to focus on individual countries & to pray more intensely.

## BACKGROUND TO THE GENADENDAL INJUSTICE:

In 1737 a young Moravian missionary, Georg Schmidt from Germany, was sent to South Africa. In 1738 he started the first mission station in Southern Africa at Genadendal (Valley of Grace) in the Western Cape. It was originally known as Baviaanskloof, (Valley of the baboons). He arrived at a time when the indigenous people, the Khoisan, already suffering under the influx of White farmers, were reeling from a smallpox epidemic to which they had no immunity! As a people they were on the verge of extinction and, against enormous odds, Schmidt formed a small congregation and taught the Khoisan to read and write. His good works came unstuck, however, when he began baptising the converts and the Dutch Reformed clergy based in Cape Town heard of it. The DRC was strongly opposed to Schmidt’s arrival from the start of the mission. They allowed him into the region with the understanding that he wasn’t an ordained minister. After Schmidt baptised the Khoi believers however, the DRC discovered the truth. Schmidt had sent a letter to the Moravian headquarters requesting permission to baptise his followers. When he received a letter of ordinance granting him that permission, he began the baptisms. The DRC questioned the validity of this, began mounting pressure and on the 5th of March 1744, Schmidt suspended his duties and left the country. The Mission Station was abandoned until almost 50 years later when three Missionaries returned to resume Schmidt’s work. On arriving at Baviaanskloof, Khoikhoi living in a kraal not far from the mission showed the men where Schmidt’s house had been. Some of the walls were still standing. They were also told that Schmidt had planted an almond, apricot and pear tree. Schmidt had given his classes underneath the pear tree. To this day a pear tree still grows in the original location from the same root system of Schmidt’s one. The missionaries also met Vehettge Tikkuie who was Schmidt’s cook and housekeeper and had been one of the five baptised by him. After being baptised, she took the name Magdalena. Before he left, Schmidt gave her a copy of the New Testament and asked her to take care of his flock while he was away. For nearly 50 years Magdalena continued preaching and teaching others to read the bible and pray. She did so

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**IT IS SAID OF GEORG SCHMIDT, THE FIRST MISSIONARY TO SOUTH AFRICA, THAT HE DIED IN NIESKY, GERMANY, WHILE ON HIS KNEES PRAYING, IN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO PRAY FOR HIS AFRICAN (GENADENDAL) CONGREGATION. THANK YOU, LORD, FOR YOUR GRACE AND FOR STILL ANSWERING THOSE PRAYERS.**

under the same pear tree which Schmidt had used. She still had the copy of the New Testament that had been given to her by Schmidt. The book is now kept at the Genadendal Mission Museum. Magdalena told them that when Schmidt left, the converts returned to working at the farms and many of them had since died. Life had steadily gotten worse for the Khoi, who according to Magdalena, were not as poor as they were now. When the missionaries told Lena that they had come to continue the work in Baviaanskloof, her response was, 'Thanks be to God!' Magdalena continued to help at the mission until her death 3 Jan 1800.

#### **DAILY MORAVIAN WATCHWORDS:**

Also included in this Prayer Booklet are the weekly Moravian Watchwords for personal reflection. We would like to honour the Moravian Church for the role they played in world evangelism as in 2022 they celebrated 300 years, since the founding of Herrnhut. Herrnhut, originally founded on the estate of Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf in Saxony, Germany, is considered the "spiritual home" of today's worldwide Moravian Church.

The Textbook of the Moravian Church has a long and blessed history. The first printed edition was for the year 1731. The book was compiled in German by Count Zinzendorf and published in Herrnhut. The textbook has appeared ever since and in 1980 the 250th edition was published. The Textbook is not only used by the worldwide Moravian family but also by Christians from other denominations in many parts of the world. The Textbook is published in more than fifty languages and dialects. We are encouraged to think of this huge family sharing in the daily texts and also to do intercession for them. Let us use the themes that are given for daily prayer. May the use of the Textbook assist in preserving the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3). We would like to point out the following regarding the contents of the booklet: For every week there is a weekly Moravian watchword scripture typed out in full. This is selected by drawing texts out of an Old Testament collection of over 1700 texts for each day. The texts are still drawn, and the book is still compiled in Herrnhut, Germany. Watchwords should accompany us through the day, in our joy or grief, work or free time, in community life, in our thoughts and in all we do or say. (Written by Bishop Augustine Joemath, South Africa)

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE UNITY PRAYER WATCH, OF THE WORLD-WIDE MORAVIAN CHURCH – THE UNITAS FRATRUM**

During its first five years of existence the Herrnhut settlement showed few signs of spiritual power. By the beginning of 1727 the community of about three hundred people was wracked by dissension and bickering. An unlikely site for revival! Zinzendorf and others, however, covenanted to prayer and labour for revival. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1727, after a lecture by Zinzendorf, they signed an agreement, called the *Brotherly Agreement* to dedicate their lives to the service of Jesus Christ. It was at this point that the Spirit began to move in a deeper way among them. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> the community covenanted to meet often in prayer and worship, beginning what would later be referred to as the 'summer of revival,' for this small Moravian community. A spirit of prayer was immediately evident in the fellowship and continued throughout that "golden summer of 1727," as the Moravians came to designate the period. On August 27 of that year twenty-four men and twenty-four women covenanted to spend one hour each day in scheduled prayer. The Moravian Community of Herrnhut in Saxony, in 1727, **commenced a round-the-clock "prayer watch" that continued nonstop for over a hundred years.** The assumption is that it would have stopped in 1872. There are no recorded instances of "when" it stopped. Some people, in fact, dispute whether it actually ended or not - Moravians still exist today, carrying out this prayer. Some believe the initial movement lasted over **125 years.** The quincentennial year of 1957 proved a time of inspiration and rededication throughout the Unity. Much careful planning had prepared for the celebration of this significant anniversary, i.a. the Hourly Intercession was reinstated throughout the Moravian Unity upon the earnest recommendation of the Herrnhut congregation, a suggestion coming out of its post-war trials and offered its contribution to the welfare of the Unity. Everywhere the Brethren thanked God and took fresh courage. Friends in many other Christian Churches, from those in the humblest walks of life to the rulers of great nations, joined with them in glorifying God for the manifest way in which he had blessed the Unitas Fratrum (Unity of Brethren) and had used it for blessing. This and many other significant decisions were taken at a Spirit-blessed Synod of the Unity from August 13<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> 1957 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at which South Africa was also represented. And ever since, the world-wide Moravian Church endeavoured to keep this flame burning. As the Church expands and grows more and more countries are added. The prayers continue. (Written by Bishop Augustine Joemath, South Africa)

## OUTCOMES:

What SACLI Reconcile hope to achieve with this initiative are the following:

- We are praying that the prayer torch that was brought from Germany by the Moravians will be ignited again.
- That Believers will be informed through the Prayer Booklet about some of the true scale of the atrocities and injustices perpetrated against the continent of Africa and its people. In some places the injustice and atrocities continue.
- That Believers will intentionally take hands to work and pray towards the fulfilment of the Prayer for Unity amongst Believers that Jesus Christ prayed for in John 17.
- Our ultimate goal is that the people of Africa will be set free from the pain and also the guilt of the past. That true Repentance, Reconciliation and Restoration will flow from this so that the love and unity amongst Believers across continents will show the world that we are His disciples.

Some outcomes that we are trusting God for:

- Reconciliation within the church of Jesus Christ.
- As part of the Repentance and Restitution process, a new commitment to the development of the Genadendal community and communities across the Continent.
- A rediscovery for the Church of what God's mission for the Church is today.
- While we are so grateful to God for the sacrifice of many missionaries who came to Africa at great cost to themselves and their loved ones, we also recognise that some who came, came unfortunately with a colonial mindset. We hope that this initiative will help His church to live out the authentic Gospel as commanded by our Lord.

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### **AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM ANNEKE:**

**THIS BOOKLET IS A CALL TO PRAYER FOR AFRICA. IT IS WRITTEN WITH THE ARDENT HOPE THAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FAITHFUL INTERCESSION FOR THE DEEP PAIN OUR CONTINENT HAS ENDURED OVER CENTURIES. IT IS BY NO MEANS A PERFECT ACCOUNT OF THE VASTNESS OF THE CONTINENT. IT IS A STARTER PACK FOR PRAYER & CAN ONLY BE ENRICHED BY THE FEEDBACK OF INTERCESSORS AROUND THE CONTINENT, WHO ARE CLOSER TO THE ISSUES IN THEIR NECK OF THE AFRICAN WOODS.**

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# ENDORSEMENTS

Africa is home to the largest number of Christians of all continents on the planet today. It is also home to the world's most dehumanised people, to paraphrase Prof Ali Mazrui, a Kenyan scholar and historian. This reality of blessing and curse presents a unique missional challenge and opportunity for the Christian community on the continent. Having been betrayed by many powers, colonial, neo colonial and post liberation political elites, it is time to look to the only power that will not betray anyone: the power of God, through prayer.

This booklet is a prayer guide that helps us to pray with our eyes wide open to the harsh realities of Africa, while alive to the abundance of God's grace, in Christ. All this, while we stand ready to do what it takes to inspire hope, faith and solidarity in our continent and the world as witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We commend this prayer guide to brothers and sisters on the African continent, and other in other continents of the world, to join us in this prayer journey.

**MOSS NTLHA**

**SACLI CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Africa is the continent with the greatest natural wealth and beauty on earth. But it is also a deeply wounded continent. It is marred by the scars of wars and conflicts about the control over, and possession of, the riches of the vast plains and beautiful hills and mountains, gorges, lakes and seas of Africa.

Shortly after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, his parents had to flee to Egypt to escape King Herod's tyranny. Africa was their place of safety. The first convert recorded in Acts was a man from Ethiopia. After his baptism, he went home with the Gospel of salvation, deep into Africa. But all those who went to Africa with the Gospel did not always do so with only good outcomes. There was a deep assumption of cultural superiority among many, a belief that everything in Europe was better than in Africa. The consequences were horrible. The social and moral fabric of Africa's people were disturbed and even destroyed across the continent. Today the Christian church has a huge responsibility to restore, reconstitute and recover the soul of Africa. The church is called to repent, to ask forgiveness for its assumptions of superiority and lack of sensitivity and acknowledgment of the dignity of Africa's peoples. Together with the forgiveness, the church is called to promote reconciliation, to serve and acknowledge the human dignity of all the people of Africa. The church must let justice roll down over Africa as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream (Amos 5: 24). But the church will only be able to answer to this calling in a profound and authentic way if every corner of Africa is immersed in prayer.

This booklet is a tool to reach the widths and breadths of this diverse continent with our prayers, to testify to the hope, the healing and restoration in Christ in a humble, yet urgent way. Our hope is that brothers and sisters across the continent and the world will unite in prayer and humble themselves before the Lord as they start praying for the healing of Africa's wounds. We would like to recommend this prayer journey to people who believe in the significance of prayer and the power of the Gospel.

**NELIS JANSE VAN RENSBURG**

**MODERATOR OF THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH**

While meditating on this very important topic I was reminded of the beautiful hymn "Plea For Africa", composed by John Knox Bokwe. A hymn made known internationally by the late South African singer Sibongile Khumalo. Just listening to the tune and following the lyrics, it so aptly produces a sound or message which resonates with the listener- A Plea for Africa. And so the Plea to God continues as we seek His intervention in bringing an end to the pain and suffering of our people on the continent of Africa.

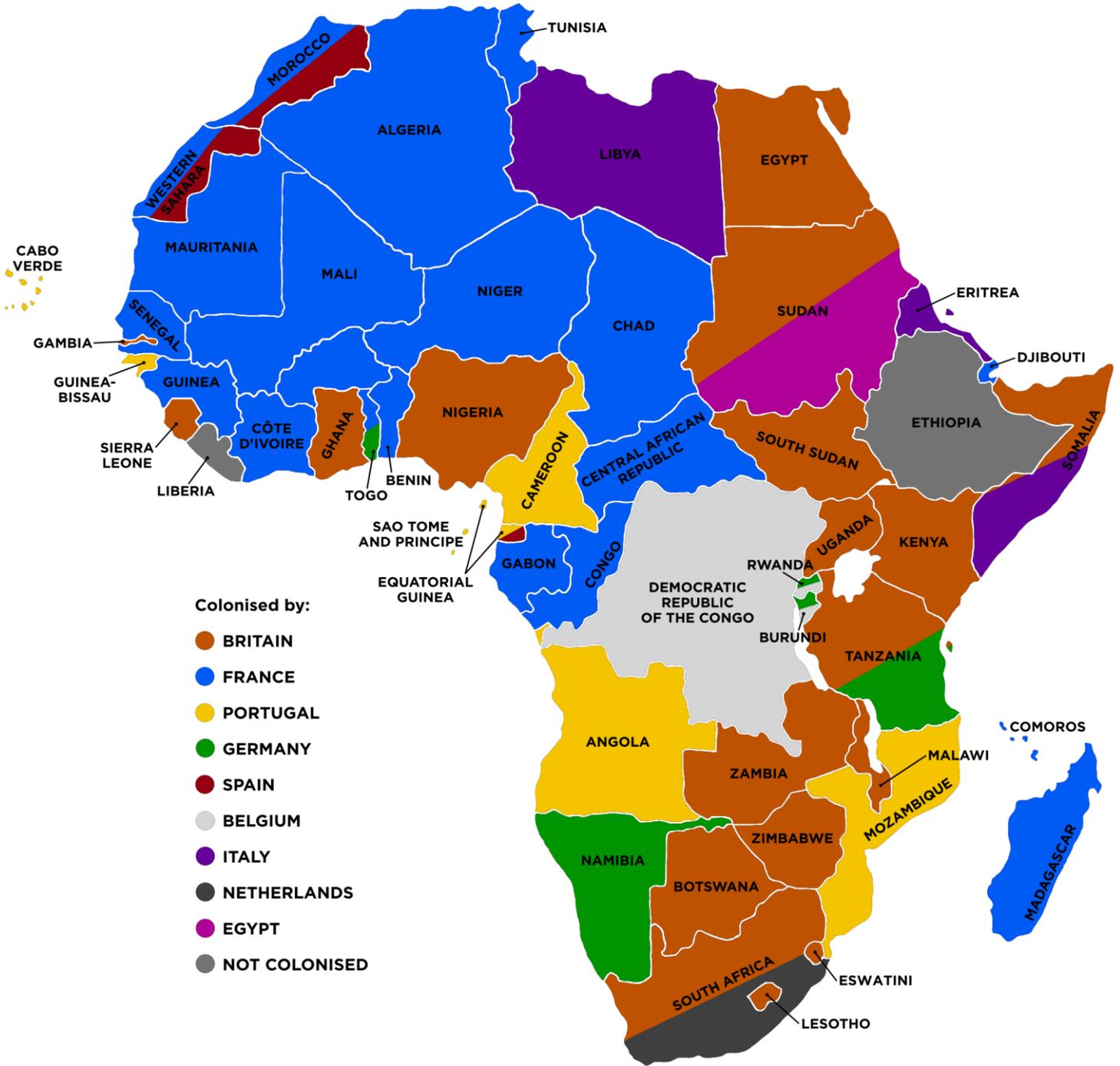
History teaches us that Africa is a paradox which illustrates and highlights neo-colonialism. The African earth is rich, yet the products that cometh from above and below the soil continue to enrich, not Africans predominantly, but groups, countries and individuals who operates to Africa's impoverishment.

Our highly sophisticated culture was made out to be simple and paralyzed by inertia, and we had to be encumbered with tutelage. This, despite the fact that for thousands of years civilizations flourished in a politically free and economically independent Africa. A time when the social patterns were their own and their cultures truly indigenous. This series of prayers serve to seek God's face and intervention in bringing an end to the plundering and suffering of Africa. Let us continue with our prayers in the knowledge that healing is indeed at hand. Through our prayers let us bring hope to those in doubt, by witnessing God's love and forgiveness- so that all His people may be forever reconciled. A blessed time of prayer to all!

**MARTIN ABRAHAMS**

**PRESIDENT- MORAVIAN CHURCH IN SA**

# COLONIAL MAP OF AFRICA





**POPULATION**  
**45.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1830-1962)** There was a bloody war of independence between 1954 and 1962- which is believed to have killed between 500,000 and 1.5 million Algerians. French colonial rule over Algeria spanned 132 years.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity became rooted in Algeria by the 2nd century AD. Renowned Church Fathers such as Tertullian, Cyprian, and Augustine of Hippo all hailed from Algeria. The strong Christian presence gave way to Islam after the Arab invasion in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The Kabyle (a Berber group, originally Christian) resisted Islam stubbornly but eventually

accepted it. In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity came back to the country when Spain conquered the coastal areas; however, Spanish rule lasted only briefly, and the Ottomans conquered the country in 1525. After France gained control of Algeria, Catholic missionaries came with French settlers and established churches. There were also Protestants among the French settlers and Methodists from Britain.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 97% of Algerians are Muslim. Only 3% are Christian. The growth of the Algerian Church over the past decade is an answer to prayer! The Christian community enjoys a spirit of unity, which stands out from the long history of conflict among ethnic groups. Some received supernatural visions of Jesus, but most came to Him through personal evangelism. New fellowships began throughout Algeria, partly because Berber believers moved into unreached Arab areas with the Gospel. Proselytizing (sharing the Gospel) to Muslims by non-Muslims is a crime.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Let us thank God that the message of the Good News is spreading in Algeria. Pray for God's favour and protection over the believers in Algeria.
- Pray that many more will be reconciled to God and one another through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that God would strengthen those who are suffering for being Christian, that the seed that was planted will keep on producing fruit.
- Pray that the church of Algeria will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Algeria and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

ACTS 2:1-21 PSALM 104:24-34,35B 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-13 JOHN 20:19-23

*Thank You for protecting us and keeping us safe, Lord. Help us spread the good news of great joy like a holy fire that lights our way and keeps us warm. Help us bring hope and light to the world around us in ways that people can understand for themselves. Fill us with Your Spirit and enable us to offer protection and peace to others who need it. In Your name, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**34.9 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY PORTUGAL (1575–1975)** The colonial conquest of Angola by the Portuguese was a process which unfolded over almost 400 years. Economically, the Portuguese developed Angola through the slave trade (over 8 million Angolans were estimated to have been lost to slavery) and later through production and exportation of rubber, diamonds, coffee and then oil, they used the natural resources of the country but did little to include Angolans, other than through forced labour. Beginning in 1961, several factions fought against the Portuguese and Angola gained its independence in November 1975. Independence was followed by the 27 year long Angolan Civil war, which claimed many lives and displaced millions more. Finally, in 2002, conflict subdued & a ceasefire was signed. Today the effects of war are ever

present, and much of the nation is still inaccessible due to landmines and heavily damaged roads. Though economic progress is surprisingly quick, with the nation becoming a leading producer of oil in Africa, many Angolans live on less than one US Dollar per day.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** From 1575, the Portuguese colony of Angola was placed within the newly established Roman Catholic diocese of San Salvador, comprising the Congo kingdom and Angola. Despite the demoralization of the slave trade, and long periods when there was no bishop, the Church survived; areas in Angola are the only part of sub-Saharan Africa where there has been a continuous local Church since the 16th century. Protestant activity, originating in Britain and America, began later in the 19th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Angola's first president had strong Marxist ideals and promised to eliminate Christianity during his 20-year rule but was unsuccessful in this endeavour. The nation has seen extraordinary growth in biblical Christianity. Nearly half the population belongs to the Roman Catholic Church and under a quarter to Protestant denominations.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for reconciliation between the different tribes after 40 years of civil war.
- Pray for the healing of Angola from the injustices of the past.
- Pray for the safe removal of millions of landmines still killing and maiming many, especially children.
- Pray for desperately needed Christian workers to hear God's call to serve.
- Pray that the church of Angola will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Angola & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:9

GENESIS 1:1-2:4A

PSALM 8

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

MATTHEW 28:16-20

*You are God the creator, from whom all blessings flow. You are Christ the savior of the world, by whose blood we are set free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, through whom we can fulfill Your calling for our lives. Eternal Trinity, we praise and adore You forever. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**12.2 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1904-1960)** Benin was historically known as the kingdom of Dahomey. It derived great wealth from trading slaves with Europeans along the coast, which was known as the Slave Coast, and was one of the most active slave trading ports in all of Africa. Local leaders sold their war prisoners to European traders. Today, as one of the world’s 20 least developed nations, Benin struggles to provide economic opportunities for its citizens. Many parents sell their children as slaves, mostly to the neighbouring nation of Nigeria, and most of these precious children will never again see home. There are 50,000 children trafficked out of Benin annually. Black market trading and smuggling are widespread as well. There is conflict in the north, on the border with Burkina Faso, where farmers are involved in land claim disputes;

this conflict originated when colonisers drew up borders, cutting certain groups from certain areas.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Entering the region in 1485, the Portuguese built a Catholic chapel at Ouidah in 1680, but during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, attempts at evangelization were sporadic and ineffectual.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Historically one of the least evangelized nations in Africa, the church has grown in recent years. However, the nation also has one of the highest rates of syncretism, specifically combining Christianity, animism, and Voodoo. The need for trained pastors to disciple the growing number of Christians is severe. There is also great need for media ministry in Benin, as most of the nation is illiterate. Nearly half of the languages in Benin do not have a Bible to inform the 60 total people groups of the loving nature of God.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for justice and righteousness to grow in Benin.
- Pray that the curse of modern-day slavery will also be broken over Benin—for great repentance, healing and restoration.
- Pray for a revival that purifies the Church and sees Christians honouring God alone.
- Pray also for many sangomas to experience the power of Jesus and turn to Him.
- Pray that the church of Benin will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Benin and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

God desires steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.  
Hosea 6:6

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

HOSEA 5:15-6:6      PSALM 50:7-15      ROMANS 4:13-25      MATTHEW 9:9-13,18-26  
*We confess to You, merciful Savior, that our sins are many. Daily we fail to live as Your children and to obey Your word. Forgive us, we humbly pray, and hear now our shouts of joy for the salvation we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.4 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1885-1966)** Botswana's origins, as a state, go back to the late 1800s, when Britain, as colonial authority, formed the "Protectorate of Bechuanaland". A protectorate is an autonomous territory that is protected diplomatically or militarily against third parties by a stronger state or entity. Britain did this to stop the Voortrekker expansion of Transvaal (Central South Africa) and German expansion from South West Africa (Namibia). In 1966, Bechuanaland got its independence and became known as The Republic of Botswana.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity was introduced during the colonial era by missionaries from the south, such as David Livingstone and was established as the official religion of the eight Tswana states by the end of the 19th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Relative stability and religious freedom have led to an open door for the Gospel in Botswana. Even though 65% of the population identifies as Christian, animism and old tribal rituals are often mixed into their faith. This syncretism and early missionaries' failure to contextualize the gospel to local culture has led to the decline of many strong churches. However, networking between churches and ministries is strong, and the AIDS epidemic offers countless opportunities to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ and influence the next generation with His Truth. (Botswana has the world's second-highest prevalence of AIDS after Eswatini) The San have suffered the almost complete destruction of their desert-adapted way of life, due to the development of ranching, mining and tourism. There are no longer any purely nomadic San—all are resettled in poverty on the fringes of towns and villages. Response is slow, but several thousand San may now be Christian.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by colonialism.
- Pray for revival in the Church.
- Pray for African Indigenous Churches to use their strengths to reach out to others with the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray that the strong cooperation and unity that exists amongst churches might yield greater fruit in ministry.
- Pray that the San might be strengthened as they transition to modern life, yet retain their cultural heritage and, above all, find their true identity in Christ.
- Pray that the love and unity of the Church in Botswana will grow.
- Pray that the church of Botswana will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

The Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

EXODUS 19:2-8A      PSALM 100      ROMANS 5:1-8      MATTHEW 9:35-10:8,(9-23)  
*Creator God, sometimes we forget that all things are made by You, and that we need to care for it as a precious gift. Show us how to honor and care for Your world; empower us to act for the good of all. May we follow Your lead and love Your creation as much as You do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**22 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1896-1960)** In the 1890s, during the European Scramble for Africa, the territory of “French Upper Volta” was invaded by France, and colonial control was established following a war of conquest between 1896 and 1904. In 1960 Republic of Upper Volta gained full independence from France. It was renamed Burkina Faso in 1984. Burkina Faso means “land of honest men”.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came through the Roman Catholic Church to the Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) with the arrival of the French Colonialists in 1896. Burkina has never suffered civil war or religious conflict. Muslims, Christians and animists are neighbours, live together and inter-marry.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Some people say that the population is “50% Muslim, 20% Christian, and 100% animist”! Idols, charms and secret societies have more control in Burkina Faso than in most West African countries. The occult shows its power even in some churches. The Protestant denominations belong to the Evangelical and Pentecostal traditions. Christianity increased steadily across recent decades and continues to increase! The Church now faces a leadership crisis, as many new believers need discipleship.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the new government of Burkina Faso—that they will reflect in word and action the meaning of their country’s name (to be a ‘land of honest men’). Pray that all decisions, laws and decrees of the new government will uphold religious freedom.
- Pray for Christians to demonstrate the power and authority of the name of Jesus and to live out holy, blameless lives in His name.
- Pray for the occultic power to be broken.
- Pray for the church to continue to grow both in influence and as a missions-sending body.
- Pray for the unreached. Despite church growth, increased evangelism and mission and continued responsiveness, 27 unreached people groups remain without an effective witness.
- Pray that the church of Burkino Faso will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Burkino Faso and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

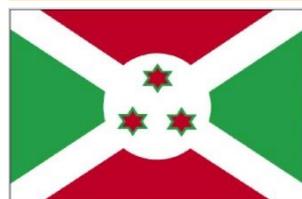
## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus said, “Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:39

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

JEREMIAH 20:7-13    PSALM 69:7-10,(11-15)16-18    ROMANS 6:1B-11    MATTHEW 10:24-39

*Everlasting God, as we wait patiently for what lies beyond the trials and struggles of this life, may we do so as the body of Christ, trusting in You and loving one another fully. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**12.5 MILLION**

## **COLONISED BY GERMANY & BELGIUM (1890–1962)**

The Hutu and Tutsi peoples have lived in Burundi for at least 500 years. In 1890, Germany colonized the region. After the First World War and Germany's defeat, it ceded the territory to Belgium. The European intervention exacerbated social differences between the Tutsi and Hutu, and contributed to political unrest in the region. A system of identity cards was set in place and the top jobs for administrators and officials were reserved for Tutsi people. The whole colonial period was a process of creating inequality and strict ethnic and economic separation between Hutu & Tutsi people. This strict division fuelled the deadly ethnic conflict between them in the 1970s and then another civil war for 12 years from 1993, which killed some 300,000 people and displaced 800,000

people. Over 500,000 children were left with only one parent. Refugees are now returning, but they often lack basic services, are denied claims to their former land, and will spend years in tent cities. During the 1940s and 1950s, the Belgium government carried out a program of kidnapping biracial children from Burundi. Belgium officially apologized for this in 2009.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The earliest Christian missions arrived in 1879, but the missionaries were killed and the king of Burundi who ruled at that time had no interest in foreign theology or imported goods. Larger Christian missions arrived in Burundi in the early 20th century, during German and Belgian colonial rule eras.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Although Burundi is considered more than 80% Christian, Islam has grown quickly in the past few years.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that ethnic groups in Burundi are reconciled and united and honour God together.
- Ask God for many to come to faith in Christ.
- Pray for purification and repentance in the Church of Burundi, also for all the bloodshed of the past.
- Praise God for relative stability in Burundi after the terrors of the 1990s and the unrest of 2015. An elected government now includes both major ethnic groups (Hutu and Tutsi).
- Ask God to bless Burundi economically (Burundi is one of the world's ten poorest countries)
- Pray that the church of Burundi will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Burundi and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance. Psalm 89:15

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

JEREMIAH 28:5-9

PSALM 89:1-4,15-18

ROMANS 6:12-23

MATTHEW 10:40-42

*Teacher, Your laws are easy to understand but hard for us to live up to—to treat others better than we treat ourselves and to love You most of all. We are trying. Help us to do better. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**568 000**

**COLONISED BY PORTUGAL (1462–1975) SLAVERY-** Initially envisaged as a base to give mariners direct access to West African trade, the Central Atlantic islands soon became a major hub of the Atlantic slave trade. Slaves were used on the sugar plantations of the islands and sold on to ships sailing to the Americas. The archipelago was used as a stop-over for enslaved people being transported across the Atlantic, and for supply ships going to the Portuguese colonies. The slaves led very different lives to those of North or South America: On Cape Verde, families developed from the “free” people and slaves who lived together peacefully. **HISTORY-** The islands were also a setting for exile for political prisoners of Portugal and a place of refuge for Jews and other victims of religious persecution during the Spanish-Portuguese

Inquisition. Cape Verde can now look back at a significant achievement: the birth of a completely new Creole culture and language, evolving from the blending of very diverse ethnic groups (African and European). In 2013 Cape Verde changed its official name in the UN General Assembly to Cabo Verde.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came through the Roman Catholics and can be traced to as early as 1533 during the Portuguese occupation in Cabo Verde. Missionaries promoted practices such as the baptism of slaves upon their arrival in the islands. The church has long played an important educational and social role in Cabo Verdean society. Priests established schools and sponsored students to study abroad. The church also kept documentation of biographical data such as birth, death, and marriage.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christianity is the largest religion in Cabo Verde, with Roman Catholics having the majority. About 5% of the population is Protestant.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for Cabo Verdeans to become mature disciples of Jesus who renounce syncretism.
- Pray for more Creole-language Christian literature to be made available to believers.
- Pray for opportunities to reach out to other islands in the region.
- Pray that the church of Cabo Verde will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Cabo Verde and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

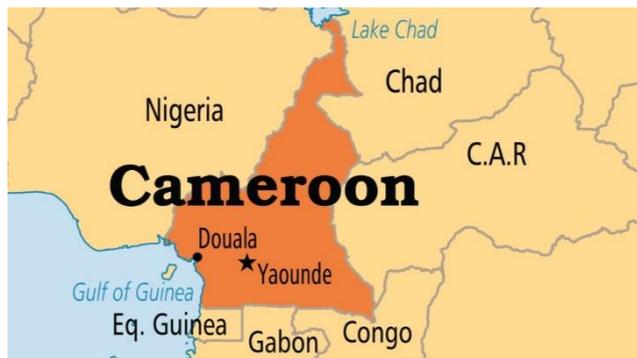
## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 145:8

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12    PSALM 145:8-14    ROMANS 7:15-25A    MATTHEW 11:16-19,25-30

*Welcoming God, we come into Your house like children who have been away from home far too long. As we knew You would, You wrap us up in arms of welcome and acceptance. On the table sit our favorite dishes; our bed is made with fresh linens. How wonderful it is to be home—with You! Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**27.8 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY GERMANY (1884–1961).** **SLAVERY-** The international slave trade in this region began with the Portuguese on Cameroon’s west coast; around 1.5 million slaves left Africa from here. Nearly half of all slaves destined to work in the Western Hemisphere came from Cameroon and the Congo River Basin. **COLONIALISM-** In 1884 the area became a German colony. The Germans moved inland over the years and established large estates for tropical produce. After the First World War, Cameroon was divided between France and Britain until becoming a republic in 1961. The Anglophone crisis (forced British region) in modern-day Cameroon is a legacy of colonialism. Armed groups and government forces committed human rights abuses, including mass killings, across Cameroon’s Anglophone and far northern regions.

Over 712,000 people were internally displaced as of August 2021, and at least 2.2 million people were in need of humanitarian aid.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Joseph Merrick was a black Jamaican Baptist missionary who established the first successful mission on the Cameroon coast of Africa in 1844.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The constitution provides for the right of individuals to choose, practise, and change their religion. However, Boko Haram, a Nigerian Islam extremist group, have warned the Cameroon people to return to Islam or face persecution. Boko Haram frequently cross the border into northern Cameroon and kidnap / murder missionaries and families. Discipleship and Godly leaders are desperately needed within the community to help believers grow in their faith.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for God to raise up reconcilers and peacemakers in this divided land. For true reconciliation to take place amongst the different tribes and regions.
- Pray for God to bring an end to all occult strongholds in Cameroon.
- Pray for effective Christian discipling in churches.
- Pray for the leadership of the churches; that pastors will have integrity and teach in ways that honour God.
- Pray that the church of Cameroon will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Cameroon & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

**WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

ISAIAH 55:10-13      PSALM 65:(1-8),9-13      ROMANS 8:1-11      MATTHEW 13:1-9,18-23

*Divine Comforter, sometimes tears overtake us in the strangest places. We weep for those we have lost through distance, or death, or destroyed relationships. Our broken hearts cry out to You. Thank You for being the shoulder we can always cry upon, and the friend whom we can always count on. Amen.*



**POPULATION  
4.9 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1894–1960)** The region was the site of much slave trading activity in the 19th century and was then heavily economically exploited in the early 20th century. The poverty in CAR today is attributed to the raids and kidnappings carried out by rival tribes in league with European slavers in the centuries before. So traumatised were the early tribes, they found it was safer to remain in small groups rather than develop the larger communities vulnerable to raiders. With its natural wealth of gold, diamonds, timber and uranium, the CAR should be thriving and rank as one of the world's richest nations, but instead it suffers from abject poverty and competition between rival warlords.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The Roman Catholic Church arrived in 1894 as the French were taking full control of the country, with the Protestants coming later in 1920.

**CHURCH TODAY:** In 2012, Christians started attacking Muslims, chasing them away from their country. One story that captured media attention: With the anti-Balaka (a rebel group in CAR) killing Muslims, a Catholic priest opened up his church for the Muslims to hide in and pray in. Half of the population professes Christianity, with 15% being Muslim. As Christianity is often mixed with animistic beliefs, there is limited grasp of Biblical truth. The CAR was one of the world's most evangelized nations, but the upheavals there mean the progress in some regions has reversed. Muslims grow rapidly in influence, especially in the cities. Few Christians feel equipped to reach out to them. The risk of genocide is high in CAR.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the different tribes to repent to one another for all the war, fighting, bloodshed and injustices of the past.
- Pray that the Muslim refugees will have encounters with Jesus and turn to Him.
- Pray for all the resources and creativity needed to fulfil the intentions of God in the nation of Central African Republic.
- Ask God to heal this nation and to raise up righteous men and women across the nation.
- Pray that the church of Central African Republic will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Central African Republic and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Isaiah 44:6

ISAIAH 44:6-8

PSALM 86:11-17

ROMANS 8:12-25

MATTHEW 13:24-30,36-43

*Lord, we will lie down in peace and rest in safety for You are our ever-present protector. Whether we are threatened by foes real or imagined, we will rest in the shadow of Your wings. Nightmares have no power over us when You stand ready to scatter them away. When morning comes, we will thank You for never leaving us. Amen.*

# CHAD

**WEEK TEN**  
**30 JULY – 5 AUGUST 2023**



**POPULATION**  
**17.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1900-1958)** The French ruled by force of arms and the colonial order fueled local tensions. The French exploited the colony and recruited people for forced labour and men as combatants. Post-colonial Chad is seen as a textbook case of factional conflicts and cycles of violence, resulting in a militarized state and a violent economy. Another result of this history has been that armed violence has become an occupation for many men. **SLAVERY-** From 1500 to 1900, Arab slave raids were widespread and Chad had become one of the most important sources of slaves for the trans-Saharan trade.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The Protestants came to southern Chad in the 1920s. Contrary to the dominant pattern in some other parts of Africa, however, where the colonial powers encouraged the spread of the faith, the earliest French officials in Chad advised against it.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The country is 52.8% Muslim and 38.5% Christian. Chad is one of the few Muslim nations that welcome missionaries. Violence in nearby Darfur at the hands of other Muslims caused some to question Islam and left them open to the loving ministry and witness of Christians. Chad has more unreached people living within its borders than any other African country. Chad has been torn apart as a nation and as a Church. Unification and reconciliation are desperately needed. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world and has suffered from decades of war, famine and epidemics. It has also suffered from droughts and floods. The impact of these has been magnified since the country does not have the resources to combat them.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that modern-day slavery and trafficking will come to an end.
- Pray that Christians will learn to reach out to the Muslims around them and be strengthened to persevere in the difficult places in Chad. Pray for a great harvest.
- For integrity and honesty to rule the nation and displace government corruption.
- Pray that God will reveal Himself to the unreached people of Chad.
- Pray that the church of Chad will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Chad and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

God, turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your custom toward those who love Your name.  
Psalm 119:132

1 KINGS 3:5-12      PSALM 119:129-136      ROMANS 8:26-39      MATTHEW 13:31-33,44-52  
*Precious Friend, wherever You would have us go, we will go. Whatever You would have us do, we will do. Whomever You would have us welcome, we will receive. We ask only that You reveal Yourself and Your will to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**906 000**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1841–1975)** **SLAVERY-** The Arabs first used these islands as a trading outpost between Africa and other countries along the Indian Ocean, and developed a thriving economy based on the sale of spices and slaves. **HISTORY-** In 1841, the Islands were absorbed into the French overseas empires. The Comoros economy was dependent on the exporting of vanilla, ylang-ylang, cloves, cocoa, copra and other tropical crops. Most profits obtained from exports were diverted to France. Development was further limited by the colonial government's practice of concentrating public services on Madagascar, causing the migration of large

numbers of Comorians to Madagascar, where their presence would be a long-term source of tension between Comoros and its giant island neighbour. Independence came in 1974 for three of the Comoros Islands. However, Mayotte, the remaining island, voted to remain part of the French republic (still to this day). Since independence, Comoros has endured political instability through realized and attempted coups. Today, the nation enjoys peace, though threats of political unrest still linger. 23.5% of people in Comoros live in extreme poverty.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** In the 1930s, the Capuchins established a Catholic Mission.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 99.9% of the Comorian people are Muslim. The Comoros Nation became Islamic in the early 16th Century. Proselytization by any religion except Islam is illegal and converts to Christianity can be prosecuted. Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise, and many are also involved with occultic practices such as witchcraft and spirit possessions.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the Gospel to infiltrate every island, regardless of restrictions and mounting persecution.
- Pray that God will reveal Himself to the unreached people of the Comoros.
- Pray for God's protection over new believers, especially those from Muslim backgrounds. Pray for courage and strength for the small group of believers worshipping despite great risk.
- Ask the Lord to bring more of His children to the islands to help disciple new believers.
- Pray that the church of Comoros will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Comoros and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He has made. Psalm 145:9

ISAIAH 55:1-5

PSALM 145:8-9,14-21

ROMANS 9:1-5

MATTHEW 14:13-21

*Jesus, we remember those in our past who trusted in Your compassion and mercy. We long faithfully to rely on You, for we know that whatever we face, You walk with us in strong compassion. With thanks, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**5.7 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1880–1960)** HISTORY- After seizing control in 1880, there were many revolts against the French, due to French policy of maltreating the local population through the use of harsh forced labour. The Congo became independent in August 1960. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government was installed after a bloody civil war (1997- 2001). However, the government is beset by charges of corruption. The Republic of Congo is one of Africa’s oil rich states but is still very poor. **SLAVERY-** Slavery was commonly practiced by most Congolese societies long before the arrival of Europeans. The vast majority of US African Americans are descendants of the 400,000 black slaves forcibly brought to the New World prior to 1860, from the Congo River area.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Portuguese explorers brought Christianity to Congo in 1484. French missionaries spread Christianity to the hinterlands in the 1880s. Swedish missionaries founded the first Protestant mission in 1909 near Kinkala.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The majority (88.5%) of Congolese identify as Christian but hold a superficial belief in basic Christian ideas combined with animistic rituals and idols. The Marxist government (1968-1991) expelled most mission organizations and reared a generation disconnected from any form of spiritual life. False beliefs and practices are rampant within the Church.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the many poor people in the Republic of Congo will also benefit from the great agricultural and untapped mineral wealth and oil reserves of their country.
- The Congo has past troubles, but future potential- pray for righteous leaders and a hunger for the truth of the Gospel.
- Pray for a pure Gospel, devoid of syncretism and heresy, to be proclaimed and for the Church to recapture the vision for evangelism of the entire country.
- Pray for an expansion of ministries that equip youth and the less reached in central and northern areas, to impact the nation for Christ.
- Pray that the church of Republic of the Congo will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless the Republic of Congo and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Jesus spoke to the disciples and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

1 KINGS 19:9-18

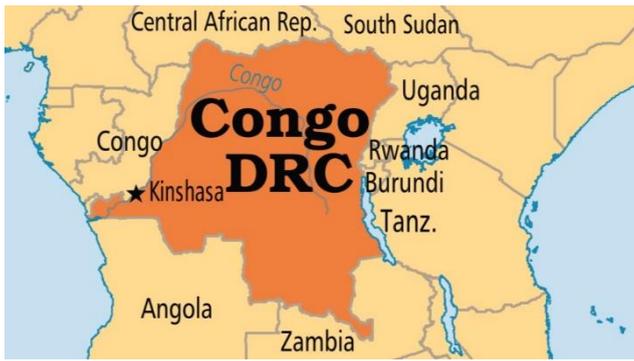
PSALM 85:8-13

ROMANS 10:5-15

MATTHEW 14:22-33

*Spirit of Christ, You can unite people in You, even in our differences. Fill our vision with the sacrifice and love of Jesus, and fill our hearts with love for Jesus, that we may boundlessly love each other. Amen.*

**SACLI RECONCILE: 54 WEEKS OF PRAYER**



**POPULATION**  
**95.8 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BELGIUM (1885-1960)** The Democratic Republic of Congo is potentially one of the richest countries on earth, but colonialism, slavery and corruption have turned it into one of the poorest. **SLAVERY-** In the 1480s, Portuguese traders discovered that the Congo was home to a seemingly inexhaustible supply of strong, disease-resistant slaves. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Arabs raided the country for slaves. **COLONIALISM-** During King Leopold II of Belgium's colonial rule (from 1885 to 1908), an estimated 10 million died from punishment and malnutrition, and many more suffered from disease and torture. The Republic of the Congo gained its independence from Belgium in 1960. Natural resources led to mass conflict and successive civil wars in the 1990s. Rape, murder, plundering, and the use of child soldiers

were the weapons used against innocent civilians. These events resulted in economic slump and a tragic six million lives lost to brutality and disease. Congo's leaders have redirected billions of dollars from the country and have used brutal violence at times to gain or maintain the ultimate prize: control of the state and its vast natural resources, worth an estimated \$24 trillion.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** In 1491, King Nzinga of the Kongo Kingdom converted to Roman Catholicism, after coming into contact with Portuguese colonial explorers. The largest expansion of Christianity occurred under Belgian colonial rule.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christianity is the majority religion in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and roughly 96% of the population are members of Christian denominations.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Thank the Lord for that the present king of Belgium, King Philippe (he is related to King Leopold) has expressed his "deepest regrets" to the Democratic Republic of Congo for his country's colonial abuses in a letter to President Félix Tshisekedi on the 60th anniversary of DR Congo's independence (2020). Pray that these words of the present King will be followed up with actions of repentance and restitution.
- Pray for a stable national government rooted in righteousness.
- Pray for followers of Jesus to be ambassadors of spiritual and national reconciliation.
- Pray for the Prince of Peace to heal those traumatized by widespread violence.
- Pray that the church of Democratic Republic of Congo will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless the Democratic Republic of Congo and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Psalm 67:5

ISAIAH 56:1,6-8

PSALM 67

ROMANS 11:1-2A,29-32

MATTHEW 15:(10-20),21-28

*Creator God, You made all things good. Today may we focus our attention on seeing the good in everything You made, and may our works and words reflect Your light clearly and cleanly. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**27.6 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1842–1960)** Côte d'Ivoire profited a lot from the ivory trade in the 17th century—hence, the name, Ivory Coast. **SLAVERY**— Côte d'Ivoire, like other nations in West Africa, was affected by slave trade, but its lack of protected harbours along the coastline barred the Europeans from developing permanent trade stations. Slave trade was eventually abolished in 1905. **COLONIALISM**— Cocoa was originally brought to Western Africa by European chocolate companies seeking to grow it where labour was cheap or 'free'. Coffee and cocoa production made the country an economic powerhouse in the 1960s and 1970s. The Ivory Coast produces around two-fifths of the world's cocoa. Most cocoa farmers earn very little per day. As a result, they often resort to the use of child labour to keep their prices competitive.

These children are called “**chocolate slaves**”. Approximately 2.1 million children in the Ivory Coast and Ghana work on cocoa farms— some are trafficked and some are sold by relatives. In 2015 the Ivory Coast passed laws requiring that children attend school until age 16 and making it illegal for children under 16 to work, but this has had little impact on children trafficked onto cocoa farms.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christian missionaries arrived at the coast in the 17th century but did not win converts in large numbers until the 19th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Islam and Christianity are the main religions, but the Church is growing through partnerships in radio broadcasting, publishing, and much more.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for reconciliation and peace after the war. Pray that the peace of God which passes all understanding fill the hearts and minds of all the people of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Pray that committed lobby groups worldwide will be successful in their strategy of both educating the public and running corporate campaigns to combat the evil of child labour on the cocoa fields of Côte d'Ivoire. Pray for healing and restoration of these children.
- Pray for the gospel to penetrate into the unevangelized sectors of a predominantly Muslim north.
- That God will supply all of the needs of indigenous missionaries and for the pure and unadulterated truths of the Bible to be taught and used effectively in discipleship.
- Pray that the church of Côte d'Ivoire will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to bless Côte d'Ivoire and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God. Romans 12:2

WEEKLY WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ISAIAH 51:1-6

PSALM 138

ROMANS 12:1-8

MATTHEW 16:13-20

*Open our eyes, Spirit of truth, to see the grace upon grace You have lavished on us. May we recognize Your hand of blessing and may we bless others with Your love and mercy. Amen.*



**POPULATION  
1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1862–1977)** Africa's third smallest state is a haven of calm in a stormy region. Located on the Horn of Africa, Djibouti was an important trade centre for both the Arabian Peninsula and Eastern Africa. **SLAVERY-** Djibouti was once part of the Eastern slave trade route. Small numbers of enslaved Africans were sold from the east coast to other areas including the Persian Gulf and India for hundreds of years, until slavery was abolished in 1889. Upon independence in 1977, the country was named after its capital city of Djibouti. A civil war destabilized the country from 1991 to 1994, but the country has since held several successful democratic elections.

**TODAY-** Djibouti occupies a strategic geographic location at the intersection of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Its ports handle 95% of

Ethiopia's trade. Djibouti's ports also service trans-shipments between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The government holds longstanding ties to France, which maintains a military presence in the country, as does the US, Japan, Italy, Germany, Spain, and China.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The Roman Catholic Church sent its first priest from Arabia to Djibouti in 1883. In 1940 the Reformed Church of France was established. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has also established congregations in the country.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Proselytizing of Muslims is not allowed and those who turn from Islam to Christianity will most likely be persecuted by family members. Sunni Muslim 94% (nearly all Djiboutians), Christian 6% (mainly foreign-born residents).

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for wisdom for Christian workers in Arab-focused ministries.
- Pray for the nomadic Afar, who are essentially unreached with the Gospel, that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- Pray for encouragement and perseverance for those ministering in extremely difficult conditions.
- Pray that the Islamist voice that seeks to make Djibouti conform to its own values will not destroy current freedoms.
- Pray that the church of Djibouti will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Djibouti & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

JEREMIAH 15:15-21 PSALM 26:1-8 ROMANS 12:9-21 MATTHEW 16:21-28

*Mighty God, bless us today with faith that is eager, hopeful, and trusting. May Your righteousness guide us with strength and wisdom. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**106.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1882–1956)** Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt’s government in 1882. In 1919 broad based nonviolent demonstrations erupted, condemning British occupation and the colonial administration of Egypt. That paved the way for other colonies in Africa, Asia and the Arab world suffering under Western colonialism to pursue freedom. The British were completely expelled from Egypt in 1956. **SLAVERY-** in Egypt existed up until the early 20th century. During the Islamic history of Egypt, slavery was mainly focused into three categories: male slaves used for soldiers and bureaucrats, female slaves used for sexual slavery as concubines and female slaves and eunuchs used

for domestic service in harems and private households. TODAY- amid an increasingly repressive government, Egypt is terrorized by Islamic extremism.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Many Christians hold that Christianity was brought to Egypt by the Apostle Mark in the early part of the first century AD. For over 1,000 years, Egypt was a majority-Christian country, even after the Arab Muslim conquest in AD 640.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christians still live in a precarious situation regarding religious freedom and persecution. Conversion is not illegal, but some are imprisoned for "despising Islam" or under false pretexts; others have fled for their lives. Religion- Muslim 90%, Christian 9%, Agnostic 1%

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the Church to continue to overcome evil with divine forgiveness and love.
- Pray that the church of Egypt will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself to an unprecedented number of Muslims disillusioned by Islamic State.
- Pray for a government that serves God’s purposes—to restrain evil, punish crime, and enable peaceful and quiet lives among the citizenry.
- In the Bible we read of Egypt as a place of refuge and provision—from Joseph to Jesus. Pray that Egypt will once again be a place of refuge and provision for Christians. Pray for the production of evangelistic tools so that the Egyptian church will grow in strength to impact the wider Arab region.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Give me understanding, O God, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Psalm 119:34

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

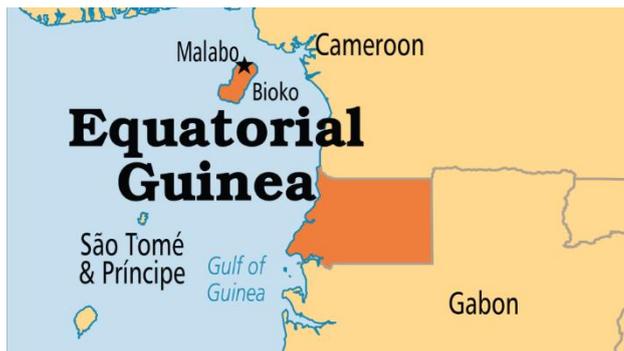
EZEKIEL 33:7-11

PSALM 119:33-40

ROMANS 13:8-14

MATTHEW 18:15-20

*Kind, attentive God, none of us is immune to the harsh realities of life. In these hard times, You are present, reliable, and loving. Help us trust and depend on You as our shepherd and the guardian of our way. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**1.4 MILLION**

## COLONISED BY PORTUGAL & SPAIN (1472-1968)

The earliest indigenous population were the Ndowne & Bubi societies. The Fang settled in the area around the 12th century and together they developed a society with a strong army, but were unable to prevent colonisation by Portugal. In 1778 Portugal traded the islands to the Spanish government and it became a major centre of slave trade. TODAY- The nation functions as a republic, though opposition parties have little power. While oil production provides the nation's wealth, subsistence farming has become vital to the economic survival of the non-elite population, due to the high amount of government corruption. This is one of Africa's smallest countries, yet the third largest oil exporter South of the Sahara.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANS GET THERE?** Christianity was

brought to the area by the Portuguese in 1472, through the Catholic Church. There was severe persecution of Christians (associated with colonialist history) under the rule of President Nguema, who wanted to be recognised as 'the messiah'. Nguema ordered his own photo to be hung by the altar at every church, stating, "There is no other God other than Macías Nguema". Then, in 1975, Macías Nguema ordered all churches to close. As a result of religious persecutions and limitations, tens of thousands of Christians fled the country, until Nguema was deposed of in a coup in 1979.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Today, the majority of Equatorial Guineans (87%) consider themselves to be Roman Catholic (the highest proportion of Catholics in Africa.) Protestant Christians are around 5% of the total population. Many pagan animistic practices still occur. The government shows acceptance of the Gospel message and respects the Church.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the church of Equatorial Guinea will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that nominalism and animistic traditions will die as Christ is revealed in Equatorial Guinea.
- Pray for the government to seek a Godly plan for developing society in light of great oil wealth.
- For wisdom for missionaries from West and Central Africa working in Equatorial Guinea.
- Ask God to bless Equatorial Guinea and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits. Psalm 103:2

GENESIS 50:15-21 PSALM 103:(1-7),8-13 ROMANS 14:1-12 MATTHEW 18:21-35

*Most loving God, the certainty of Your blessings is eternal, everlasting, from generation to generation. We are grateful and humbled that it is You in whom we live, move, and have our being today. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**3.6 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY ITALY (1889–1941)** Eritrea is nestled snugly on the Horn of Africa between Sudan and Ethiopia. Its coastal location has long been important in its history and culture—it was such an important trade route that Turkey, Egypt and Italy hoped to dominate it by seizing control of the ports on the Eritrean coast. Those ports promised access to the gold, coffee and slaves sold by traders in the Ethiopian highlands to the south. In the second half of the 20th century, Ethiopia became the power from which the Eritrean people had to free themselves in order to create their own state, which happened in 1993, after almost 30 years of war for independence. Isaias Afworki has been Eritrea’s only president since then and his rule has been highly autocratic and repressive. His government created a highly militarised society by pursuing a program of

Mandatory conscription into national service, sometimes of indefinite length. TODAY- Many people flee the country to escape military conscription and extreme poverty and the money sent home by those who live abroad now provides a vital source of income for the country.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANS GET THERE?** Eritrea was one of the first countries in the world to adopt Christianity as its state religion in the 4th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The population is evenly divided between Sunni Muslims and Orthodox Christians. Only about 3% are evangelical Christians. It is number 6 on the World Watch List 2022 for the top 50 countries in the world where Christians experience the most persecution. The government recognises only three denominations: Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran. All others are at risk of severe persecution at the hands of the state, including intrusive surveillance, raids on gatherings, and arrests. Some estimate that over 3,000 Christians are imprisoned in Eritrea. Even so, churches in Eritrea are growing despite sanctioned opposition and many believers have moved underground with the establishment of house churches.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the persecuted believers and the growing underground house church movement—that God would protect and guide them by His spirit.
- Pray for the strength and perseverance of long-term prisoners and their families.
- Pray that the church of Eritrea will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for government acceptance of religious groups and for restoration of basic human rights and religious freedom to all Eritreans.
- Ask God to bless Eritrea and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. Philippians 1:21

JONAH 3:10-4:11

PSALM 145:1-8

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

MATTHEW 20:1-16

*You, God, love us best. We have a lot to learn. Please help us release the fear that stops us from loving fully and deeply in the way that Jesus, our savior, embodied in His life and ministry. Thank You. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**1.1 MILLION**

### **COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1871–1968)**

**SLAVERY-** The Swazi's supplied slaves both to the South African 'Boers' and to the Portuguese in Mozambique. **COLONIALISM-** Swaziland was a British protectorate from 1871 until its independence in 1968. **TODAY-** King Mswati III, the current king, has ruled since 1986. To shed the country's British colonial past, King Mswati III announced in April 2018 that Swaziland, an anglicized name, would hence be known as Eswatini, meaning "place of the Swati", the correct name for the people and their language.

Eswatini is one of Africa's smallest nations and one of the world's last absolute monarchies. Since 1996, the nation has had growing political unrest due to the monarchy and its ban on political parties.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** In Eswatini, it is

commonly known that King Sobhuza I had a dream in which he saw strange people with white skin coming into his country with a book (Bible) in the one hand & other people with gold coins. King Sobhuza I received the command to accept the people with the book. Sometime afterwards, the king sent a delegation to missionaries who used such a book to invite them to come to the Land of the Swati and to teach the people this message. And so in 1844, the Methodist Church built its first mission in Eswatini.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Eswatini's population is roughly 90% Christian, 2% Muslim. Many churches compromise regarding polygamy, witchcraft, ancestor veneration and appeasement sacrifices. This has opened the door for sins such as sexual impurity to take root, contributing to the widespread devastation of HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS infection rate in Eswatini is one of the highest in the world. Roughly 100,000 children have been orphaned as a result. The suffering of this nation presents an opportunity for the Church to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ by meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of its people.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the church of Eswatini will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for treatment of the sick. That all churches will address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of AIDS sufferers and their families.
- Pray for those bound by ancestor worship and the occult to find freedom in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the king, people and government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to work towards peace, reconciliation, dialogue and the common good of the nation. Pray that God will give the leaders His wisdom so that there will be no more bloodshed and destruction of property. Pray for justice to be done on all levels. Pray also for wise decision-making regarding the allocation of resources and funds to bring the country out of an economic downturn.
- Ask the Lord to bless Eswatini and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

WEEKLY

WORLDWIDE

MORAVIAN

WATCHWORD

Let the same mind be in You that was in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5

EZEKIEL 18:1-4,25-32

PSALM 25:1-9

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

MATTHEW 21:23-32

*Almighty God, bless us to be blessings unto Your creation, Your people, and Your holy name. Help us to keep Sabbath this day, uniting with sisters and brothers throughout the world, honorably and peaceably. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**120.8 MILLION**

**ONE OF TWO COUNTRIES IN AFRICA NEVER COLONIZED.** Many countries in Africa saw Ethiopia as a symbol of hope during colonization. Known as Abyssinia until the 20th century, the nation was ruled by an age-old monarchy. From the 16th century right up to the 19th, slaves from Ethiopia were sold across the world. The nation's main export, Ethiopian coffee, is enjoyed throughout the world. Agriculture has been the foundation of the Ethiopian economy for centuries, but years of over-cultivation and unreliable weather caused frequent droughts, famines, and eventually civil unrest. As a result, a Marxist junta overthrew the long running monarchy in 1974. In 1991 a democratic government was created. Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, many of its people are starving and two-thirds are illiterate. The Tigray region— the centre of the previous ruling party's power – has been subject to atrocities, war crimes, and even genocide.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** According to tradition, Christianity first came in the 4th century A.D. Since the establishment of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in 1270 (one of the oldest Christian churches in the world), Christianity has been a part of Ethiopia. Abyssinia was also an early home to the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Judaism entered Abyssinia with the Queen of Sheba. One of the earliest Christian baptisms recorded in Scripture was the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 who took his new faith with him to his homeland. There are also oral and written traditions that show that the early church fathers Mark, Matthew and Bartholomew preached the gospel in Abyssinia.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 60% of Ethiopians consider themselves Christians. 34% are Muslim. Some radical Islamic groups threaten the fragile peace that exists between Christians and Muslims.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery.
- Thank God for unity among believers and freedom to gather and worship together. Pray that the church of Ethiopia will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for militant Muslims to know the truth of Jesus Christ and to stop persecuting believers.
- Pray for an end to the terrible violence in the Tigray region. Pray for peace that offers esteem to every region and ethnic group while also enabling a genuine national unity.
- Pray for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid to those most in need in both Tigray region as well as for the hundreds of thousands now living in camps for refugees and internally displaced people.
- Pray for an end to the worst drought in 40 years.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:22,23

ISAIAH 5:1-7

PSALM 80:7-15

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

MATTHEW 21:33-46

*God, You created us, You love us, and You have plans for us. Why should we worry? Why should we be perplexed? Help us return to You this Sabbath day and abide in You ever more—just as we are, just as You intend. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1885-1960)** **SLAVERY-** In the 1470s, Portuguese navigators found the Ogooué estuary of Gabon and they began to trade with coastal merchants for slaves who had been acquired in the interior. The Portuguese were followed by Dutch, English and French traders and by the late 18th century the French had gained a dominant position. Despite the abolition of the slave trade in 1815, slaves continued to be exported from the Gabon coast until the 1880s. **TODAY-** Gabon's prosperity is mainly attributed to their richness in oil. Almost 70% of their export income comes from crude oil. Today critics are warning the government of their diminishing oil reserves. Although most of Gabon's people are considered poor, they enjoy more wealth per person than many of their neighbours. This is because of the small population in relation to Gabon's abundant natural resources. The nation has one of the highest per

capita incomes in Africa, but there is unfortunate disparity between rich and poor. The majority of the people rely on subsistence farming as a means of survival.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity arrived in Gabon through the Portuguese traders in the early 16th century. Sacred Heart and Holy Ghost, as well as Protestant missions from Europe arrived mid-19th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 70% Christian. 15% Muslim. 10% practice animism exclusively. Sadly, competition between churches, syncretism and prosperity theologies have influenced many churches beyond recognition. Many mission organisations have started to make this region their priority, in order to not only better the church's network, but to give better training to the pastors of churches.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Praise God for political peace in Gabon. Pray that the church of Gabon will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for those bound by ancestral worship and the occult to find freedom in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Church to discern between true and false teachings.
- Ask the Lord to bless Gabon and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will praise Your name; for You have done wonderful things. Isaiah 25:1

**WEEKLY WORLDWIDE MORAVIAN WATCHWORD**

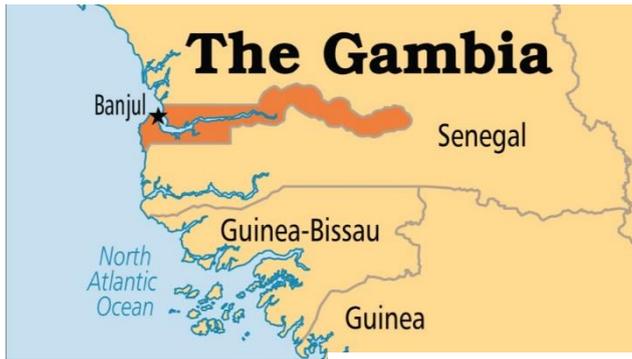
ISAIAH 25:1-9

PSALM 23

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

MATTHEW 22:1-14

*Who are our sisters and brothers, O Lord, but all of Your children? Why are the people who discomfort and disquiet us the most usually the ones who help us grow and mature? May we not hesitate to practice radical hospitality as we learn to recognize and honor Your divinity in all others. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.5 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1821-1965)** Straddling the Gambia River, the Republic of The Gambia is the smallest country in mainland Africa. **SLAVERY-** In 1455, the Portuguese became the first Europeans to enter the Gambia River. They were looking for gold. Instead, they found slaves- war captives that the Mandinka people were anxious to sell, especially for firearms. By the 1600s, the Portuguese, Spanish, and English were fully engaged in the transatlantic slave trade. Slaves were taken to the mines of Mexico and the sugar plantations of the Caribbean. About 5,000 slaves a year were shipped to America from The Gambia during the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**COLONISATION-** The Gambia was fused together with present-day Senegal to form Senegambia, the first British colony in Africa. The Gambia became a self-governed

nation in 1963 and gained full independence in 1965. Since independence, The Gambia has enjoyed relative stability, with the exception of a brief period of military rule in 1994. **TODAY-** The Gambia is considered a "melting pot" of West African ethnic groups who generally live in harmony with one another. Major social issues within Gambian society include poverty, disease, and lack of economic development. There are no government programs in place for the poor or disabled, and they are usually forced to beg. Malaria, blindness, and other illnesses ail the population, and the nation is one of the poorest in the world.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity arrived in The Gambia with Portuguese sailors in 1456 when they sailed upriver and landed on James Island.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 90% is Muslim, but there is some religious freedom and tolerance. Christians, mostly Protestant, make up 5% of the population.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Thank God for the mostly friendly relationships between Muslims and Christians in The Gambia. Pray for all to come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- Pray that the church of The Gambia will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for missionaries who leave urban Gambia to travel upriver to engage the unreached tribes. Pray for God's guidance and protection.
- Pray for unhampered and accurate translation work for the many languages in The Gambia with no Bible.
- Ask the Lord to bless The Gambia & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Psalm 96:2

ISAIAH 45:1-7 PSALM 96:1-9,(10-13) 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10 MATTHEW 22:15-22  
*Lord Jesus, as we attempt to love God's children without condition, may we share kind and respectful words that honor the dignity inherent in others. H-A-T-E is a terrible four-letter word that should never be used, instead may we use the word love, just as You've taught us. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**32.4 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1874-1957)** **SLAVERY-** Ghana has the dark history of being one of Africa’s main shipping points for slaves. Cape Coast is home to more than 30 dungeons where slaves were held in captivity by European colonists before being transported via the transatlantic slave trade. **COLONIALISM-** In the 15th century, the Portuguese found so much gold in the region, it became known as the Gold Coast. In 1874, Britain made the Gold Coast a crown colony and spent 80 years extracting resources. Ghana's independence in 1957 was followed by a time of corruption and a series of military coups. A new constitution in 1992, however, established a democratic government and Ghana has transitioned successfully to a democratic system. **TODAY-** Gold, prominent in Ghana's political and economic past, continues its influence today. Ghanaian cocoa production,

second only to Cote d'Ivoire, timber products, and recently discovered oil reserves also generate income. This well-run country is often used as an economic and political model for reform in Africa. Ghana has become a high-profile peacekeeper with troops deployed in Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone and DRC.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christian activity dates from the arrival of the Portuguese on the coast in 1471. Sustained missionary work began when the Swiss-based Basel Mission entered the Danish trading sector in 1828.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 63% of Ghanaians are Christians. A dual spirituality, influenced by traditional African religions, challenges much of the church. The strong Muslim presence in the north of Ghana has launched an aggressive outreach to the rest of the country and is making serious inroads.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Thank the Lord for the peace that Ghana is experiencing. Pray that the church of Ghana will fulfill Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the unreached in Ghana to come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- Praise God for the growth in mission initiatives and for raising people up to evangelise. Pray for their protection and the Lord to guide them daily.
- Pray for a clear break from all bondage to charms and the occult—pray for true liberty in Jesus.
- Ask the Lord to bless Ghana and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

You shall be holy, for I the Lord Your God am holy. Leviticus 19:2

LEVITICUS 19:1-2,15-18      PSALM 1      1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8      MATTHEW 22:34-46

*Forgive us, Father. Too often we think only of ourselves and become caught up in safeguarding our own interests. On this Sabbath day, let us visit with You. Restore us to right relationship with You. Keep us in the embrace of Your holy presence. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**13.8 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1849-1958)** **SLAVERY-** The Portuguese presence on the coast of Guinea dates from the 15th century, when they developed a slave trade that would continue to affect Guinea until the mid-19th century. **COLONIALISM-** Guinea became a French protectorate in 1849. After a nationwide referendum, it severed all ties with France and proclaimed its independence as the republic of Guinea in 1958. **TODAY-** Guinea has been troubled by violence, power hungry leadership, and coup's over many years. They had their first democratic elections in 1993 and the first all-civil government in 2010 (following an assassination attempt on the president, plotted by three army leaders). A military coup in 2021 that deposed then-President Condé was the latest in a series of unfortunate setbacks to Guinea's stumbling

progress toward democracy. The political history has proven fatal for the nation's economic state and today Guinea is one of the poorest countries in West Africa. Guinea's major crops include rice, bananas, coffee, ground nuts and pineapple; natural resources such as iron ore, bauxite, gold and diamonds are also found within its borders. Though it exports a large amount of bauxite annually, the majority of inhabitants live on less than a dollar per day.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Portuguese traders first explored the area in the mid-15th century and missionaries occasionally visited the coastal region in their wake.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Muslim 88%, Ethnic religions 8%, Christian 3%. The constitution and other laws protect religious freedom and allow individuals to choose, change and practice religion as they desire. However, there is still some hostility between faiths. 43% of the population are under age 15.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the church of Guinea will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- For the unreached Guineans living in remote areas to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.
- Pray for the Christians to persevere in their faith and not turn away from their identity in Christ. Pray also for their protection and that they will daily be led by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that God will meet the needs of the spiritually and physically poor people of Guinea in a holistic way.
- Ask the Lord to bless Guinea and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

O send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me. Psalm 43:3

MICAH 3:5-12

PSALM 43

1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13

MATTHEW 23:1-12

*Each day is a gift from You, gracious God. The air we breathe, the trees that shade our paths, the water that nourishes us—are all gifts from You. Our congregation, our friends and family members, our coworkers, and our pets are blessings that we've received from You. In gratitude for all these gifts and more, let our lives be a blessing to You, to our earth, and to those around us. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY PORTUGAL (1446-1974) SLAVERY-** With the cooperation of some local tribes, the Portuguese entered the slave trade and exported large numbers of Africans to the Western Hemisphere via the Cape Verde Islands. **COLONIALISM-** The rivers of Guinea and the islands of Cape Verde were among the first areas in Africa the Portuguese explored. Portugal claimed Guinea-Bissau in 1446. Guinea-Bissau won the war for independence in 1973. The complex relationship between the political elite and the military has since contributed to a series of coups and no president has fulfilled his term in office. On 1 February 2022 there was another failed coup to overthrow the president. **TODAY-** Political instability continues, severe poverty and violent conflict combine to burden the population. The influence of drug shipments leads to corrupt police, army & government leaders.

Guinea-Bissau is today recognized as a crucial hub for trafficking cocaine from South America to Europe, and it is referred to as Africa's first narco-state. Guinea-Bissau is a nation of origin for child labour and sex trafficking. The lives of native Guineans continue to be threatened on a daily basis by landmines that remain from previous conflicts.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity arrived in Guinea-Bissau with Portuguese traders and missionaries from the Catholic church in the 15th century. Protestant missionaries arrived in Guinea-Bissau in 1939.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The CIA World Factbook (2020 estimate) states that around 46% of the population are Muslims, 31% adhere to Folk Religions, 19% are Christians, and 4% are irreligious or practice other religions. There is a high level of syncretism between Islam, Catholicism and African traditional religions. There is a great need for Scripture in the nation, but low literacy rates and poverty make this difficult.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- For the unreached and also specifically the smaller, and often overlooked, peoples to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Guinea-Bissau's history of political unrest reveals a need for stability and forgiveness. Pray that God would raise up righteous leaders for the people to steer them to stability and progress.
- Pray that God will meet the needs of the spiritually and physically poor people of Guinea Bissau in a holistic way. Pray also for solutions to the problems of rebellion (coups), landmines, violence, drug and child trafficking.
- Pray that the church of Guinea-Bissau will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Guinea-Bissau & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Matthew 25:13

AMOS 5:18-24

PSALM 70

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

MATTHEW 25:1-13

*Lord, it can be so difficult to forgive after we've been hurt. There is no shortage of stories of people being taken advantage of, done wrong to, or worse. We want justice. We want to know why. Christ has shown us that forgiveness must come first. Spirit, fill us with the strength to forgive, as this is the cornerstone of reconciliation. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**56.2 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1888-1962) SLAVERY-** The slave trade grew exponentially at the end of the 17th Century with a large slave market based at Zanzibar. Slave caravan routes soon reached far into the interior of Kenya. **TODAY-** In terms of education, Kenya has one of the highest literacy rates in Africa today. The fast-growing population, widespread poverty, spreading urban slums and urgent need for land reform create tension in Kenyan society. The political scene is fraught with tribalism and corruption. The Global Modern Slavery Index estimates that 328,000 people are held in conditions of modern slavery in Kenya- child trafficking being the most prevalent form.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The first Christians recorded to have visited East Africa were Vasco da Gama and his crew, in 1498. In 1564 the Portuguese Viceroy of India ordered that the gospel be preached around Mombasa and three years later an Augustinian monastery was established there.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 82.5% of the population identify as Christians (this includes Protestants 47.4%, Catholics 23.3%, other 11.8%). Muslims together make up about 11.1% of the total population. Traditional African believers (specifically voodoo believers) and other minor religious groups together make up the remaining fraction of the population. Converts from Islam to Christianity are subject to harassment, persecution and violence. Somali Islamic militants have committed acts of violence within Kenya's borders. Terrorists have attacked several churches in Kenya and have killed pastors and other Christians.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for peace, for wise governance without corruption, for practical, sustainable, long-term solutions that work for the whole of Kenya.
- Pray that the church of Kenya will fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with one another and with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the unreached groups that God would raise up more workers to take up the challenge of reaching these people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank God for all those who have already been reached—pray that they will be discipled and grow into mature followers of Christ.
- Pray for the protection and guidance of those reaching out to the unreached. Ask God to give them His favour.
- Ask the Lord to bless Kenya & pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

So teach us, O God, to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Psalm 90:12

ZEPHANIAH 1:7,12-18

PSALM 90:1-8,(9-11),12

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

*God, we thank You for those who have accepted Your call to serve as leaders of our faith communities. We are grateful for their insights and instruction, and for the humanity they bring to Your work here on earth. Help each of us to recognize that we, too, are called to be witnesses to Your love to a world in need. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1868-1966)** Lesotho was originally inhabited by various Khoisan groups. Sotho societies arrived in Basutoland (as it was previously called) in the seventeenth Century. King Moshoeshe I united the Sotho tribes against Zulu invaders. In 1834 large numbers of Trekboers began to settle on the western margins of the kingdom and began to challenge the right of the Sotho to their land. The next 30 years were characterized by conflict and outbursts of warfare between the Sotho and the Boers. Devastating wars in the late 1860s prompted Moshoeshe to appeal to the British for assistance, as he feared the dispersal and possible extinction of his people. The governor of the Cape Colony, concerned with the region's stability and British interests in Southern Africa, annexed the kingdom to the

British crown in 1868. The British did little to develop the country, which became regarded as little more than a labour reserve to service the needs of the farmers of the Orange Free State and the gold mines of the Witwatersrand. Basutoland gained full independence from Britain in 1966 and became known as Lesotho. Since independence, it has endured decades of turbulent politics, three coups, periodic economic crises and grinding poverty. TODAY-Lesotho is one of three remaining monarchies in Africa. Lesotho faces great challenges. The HIV infection rate is among the highest in the world (23.2%). Family breakdown, poverty, unemployment & limited access to water are some of the other challenges faced in Lesotho.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity arrived in Lesotho with French missions at the invitation of King Moshoeshe I in the 1830s. While King Moshoeshe I invited Christian missionaries, he retained his traditional religion and divorced two of his wives who had converted to Christianity.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 89% Christian. Islam and African traditional religion are also practiced. The church struggles with syncretisation and some churches incorporate balimo (ancestor worship) and other African traditional religious practices into their services. The mountain peoples are much less reached because of their isolated location.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration regarding the wounds caused by Western exploitation and colonialism.
- Pray for wise leadership and creative ways in government and on all levels of society to improve the quality of life in Lesotho.
- Pray for believers working in HIV/AIDS related ministries to spread hope through Christ. Pray for the healing of the sick.
- Pray that the church of Lesotho will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to provide for the poor and to restore the many broken families in Lesotho.
- Ask the Lord to bless Lesotho and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

God said, "I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak." Ezekiel 34:16

EZEKIEL 34:11-16,20-24      PSALM 95:1-7A      EPHESIANS 1:15-23      MATTHEW 25:31-46

*Dear God, through Your son, Jesus Christ, You have given us a blueprint for a purposeful life and an invitation to eternal life. Thank You for opening the door when we knock. May our lives reflect our gratitude for Your love. May others come to know You through our joy. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**5.3 MILLION**

ONE OF TWO COUNTRIES IN AFRICA NEVER COLONISED (the other country is Ethiopia). The American Colonization Society (ACS) was founded in 1816, to deal with the “problem” of the growing number of free blacks in the United States by resettling them in Africa. The ACS coerced a tribal ruler, on the West African coast, to sell a strip of land to the Society. **Liberia was established in 1822** by the ACS, with the help of a grant of \$100,000 from the U.S. Congress and became the second (after Haiti), black republic in the world at that time. From 1822 onwards, some 15,000 African Americans settled in Liberia. The ACS sent white governors to manage the settlement until independence was granted by the United States in 1847. Liberia aided Britain in its efforts to end the illegal West African slave trade.

With the backing of the United States, Liberia kept its independence through the turmoil of the 20th century. Two costly civil wars ravaged Liberia between 1989 and 2003; more than 300 000 lives were lost. In 2005, Harvard-trained economist Ellen J. Sirleaf became Africa’s first female president. Sadly, Liberia was forced to fight yet another battle when Ebola struck in 2014. TODAY—despite many challenges the country is stable and the economy is growing.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity reached Liberia in the 19th century with the arrival of freed slaves from the United States, eventually forming what became one of the highest per capita missionary populations in the world.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for the stability and peace of recent years. Hundreds of thousands of refugees returned, a new president came to power, the country began to rebuild, and Christian ministry began to thrive once again. Liberia has an atmosphere of hope and progress, despite the obvious challenges which remain from the civil wars and the devastation and trauma they caused. Pray that Liberia might truly fulfil its name as a “land of freedom”.
- Pray for healing from the terrible pain and trauma caused by two civil wars. Especially the survivors of the civil wars—many were child soldiers and are still today, as grown-ups, battling with the memories of what they lived through. Pray for the restoration of family life.
- Pray that God would continue to raise up godly leaders in all the different spheres of society.
- Pray that the church of Liberia will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and exploitation.
- Ask the Lord to bless Liberia and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Mark 13:26

ISAIAH 64:1-9      PSALM 80:1-7,17-19      1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9      MARK 13:24-37

*O promise-keeping God, through prophets and patriarchs, we hear the good news of salvation and restoration. May Your spirit rest upon us in these days of Advent. In Your name, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**7.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY ITALY (1911-1940)** Libya has a diverse history marked with ancient Greek, Roman, and Ottoman influence. This water-poor but oil-rich country's earliest inhabitants were Berber tribes, most of whom have blended into the Arab majority. Italy colonised Libya in 1911. One of Mussolini's top fascist generals nicknamed "the Butcher of Fezzan" used brutal methods to quell resistance to Italian control in the 1930s. He also erected concentration camps where malnutrition & starvation ran rampant—an estimated 70 000 Libyans died. TODAY—vast oil reserves make Libya one of Africa's wealthiest nations, yet nearly one third of its people live in poverty. The death of dictator Muammar Gaddafi, in 2011, exacerbated a history of conflict. Libya's people suffered greatly during this time, with many thousands of casualties and 60% of the population malnourished.

A permanent ceasefire was signed in 2020, but Libya currently remains in political limbo. The political chaos allows large numbers of migrants from all over Africa to attempt dangerous desert crossings to gain access to Europe... this in turn gives traffickers freedom to exploit vulnerable people & black-market slave trade abounds.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** While little is known about Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15), the book of Acts says that individuals from "those parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene" were present at Pentecost—offering a glimpse of how the Christian faith could have spread to Libya.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Libya is number 4 of the World Watch top 50 list of 2022- where Christians experience the most persecution. Today this nation is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a Christian. 97% of Libyans are Muslim, 2.7% are Christian. Although foreigners are legally permitted to worship, it is illegal for them to share the Gospel with Libyans. For the first time in 1 200 years, there are the small beginnings of a new Libyan church.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for greater religious freedom so that more might hear the gospel and be able to follow Jesus openly. Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself to all.
- Ask God to bring more workers for the harvest in this country and region. Pray that new converts will be discipled and grow in faith.
- Pray for a unified government that will rebuild the nation with justice and peace.
- Pray that the tiny church of Libya will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for all those involved in the slave trade to recognize its evil and that it would be put to an end. Pray for God to work in this situation and reveal himself to many, even in the midst of their challenges.
- Ask the Lord to bless Libya and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, and carry them in His bosom. Isaiah 40:11

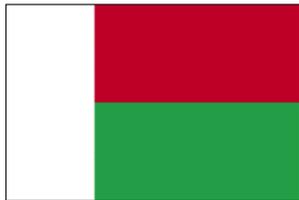
ISAIAH 40:1-11

PSALM 85:1-2,8-13

2 PETER 3:8-15A

MARK 1:1-8

*O divine Master, how great are You in all Your works. Let Your spirit fill our lives with gifts of power and purpose, so that Your kingdom may prosper and fulfill Your design. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**29.2 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1894-1960)** Madagascar is the world's 4th largest island. **SLAVERY-** From the 17th to 19th century, thousands of Madagascar's people were taken to American ports as slaves. **COLONIALISM-** Madagascar was colonized by the French in 1894. In 1947, an estimated 90 000 people were killed during the Malagasy Uprising, a rebellion against the colonial rule by nationalists which was crushed by the French government. In 1960 Madagascar gained independence. 17 years of single-party rule and three coups followed. This crippled the country economically. The return to constitutional order in 2014 led to a resumption of economic aid & the country's economy experienced some growth. Madagascar is a resource rich country, although the shortage of infrastructure has kept them from using it

to their benefit. **TODAY-** Roughly 70% of the Malagasy live on less than \$1 per day. There is an ongoing struggle between people needing farmland & the government's desire to protect the dense forests rich in unique wildlife & plant species, which draw tourists and money to Madagascar. Farming has destroyed about 80% of the rainforest cover. In 2021, Madagascar's worst drought in 40 years forced thousands of people to leave their homes to search for food.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** In the early 1800's Madagascar was a kingdom ruled by King Ramavo, the first to let Christian missionaries on the island, which made him many enemies among the people with strong beliefs in their traditional way of life. When he died, his first wife (who was pro tribalism) became queen. She immediately cut all ties with Europe and started to persecute and expel all Christians & foreigners. It is not clear how many were martyred in her 33-year rule. After her death, her son King Radama II opened up Madagascar to trade with Europe and welcomed missionaries back. He was later assassinated by tribalists.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christianity 41%, Muslim 7% & Tribal beliefs 52%. The majority of the population practices the old folk religions that have been a part of their culture for centuries. This is vividly seen in the practice of venerating and reburial of dead ancestors.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for honest government leaders with a vision to bring their country to financial and political stability. For development that lifts people out of poverty.
- Pray for well-trained Christian workers willing to serve in isolated areas with difficult living conditions. For deep Biblical discipling of believers.
- Pray that the church of Madagascar will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Church is highly divided. Churches split to form new denominations with alarming regularity, too often based on personal feuds between leaders. Promises of prosperity lure the poor away from their previous congregations.
- Ask the Lord to bless Madagascar and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11    PSALM 126    1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24    JOHN 1:6-8,19-28  
*Sustaining Provider, our faith is firmly placed in Your divine "Yes." May this Advent season be filled with the realization of Your majestic presence in all that we ask or hope for in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



**POPULATION  
20.2 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1891-1964) SLAVERY-** The slave trade was introduced by the Swahili-Arab traders in the 19th century, following a great demand for ivory and slaves in East African markets. Dr. David Livingstone was a Scottish missionary & explorer, who was instrumental in stopping slave trade in Malawi. **COLONIALISM-** In 1891 the British established the Nyasaland Districts Protectorate. Under the colonial regime, roads & railways were built & the cultivation of cash crops was introduced by European settlers. On the other hand, the colonial administration did little to enhance the welfare of the African majority. Malawi became an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1964. **TODAY-** Though the nation went through a period of economic growth in the 1970s and 1980s, it came at the cost of an oppressive dictatorship that ended

in 1994. Malawi has since remained a stable & peaceful land in a region troubled by wars & violence. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, employing nearly 80% of the population. Malaria and yellow fever are rampant & the country has one of the highest global incidences of AIDS. Malawi recently came under fire for the killings of people with albinism- their body parts were used for rituals, mostly done by witch-doctors.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Scottish missionary explorer, David Livingstone, reached the lake he named 'Lake Nyasa' in 1859. Livingstone was the first European explorer to discover & map out Lake Nyasa & made so many converts that his legacy is a church in every village in the country. Following his appeal to other missionaries to come & fight the slave trade in Central and East Africa, the first missionary expedition arrived in Malawi in 1861.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Despite many adversities, the church has grown a lot in the last 20 years. The eastern side of the lake, previously unreached, has seen multiple churches being established. According to the 2018 census, 77% of the population is Christian and 13% Muslim. The Malawian church spends most of their money on evangelizing efforts and assisting families who struggle with HIV and AIDS.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Praise God for the peace in Malawi that allows Christian ministry and national development to continue. Pray that the church of Malawi will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Most leaders in Malawi are church members. Pray God would help them act with wisdom, humility, and long-term plans based on biblical principles.
- Pray that churches might be better equipped to face HIV/AIDS with helpful ministries. Pray for the God of mercy to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS.
- Pray for the light of Christ to liberate those held captive by the occult, false religions and idolatry. Pray that true to its name, Malawi (which means "fire flames") would be set ablaze by the fires of revival.
- Ask the Lord to bless Malawi and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. Luke 1:49

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11,16

LUKE 1:47-55

ROMANS 16:25-27

LUKE 1:26-38

*With excitement, great God, we, like the shepherds, look for Your glory to be revealed in the birth of Jesus. May our proclamation be filled with joy and promise. Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**21.5 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1892-1960)** The Mali Empire controlled all of the salt trade along the trade routes & was the 2nd largest and most successful empire between 1230 & 1600. **SLAVERY-** In the 19th century Mali was a major transit zone of slave caravans. Slave trade was officially abolished in colonial Mali in 1905. But a form of slavery continues today: victims of “descent-based slavery” face discrimination & abuse & can be forced to work without pay. **COLONIALISM-** Mali fell under French colonial rule in 1892. Mali supplied labour to France's colonies on the coast of West Africa. In 1960 Mali gained independence. **TODAY-** Mali is the largest cotton producer in Africa. Mali has experienced great upheaval in recent years, there have been 3 military coups since 2012. Mali must also overcome huge challenges of high child mortality rates, malnutrition & desertification.

Around 10% of children will not survive to the age of five. Out of those who do survive, 1 in 3 will be malnourished. 67% of the land area is desert or semi-desert, and the desert continues to spread.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity was introduced to Mali in the late 19th century by the French.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Mali is a predominantly Muslim country (Muslim 94%, Christian 2%, and Animist 2%). 60% of Malians are unreached. Over the past 10 years, Islamic extremist groups have kidnapped several missionaries & Christians & burnt down churches. Thus, Christians fled for their lives & this trauma still lingers, making evangelism risky.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Mali continues to face internal tensions & external pressures. Please pray for the stability, normalization of life and return to constitutional order in Mali & that Mali's leaders will have wisdom in this transition period. Pray for peace in Mali.
- Pray for wisdom in handling extreme issues of poverty, especially the child mortality rates and the malnutrition that hinders growth and development.
- Pray that everyone in Mali to have the opportunity to hear, read about & experience Jesus and the assurance of salvation He alone offers. Pray for workers for this difficult harvest field and for Bibles. Ask the Lord for His protection and guidance over those bringing the Good News in Mali.
- Pray that the church of Mali will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY

WORLDWIDE MORAVIAN

WATCHWORD

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Galatians 4:4,5

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

PSALM 148

GALATIANS 4:4-7

LUKE 2:22-40

*Gentle Savior, gracious God, and loving Spirit, You are consistent in Your dealings with Your children. As You gather us together in worship this day, let us renew our covenant with You. Bless us, O Lord, and help us to grow in grace this day. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**4.9 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1904–1960)** Mauritania is made up entirely of Sahara desert. **SLAVERY-** For centuries, Arabic-speaking Moors raided African villages, resulting in a rigid caste system that still exists to this day, with darker-skinned inhabitants beholden to their lighter-skinned “masters”. Slave status is passed down from mother to child & anti-slavery activists are regularly tortured and detained. Yet the government routinely denies that slavery exists. In 1981, Mauritania made slavery illegal, the last country in the world to do so. Nonetheless, local rights groups estimate that up to 20% of the population is enslaved, as bonded labourers, domestic servants or child brides. **COLONIALISM-** Mauritania became a French protectorate in 1904 and gained independence in 1960. French colonial interests and control remained mostly limited to the coast and

the Saharan trade routes. Until 1979, Mauritania claimed sovereignty over Western Sahara territory which used to be a Spanish colony. **TODAY-** Mauritania has been under military rule for more than 30 years, with only a short democratic interlude in 2007. Promises to bring democracy back to the country have only resulted in rigged elections. It is both one of the least industrialized nations and one of the largest recipients of foreign aid in the world. **HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The first serious Christian impact on Mauritania came after 1442 when Portuguese mariners conquered Cape Nouadhibou.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Officially, 100% of the Mauritanian citizens are Muslim, although there is a small community of Christians, mainly of foreign nationality. In a population of around 4.9 million, just 10,900 are Christians. It’s illegal in Mauritania to convert from Islam to another faith. The restrictive environment makes it impossible for Christians (especially converts from Islam) to openly meet and worship together.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Slavery is illegal, but thousands most likely still live as slaves. Pray for freedom and justice for all those oppressed. Pray for Christ’s freedom to be understood by those suffering under the bondage of slavery.
- Pray that those who follow Him might be courageous despite the lack of fellowship.
- Pray for godly indigenous leadership and increasing freedom of religion. Pray for God’s mercy in the wake of severe drought and a poor economy that plagues the people.
- Pray that the church of Mauritania will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Mauritania and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. Psalm 29:2

GENESIS 1:1-15      PSALM 29      ACTS 19:1-7      MARK 1:4-11

*Thank You for the power of Sunday morning worship. We worship You because You go before us and prepare the way. We will not be afraid! We will stand and see the deliverance of our God this week. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**1.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY HOLLAND, FRANCE & THEN BRITAIN (1598–1968)** Mauritius is known as a honeymooner’s paradise, a luxury destination and a haven for water sports. But Mauritian history is soaked in stories of immigration, subjugation, slavery, exploitation & indenture, and it is a story of human perseverance and triumph. Mauritius was not explored until the 1500s by the Portuguese. A Dutch settlement during the 1600s ushered in five hundred years of colonial occupation ending in 1968, when Mauritius gained independence from the UK. **SLAVERY-** Indentured labourers were brought from Madagascar, India, south-east Asia, East Africa & China. Approximately 70% of modern Mauritians are descendants of these indentured labourers. **TODAY-** The nation has one of the highest per capita incomes on the continent. With free healthcare & university

education, the citizens of this nation are physically well cared for. For decades Mauritius has been a popular destination for traffickers of traditional drugs such as heroin and cannabis. Despite the hefty prison sentences the offence carries, there are daily media reports on drug seizures and the arrest of traffickers. Mauritius has the highest opiate use in Africa, primarily among young people.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity first came to Mauritius with the Dutch in 1598. However, the Dutch abandoned the island in 1710. The French brought Christianity again when they arrived in 1715.

**CHURCH TODAY:** An ethnic melting pot, Mauritius is home to peoples of Indonesian, Creole, Chinese, and European descent, and with such variety has come a multiplicity of religious beliefs. Hinduism(49%), Christianity (26%) and Islam (17%). This makes Mauritius the country having the highest percentage of Hindus in Africa.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the church of Mauritius will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit. Pray also for unity among Christian organizations to effectively minister to this religiously diverse nation.
- Pray for continued church growth- may the body of Christ in Mauritius reflect the beautifully multi-cultural nature of God’s Kingdom!
- Pray that the church will reach out to those in bondage to drugs. Pray that they will be set free and healed.
- Pray for godly government leaders. *· Blessed is the nation whose God is The Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. Psalm 33:12*
- Ask the Lord to bless Mauritius and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Psalm 139:17

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10,(11-20) PSALM 139:1-6,13-18 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 JOHN 1:43-51  
*On this Sabbath day, we come to You with thanksgiving, adoration and praise. Jesus, come and visit each one of us today and may we experience true salvation and deliverance in You. Bless us as we go into this new week with You. Amen.*

# MOROCCO & WESTERN SAHARA

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE  
21-27 JANUARY 2024



**POPULATION**  
**37.8 MILLION**

COLONISED BY FRANCE & SPAIN (1912-1956) Morocco was once believed to be the westernmost part of the world- the name Morocco means “where the sun sets.” The nation was originally inhabited by Berbers, who were then conquered by Muslim Arabs after 684AD. SLAVERY- Late 19th century Marrakesh market statistics suggest that Morocco was the largest outlet in North Africa for black slaves traded across the Sahara. Morocco was colonized by France & Spain in 1912, became independent in 1956, & established a constitutional monarchy in 1972. The king is both the head of state & religion and has declared all those born in Morocco to be Sunni Muslim. TODAY- Morocco is the world leader in the production & export of phosphates & has 70% of the world’s reserves. **Western Sahara-** Western Sahara has been occupied throughout its history. Morocco lays claim to the

Western Sahara & the nomadic Saharawi people that live there are fighting for their independence. Decades of guerrilla warfare, conflict & continued disputes ended with a 1991 cease-fire. The promised referendum, in which Western Sahara would be given a choice between independence and integration into Morocco, has yet to be offered. 90 000 Saharawi refugees have found shelter in Algerian refugee camps since the 1980s.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE? Morocco-** Christianity appeared during the Roman times, when it was practiced by Christian Berbers, although it disappeared after the Islamic conquests. **Western Sahara-** Christianity arrived with Portuguese exploration & then further established with Spanish Colonisation. Prior to Spain's abandoning the country in 1975, there were over 20,000 Spanish Catholics, 32% of the population before the Moroccan occupation.

**CHURCH TODAY: Morocco-** Muslim 99% Other 1%. Christians are tolerated, yet monitored by authorities. Moroccans have a strong prejudice against Christians & are resistant to the Gospel. To avoid conflict, government try to keep all Christian activity secret. **Western Sahara-** Considered almost entirely Muslim, most of the Saharawi people have little to no possibility of hearing the Gospel, yet there are a handful of isolated believers. The plight of the refugees has opened doors for humanitarian & Christian aid, providing opportunities to spread the love of Christ.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the small churches of Morocco and Western Sahara will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- For fellowship and freedom from fear for isolated believers.
- Pray for widespread distribution of evangelistic materials among the many unreached people groups. That God will reveal Himself to the nomadic desert tribes of Morocco.
- Pray for the power of the Gospel to be made known among the 100,000 Saharawi refugees in Algeria.
- Pray for miraculous resolution of the decades-long conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara.
- Ask the Lord to bless Morocco and Western Sahara and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Trust in Him at all times, pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

JONAH 3:1-5,10

PSALM 62:5-12

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

MARK 1:14-20

*Today as Your church is assembled before You we thank You that we can trust You at all times because You are our refuge and strength. We accept our lot because we know with confidence that all things together works out for our good. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**33.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY PORTUGAL (1498–1975)** Known as the “Land of Smiles,” Mozambique is located on the south-eastern coast of Africa. Stunning beaches, turquoise water & well-preserved corals line the coastline add to the nation’s exotic & undeveloped beauty. In 1498 navigator Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope and stopped in Mozambique en route to becoming the first European to visit India by sea. **SLAVERY-** By 1800 Mozambique had become one of the world’s major slave-trading centres. Hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans were sold to slave traders & sent to the Americas. After independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique suffered through a 16 year civil war that shattered the economy & claimed millions of lives. Recovery has been slow & difficult. **TODAY-** An estimated 65% live in poverty & 21% are unemployed. HIV/AIDS is a

major challenge & Malaria, tuberculosis and diarrhoea-causing diseases make the situation worse. Additionally, the trauma of violence & extreme poverty has left many people emotionally or psychologically broken. Currently the primary threat is Islamist terror group IS-CAP (Islamic State Central Africa Province), visiting murder and havoc upon a predominantly Muslim region in the north, but threatening to expand beyond this. Mozambique is ill-equipped to deal with such a threat.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The Portuguese introduced Christianity in the 16th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 52% Christian, 21% Agnostic or Atheist, 18% Muslim. The Mozambican church is growing. Many churches in the Southern part are starting to reach out and evangelize into the Northern parts of Mozambique.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Thank God for a nation where the government works to advance democracy, and economic and religious freedom. There are great opportunities for fruitful ministry in most of the country. Mozambique was highly unevangelized, but now many people from all faiths and regions have begun to follow Christ!
- Pray for lasting peace to overcome all threats to the nation's fragile stability.
- Pray that the church of Mozambique will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for true freedom for those in bondage to poverty, disease, the occult, and animism. Pray for effective, practical programmes to assist those who live in the most severe poverty.
- Pray for growth in maturity and truth in the church that matches the growth in numbers—without forsaking cultural authenticity. Pray for Word-based discipleship programmes and a hunger for the Word of God. Pray that the unreached will be reached.
- Ask the Lord to bless Mozambique and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. Psalm 111:10

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

PSALM 111

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

MARK 1:21-28

*On this Sabbath day we glorify Your name in all the earth. We join the angels as they declare Your glory singing, “Holy, holy, holy.” Thank You, God that You are with us. May we feel Your awesome presence with us as we go into this new week. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**2.6 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY GERMANY (1884-1919)** Namibia, formerly known as South West Africa was a German colony from 1884 to 1919, thereafter it was administered by apartheid South Africa. South African apartheid laws were extended to Namibia and prevented black Namibians from having any political rights, as well as restricting social & economic freedoms. Namibia began a gruelling fight for freedom in 1966. During the years of revolt & warfare, between 1966 and 1990, an estimated 25 000 people died. In 1990, Namibia became an independent country. More than 30 years after the treacherous war for freedom, the country is still in a healing process. In 2004 Germany apologised for the colonial-era genocide that killed 65,000 Herero people through starvation and slave labour. TODAY- A semi-desert nation with an extremely hot climate & extended periods of drought, Namibians frequently lack freshwater resources.

The nation is also the fourth highest HIV/AIDS-infected country in the world. Rich in diamonds, zinc, uranium & other natural resources, much of the nation's economy relies on the mining industry. Namibia became the first African country to include environmental protection in its constitution. While the nation's natural resources are abundant, more than 35% of Namibians are without work, leaving many of the people in great poverty. Namibia is currently one of the more stable countries in Africa.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Beginning in 1806, London founded a mission station, thereafter more missionaries came from Germany, Finland & South Africa.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Although more than 90% of the population is Christian, afro-spiritualism has crept its way into the church, leading to syncretistic worship practices. A prayer movement is sweeping the nation & building community among Christians of several denominational backgrounds. The San, the Himba & the people of the Kavango and Caprivi Strip are the least evangelized of Namibia.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Namibia suffers scars from its colonial past, from the legacy of apartheid, and from the terrorism before independence. Pray that in Christ both perpetrators and victims might find forgiveness and peace. Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by colonialism, slavery and exploitation.
- Pray for God's wisdom, discernment and protection for those who reach the unreached and less-evangelised people groups.
- Pray that the church of Namibia will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that the nation's leaders would address the gap between rich and poor, land ownership issues, and HIV/AIDS with wisdom and determination.
- Pray for life-sustaining, dignity-preserving jobs for the unemployed.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. Psalm 147:5

ISAIAH 40:21-31      PSALM 147:1-11,20C      1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23      MARK 1:29-39

*Lord, even if we falter, you are always available to listen to our pleas. Encourage us not to repeat our sinful mistakes. Guard our hearts and minds from sinning. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**26.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1922 - 1960).** The first Europeans that came to Niger came in the 19th century. They were explorers, searching for the source of the Niger River. Niger was incorporated into French West Africa in 1896. There were frequent rebellions, but when order was restored in 1922, the French made the area a colony. A French commander in 1899 is believed to have killed tens of thousands of Nigerians as he sought to take control of Lake Chad for France, before the British arrived. Niger's main highway follows the exact route of his massacres. The country gained independence in 1960.

After independence Niger succumbed to brutal military rule & politics remain extremely unstable in the country. **SLAVERY-** Slavery in Niger has been practiced in the Sahel region for many centuries & persists to this day. Slavery was abolished in Niger in 1960, prohibited in 1999 & criminalized in 2003 but the minimum estimation is that

there are still 43 000 people in slavery across Niger. **TODAY-** The UN ranked Niger as the second least developed country in the world in 2016. Niger remains handicapped by its landlocked position, desert terrain, poor education and poverty of its people, lack of infrastructure, poor health care & environmental degradation.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity was brought with French colonists.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christians, both Roman Catholics & Protestants, account for less than 1% of the population. 97% of the nation is Muslim. Christianity is slowly growing through humanitarian efforts such as well-digging, agricultural development, and education. The cultural pressure to maintain the Islamic faith continues to hinder outreach efforts.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that Niger may remain open for Christian mission & that the Lord would remove every barrier to the knowledge of Him.
- Pray for all forms of modern day slavery and trafficking to be eradicated.
- Christianity grows, but people come into the Kingdom by a trickle. Pray for the trickle to become a flood! New believers feel isolated. Pray for groups to form, even if small, for those who need fellowship with other believers. Pray for Bibles in all the languages of the least and unreached people of Niger. Pray for those from a Muslim background who have chosen to follow Jesus; may they persevere and remain faithful amidst all the difficulties they will face.
- This pioneer land still needs missionaries for all parts of the country. Pray for more labourers.
- Pray that the small church of Niger will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Niger and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

2 KINGS 2:1-12

PSALM 50:1-6

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

MARK 9:2-9

*Today we confess our sinful nature. Grant us the freedom to pray for those who suffer and to ensure their welfare. We know You care about them, Lord. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**217 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1884-1960)** The colonial period in Nigeria began with the Portuguese, who paved the way for the slave trade in the 15th century. The British targeted Nigeria for colonisation because of its resources. They wanted products like palm oil and palm kernel and export trade in tin, cotton, cocoa and groundnuts. Nigeria gained independence in 1960. TODAY- Northern Nigeria is largely Muslim, feudalist & impoverished, with over 80% of the nation's poor. Meanwhile, southern Nigeria is more developed & majority Christian. Deep ethnic and religious divisions threaten the nation as a whole. In 2009, Boko Haram, one of Africa's largest Muslim extremist groups, launched an insurgency in Nigeria declaring their intention to root out corruption & establish Muslim rule. Presently, Boko Haram has lost control of much territory, but they remain a grave threat in the northern states. Though

Nigeria is Africa's largest producer of oil, nearly half the population remains in poverty. Over 30% of the rural population lacks clean water. HIV/AIDS has also left an estimated 2.5 million orphans. As of 2016, there are an estimated 1.386 million people subject to modern slavery in Nigeria- the highest number in Africa.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came to Nigeria in the 15th century through Augustinian and Capuchin monks from Portugal.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 54% Muslim & 46% Christian. With the nation's north-south divide, believers in the Muslim-majority north have suffered decades of persecution, including the destruction of thousands of churches. Even so, Muslims are being drawn to Jesus and the Church has experienced substantial growth. Second-generation nominalism, syncretism, tribal and denominational divisions, materialism, and immorality all threaten the Body of Christ. The false teachings of the prosperity gospel are also rampant. About 16% of Nigeria's people groups remain unreached, many of whom are being rapidly Islamized.

**PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Church growth has been massive and remains so. Praise God for the millions who have come to know Him in Nigeria!
- Pray that the church of Nigeria will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the Nigerian Church to be properly disciplined with good Bible-based programmes. Pray that humility, servanthood, simplicity and holiness will grow in the Nigerian Church.
- Pray that leaders, kings and politicians will rule with Godly wisdom and in righteousness.
- Ask the Lord to protect His Church in Nigeria, especially in the North where believers are persecuted. Pray also for the eradication of modern-day slavery and trafficking.
- Ask the Lord to bless Nigeria and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**  
WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. Psalm 25:8

GENESIS 9:8-17

PSALM 25:1-10

1 PETER 3:18-22

MARK 1:9-15

*You have blessed us with a variety of talents. Inspire us to use those talents in advancing Your purpose in our lives so that when we have to account to You, Your welcome will be a soothing and pleasant experience. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**13.6 MILLION**

COLONISED BY GERMANY & BELGIUM (1890–1962)  
Rwanda is one of the few countries that never contributed manpower to the slave trade. Rwanda was part of German East Africa until 1918, when Belgium took over. The ruling Belgians favoured the minority Tutsis over the Hutus, exacerbated the tendency of the few to oppress the many, creating a legacy of tension that exploded into violence even before Rwanda gained its independence in 1962. Rwanda became infamous in 1994 when the genocide broke out. In just three short months at least 800,000 people were brutally massacred- mostly of the Tutsi minority & moderate Hutus. This means that, for three months, 6 people were murdered every minute. Following a ceasefire, roughly two million fled the country. It's estimated that well over 250 000 women were raped during the time of

the genocide. Rwanda made great progress since the tragic events of 1994. Political stability since 2000 allows Rwandans a chance to rebuild. TODAY- Rwanda's economy is now one of the fastest growing in Africa. Females make up over half the elected parliament, the world's highest rate.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Rwanda was one of the last areas of Africa to receive Christian missionaries. Catholics established their first mission station in 1900, during the German colonial period.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Tragically, this nation that predominantly claims Christianity (91%) allowed and even perpetrated the massacre of 1994. The atrocities of genocide and war have caused some to turn from their faith. Some have turned to Islam, while others have been ensnared by false gospels (prosperity theology, legalism, and syncretism). Yet suffering has also opened the door for the global Church to express God's love. Since the war, Evangelicals have seen dramatic growth within the Church. Some of the victims of the gruesome violence have chosen to forgive. Yet deep healing is still needed as an entire generation suffers the mental trauma that comes from experiencing such devastating loss.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by colonialism & the genocide.
- Give praise for the people's commitment to reconcile and build peace after the 1994 genocide. Praise God that churches help lead this movement.
- Pray that the church of Rwanda will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for provision and hope for widows, orphans, and other continued victims of the genocide. Pray that God will help those who have fled the country to return.
- Pray for righteous leaders in all spheres of society, especially in government. Pray that God would lead them by His wisdom.
- Ask the Lord to bless Rwanda and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

God said, "I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations." Genesis 17:7

GENESIS 17:1-7,15-16

PSALM 22:23-31

ROMANS 4:13-25

MARK 8:31-38

*Lord, we have neglected to teach our children in Your commands. Our family life and the world around us have broken our covenant with You. Bring us back to You to renew our covenant with You. Amen*

# SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

WEEK FORTY-ONE  
3-9 MARCH 2024



**POPULATION**  
**228 000**

**COLONISED BY PORTUGAL (1486 – 1975)** Portuguese explorers stumbled upon São Tomé in the 1470s. The first wave of Portuguese settlers came to the island in the 1480s. It consisted of several thousand Jewish children forcibly taken from their parents and converted to Christianity. There were also exiled undesirables in Portuguese society, known as *degradados*, who were banished there, such as convicts and prostitutes. Located 140 kilometres (87 miles) away from one another in the Gulf of Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe comprise Africa's smallest state. The settlers brought Africans from the mainland as slaves. The islands became a prosperous slave and spice trade centre and an early producer of sugar. **TODAY-** It is an isolated and underdeveloped nation due to poor communication & infrastructure. Once Africa's largest exporter of sugar & the world's largest producer of cacao, the economy is greatly affected by market fluctuations & inflation.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The strong dominance of the Catholic Church is because Portuguese sailors in the 1470s came to these then uninhabited islands. The Catholic Church was established in the country in 1534. The first Protestant church was established in 1935.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 87% of the population is Christian. The largest segment is Catholic, but syncretism, especially African traditional religion, is very prevalent in the Church. The Príncipe islanders, the Angolares (rural fisherfolk), and the servicais (contract workers) are a part of the less-reached peoples.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to move through the São Tomé and Príncipe church to bring renewal. Pray for the sovereignty of Jesus to be clearly demonstrated amid syncretism and marginal sects.
- Pray for continued freedom to proclaim the Gospel. Pray for the development of locally led, culturally relevant congregations with effectively trained Christian leaders. Pray also for local support of national workers and for the launching of an interdenominational training centre.
- Pray for the growth of the nations' economy so that healthcare and education may be improved.
- Pray that the church of São Tomé and Príncipe will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the family—traditional families are not the norm and Christian marriage is primarily reserved for the elite in São Tomé and Príncipe. Both sexes usually have multiple partners.
- Ask the Lord to bless São Tomé & Príncipe and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

EXODUS 20:1-17

PSALM 19

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

JOHN 2:13-22

*Lord, You know our minds and hearts. I pray Lord that You forgive our sins and transgressions. We beg for Your mercy, for forgiveness. Hear us as we call on Your Holy name to start afresh with You. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**17.7 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY FRANCE (1659-1960)** The French conquest of Senegal began in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Gorée, an island off the coast of Dakar, was used as a base for French trading companies that bought slaves, gold, and acacia gum. Today there is a museum on Gorée Island. In the museum there is a door that is called “the door of no return”; tens of thousands of Africans passed through this door that opened up to the ocean, onto the ships that carried them to the New World as slaves. In 1960 Senegal became independent. **REPENTANCE-** In 1992 Pope John Paul II stood at “the door of no return” on Gorée island, that had witnessed so much despair and agony, and said: *“From this African shrine of black sorrow, we implore heaven’s forgiveness... We pray that the scourge of slavery and its effects may disappear forever.”* **TODAY-** Senegal's main industries include food processing,

mining, cement, artificial fertilizer, chemicals, textiles, refining imported petroleum and tourism.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Senegal’s first recorded contact with Christianity came with the arrival of Portuguese Catholic traders in the 15th century. The faith reached most areas of Senegal through French missionaries in the mid-1800s.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Muslim 91%, Christian 5%, Ethnic religions 3%. Almost all Senegalese people subscribe to a syncretized religious system that combines African traditional religious practices with some forms of Islam. Daily life is dominated by superstitions and often includes power encounters with the spirit world. People depend on their religious leaders, called marabouts, to obtain blessings, curses, and even salvation. These intermediaries with the spirit world are the chiefs of religious experience in Senegal and the door through which people believe they must pass to get to God.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the church of Senegal will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the small body of believers to boldly live out their faith in a way that draws all to Christ. Pray that believers will be strengthened and encouraged each day.
- Pray that more people who are committed to making Christ known have the courage to step out of their comfort zone and come to Senegal to help in God’s work!
- Pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the Muslim majority.
- Ask the Lord to bless Senegal and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

**WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD**

NUMBERS 21:4-9    PSALM 107:1-3,17-22    EPHESIANS 2:1-10    JOHN 3:14-21

*Dear Lord, this picture will always be in our minds and hearts. You are waiting for us! You want to rid us of all the pain, tears and sorrow that made this life so difficult. We will never leave You till that day dawns. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**99 650**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1814-1976)** The Seychelles are a group of over a hundred granitic and coralline islands. The first humans settled on the islands only at the end of the 18th century; before then the entire archipelago was completely uninhabited. Having first become a French colony, then a British one, the Seychelles saw the arrival, along with the settlers, of numerous slaves from various parts of Africa. This mix of nationalities gave birth to a multicultural and multi-ethnic nation. In 1814 the French ceded the islands to the British, but the French culture & language remained dominant. **SLAVERY-** dealt with the cultivation of coconut palms, cotton, and spices, until slavery was abolished by the British in 1835. Another factor that contributed to the multiculturalism of the Seychelles was the role that the islands played during

British control as a place of exile for political prisoners. The first elections were held in 1948, but the Seychelles remained with the British until 1976, when it became an independent republic within the Commonwealth. **TODAY-** The tourist sector is very important to the economy, employing roughly 30% of the labour, as is the tuna fishing industry. The Seychelles' government is trying to lessen the dependence on tourism by promoting farming, fishing, and small-scale manufacturing.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** The French brought Christianity through the Catholic church in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** The majority of Seychellois are Christian- 96% (mostly Roman Catholic and roughly 6% evangelical). Despite this, nominalism & superstition are very common. Surveys reveal that only 2% of the population believe Jesus is the Son of God, and 95% mix Christianity with animistic concepts. Denominational relationships can be tense & the outer islands have had little chance to hear the message of Christ. While the evangelical population is small, they have a large vision and are actively trying to make an impact.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration - for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that so called 'Christians' bound by deception and syncretism will be set free. Pray that the Holy Spirit may bring new life evidenced by repentance and sustained fruit.
- Pray for more Christian outreaches and harvesters - to people living on the outer islands.
- Pray for strong churches to be planted amongst the unreached people groups of the Seychelles. (Wolof, Lebu, Fulbe, Fulakunda, Tukulor, Fulba, Jeeri, Jola, Maures, Malinke people and others)
- Pray that the church of Seychelles will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless the Seychelles and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 51:1-12

HEBREWS 5:5-10

JOHN 12:20-33

*Lord, there is a thirst in our land. The tanks and dams are running dry, but the thirst in the hearts of Your people is even bigger and destructive. Communities, families, individuals are suffering because of it. May they all discover Your life-giving water! Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**8.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1808-1961)** The dense tropical rainforest partially isolated the region from other West African cultures & it became a refuge for peoples escaping violence & jihads. The Freetown estuary provided a good natural harbour for ships to shelter and replenish drinking water. In the mid-16th century, the Mane people invaded, subjugating nearly all of the indigenous coastal peoples, and militarising the area. The Atlantic slave trade had a significant impact on Sierra Leone, as this trade flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries, and later it became a centre of anti-slavery efforts when the trade was abolished in 1807. A British naval squadron was based in Freetown to intercept slave ships & the colony quickly grew as liberated Africans were released, joined by Afro-Caribbean & African soldiers. The liberated Africans & British worked together

to suppress slave-trading and inter-chiefdom war. The descendants of the black settlers were collectively referred to as the Creoles. The Republic of Sierra Leone gained independence from Great Britain in 1961 and now functions as a constitutional democracy. Between 1991 and 2001 the nation was plagued by civil war, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and nearly two million people being displaced. Over 10,000 child soldiers were used in this conflict. The Ebola crisis of 2014-2015 setback nation-building progress significantly. The nation is recovering, though unemployment is as high as 80%, and only 43% of the nation is literate. It has ranked as the world's poorest country for most of the last 10 years.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity was brought to Sierra Leone by the Nova Scotian Settlers when they founded the Colony of Sierra Leone in March 1792.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Though Sierra Leone became one of the first West African nations to be evangelized, only a mere 11% of the population identifies with Christianity today, but in many cases it is mixed with animism and voodoo. 67% of the population identifies with Islam and this share is steadily showing growth. Various occult practices and other ethnic religions are commonly combined with both Islam and Christianity. There are many Christian organizations in the nation aiding in physical, emotional, and psychological healing from the civil war.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for true stability, sustained peace, and a decisive end to all corruption, also in government.
- Pray that the church of Sierra Leone will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for restoration, healing and wholeness for those who have suffered the atrocities of war.
- Pray that the bond of dark powers and the influence of secret societies will be broken over the nation and especially over the church.
- Ask the Lord to bless Sierra Leone and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus said, "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" Mark 14:62

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 31:9-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

MARK 14:1-15:47

*Father, we thank You that we are Yours. We worship and praise You for Your daily blessings that we may enjoy. Your blessings are worth more than silver and gold. Your blessings are eternal, o King! Amen.*

# SOMALIA & SOMALILAND

WEEK FORTY-FIVE  
31 MARCH- 6 APRIL 2024



**POPULATION  
16.8 MILLION**

**BRITAIN & ITALY COLONISED THE AREA BETWEEN (1884 -1960)** Somalia is the Eastern most Country on mainland Africa, situated at the tip of the Horn of Africa. SLAVERY in Somalia existed as a part of the East African slave trade. The arrival of European Colonists in the late 19th Century led to the division of Somalia between Britain and Italy. They established the colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland in 1884 and 1889, respectively. These two Somali lands eventually united and gained independence in July 1960, but the elected government was overthrown just a few years later and an autocratic regime was established. Following the merger of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland, concerns that Somaliland was being marginalized surfaced, prompting **Somaliland** to seek its **independence** from Somalia in **1991**. The international community is still reluctant to recognize Somaliland's independence from Somalia.

The southern part of Somalia, called Puntland, has been overrun with civil war, violence, and clan leaders craving power. The economic, social, and physical health of the nation is in a terrible state after years of war and neglect. Somalia has the lowest health budget of any nation and the highest infant mortality rate. Surprisingly, Somalia has a stable economy that depends largely on livestock; nearly two thirds of people in Somalia are livestock herders. The economy recovered from recession in 2020 to register estimated GDP growth of 2.0% in 2021, driven by private consumption and livestock exports. Multiple shocks including floods, locust invasions, and COVID- 19 curtailed the pace of recovery and increased poverty.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came to the coastal areas in 7th century.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christianity is a minority religion in Somalia (0.01% of the population). Most residents (99%) of Somalia are Muslims. The Somali Church of minority Christians was driven underground during the Islamist uprising of 1991. Christians in Somalia practice their faith in secret under extremely dangerous conditions. It is strictly illegal to convert or evangelise. Christians are actively pursued, and when discovered they are immediately killed.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the secret Christian minority who suffer great persecution and martyrdom to be strengthened. Also for isolated believers to be kept safe daily and also while they fellowship.
- Pray for protection and effective ministry for aid workers, many of whom are Christian.
- Pray that Somalia's rulers might learn from the past, govern for the good of the people, and respect human rights and religious freedom.
- Pray that those deceived by the enemy into committing terrorism might encounter Jesus who loves them and died on their behalf.
- Pray that the very small church of Somalia will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the healing, peace, order and stability of Somalia. For healing of the many women who have been raped, divorced and left by their husbands. For the many children who have been smuggled out of Somalia. For the medical needs of the people of Somalia.
- Ask the Lord to bless Somalia and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.  
1 Corinthians 15:20

ACTS 10:34-43

PSALM 118:1-2,14-24

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

MARK 16:1-8

*You are a God of miracles. You have given us Your Son Jesus to go before us and prepare the way for us. In Him You have offered us a new life to overcome the darkness that engulfs us. Raise us up with Him to a new life. Amen.*



**POPULATION  
60.9 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY THE NETHERLANDS** (1652-1795 AND 1803-1806) & **BRITAIN** (1795-1803 AND 1806-1961) Known as the “Rainbow Nation,” a reference to the many ethnicities that make up the population, the nation of South Africa has a long history of racial tensions. With colonialism, which began in South Africa in 1652, came the Slavery and Forced Labour Model. The indigenous Khoi-khoi were an unwilling labour force & so the Dutch imported slaves from all over the world. Many South Africans are the descendants of slaves brought to the Cape Colony from 1653 until 1822. In 1961, South Africa became a republic & the Afrikaner’s National Party rule led to a further three decades of white supremacy, legalized racial segregation & discrimination– known as Apartheid. During this period, 14 000 South Africans died in political

violence and many suffered humiliation and cruelty. The first multi-racial elections took place in 1994. The nation not only faces great racial tension, but also high murder rates, corruption, an HIV/AIDS epidemic, high crime rates, high unemployment and poverty rates, all of which adversely affect the economy.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, with Dutch settlers from Europe, in 1652, when the Dutch East India Company established a post to resupply food and fuel to ships traveling between the Netherlands & Southeast & South Asia.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 81% Christian. Much nominalism exists in the church. The church is on the frontline of confronting the nation’s challenges; there has been a large response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ministries to the poor and disadvantaged, and work on racial reconciliation.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery, Apartheid and colonialism.
- Pray that the widespread corruption in government will be exposed, for justice to be done and for righteous leaders to take the lead.
- Pray for healing, hope, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS especially for the many orphans and child-headed households.
- Pray for a breakthrough concerning the violent crime and fear in South Africa.
- Pray for deep Biblical discipling in the church. Ask the Lord to root out deception, syncretism, the prosperity gospel, and all the other false teachings.
- Pray that the church of South Africa will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the nation to recognize that as an important economic player in Africa, it has a responsibility to assist those in great need. Pray for ministries of compassion to those from other countries seeking food, jobs, or simply safety. Pray for the evangelism and discipleship of these millions. Pray also for wisdom from government on how to deal with this influx.
- Thank God for the public apology by Christian churches for the sins of Apartheid. Pray for the fruit of repentance to continue to manifest & for God to heal the land.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ACTS 4:32-35

PSALM 133

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

JOHN 20:19-31

*Merciful God, thank You for being a God of Grace. Grant us Your love and Your forgiveness to cleanse us of all our sins. Wash us in the Blood of Jesus in Your mercy and prepare us for service in Your Kingdom. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**11.4 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1899-1956)** The newest nation in Africa, South Sudan was once a part of Sudan. The conflicts between what is now Sudan and South Sudan are often understood through their historical roots: centuries of exploitation and slave-raiding by the "Arab" north against the "African" south, followed by Britain and Egypt's imperialist meddling. British officials focused their resources on the predominantly Muslim and Arabic-speaking north, to the exclusion of the historically marginalised multi-ethnic and multilingual south, which left the territory chronically underdeveloped in terms of education, healthcare and even basic infrastructure.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011, ending Africa's longest-running civil war, which lasted 21 years. Most of the 1.5 to 2 million killed during

war, were from the South. South Sudan's refugee crisis remains the largest in Africa, with over 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees generously hosted in neighbouring countries. South Sudan is one of the world's poorest nations.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Catholic missionaries arrived first in 1842 and were followed by members of the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches roughly 50 years later. One can usually tell if a community is Christian by the presence of a church in the central area.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Christians (60%), followers of indigenous (animist) religions (33%) & Muslims (6%) make up the population. Christianity has continued to grow throughout a history of conflict and violence. Many became Christians as a rejection of Islam, which the North imposed on them. Most new believers previously followed traditional religions and spirit worship & need to learn much more about Christian life. Since the split from Sudan in 2011, Christianity has been the predominant religion. The Christians of South Sudan have risen in a time of crisis to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting nation, mobilizing to relieve those in need.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the leadership of this young country—that they will be just and righteous leaders. Pray for the government to address the underlying causes of the ongoing conflict and to stabilise the economy.
- For the 100 000's of people who have been chased from their homes, who now live as refugees in their own country. For healing for those who have suffered pain, trauma and loss as a result of this long-term conflict.
- For a deep growth and strengthening of the Church. Pray for good Bible teaching and leadership training. Pray that the churches will disciple young Christians to maturity in Christ.
- Pray that the church of South Sudan will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. 1 John 3:1

ACTS 3:12-19

PSALM 4

1 JOHN 3:1-7

LUKE 24:36B-48

*God Almighty, our strong Deliverer, I am humbled by Your love and mercy for me and us all. Make me willing to accept Your covenant and show me the way where You want us to walk. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**46.1 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN & EGYPT (1899-1956)** Prior to the secession of the south in 2011, Sudan was the largest African country. What is now Sudan was in ancient times the kingdom of Nubia, which came under Egyptian rule after 2600 B.C. Sudan was a major source of slaves for Egypt for several centuries. Missionaries converted the region to Christianity in the 6th century, but an influx of Muslim Arabs, who had already conquered Egypt, eventually controlled the area and replaced Christianity with Islam. Egyptians again conquered Sudan in 1874, and after Britain occupied Egypt in 1882, it took over Sudan in 1899, ruling the country in conjunction with Egypt. It was known as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan between 1899 and 1956. Since independence, Sudan has been ruled by a series of unstable parliamentary governments and military regimes. Sudan had its darkest years in history during its

two civil wars, between 1956 and 2005 and the Darfur rebellion in 2003. When the country split in 2011, it is estimated that over 35,000 South Sudanese people remained as modern day slaves in Sudan. Sudan’s political and socio-economic future remain unresolved. 14.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Nearly 12 million people are expected to face acute food insecurity at the end of 2022. The current situation in Sudan is dire.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity has a long history in Sudan. Ancient Nubia was reached by Coptic Christianity by the 2nd century. The Coptic Church was later influenced by Greek Christianity, particularly during the Byzantine era.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Islam (90.7%), Christianity (5.4%), African traditional (2.9%), Other (1.0%). Today, the majority of Sudan's inhabitants are Arab Sunni Muslims. As the ruling majority, their influence over law and government is strong. Though a recent agreement provided protection for non-Arabs, conversion to Christianity is legally punishable by death. Sudan is number 13 on the *Open Doors World Watch List* of the top 50 countries in the world where Christians experience the most persecution.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the legacy of oppressive, militaristic rule in Sudan might be ended in Jesus’ name.
- Pray that Sudanese believers would remain faithful to Christ despite persecution and join together as a unified body of believers. Pray for their protection. That God will again open the door for foreign workers to return to Sudan.
- Pray for the Prince of Peace to extinguish long-standing division, hatred, and violence—also towards South Sudan.
- Pray for food security for the physically hungry in Sudan.
- Pray that the church of Sudan will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Sudan and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”  
John 10:11

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ACTS 4:5-12

PSALM 23

1 JOHN 3:16-24

JOHN 10:11-18

*Lord, You are our strength and courage. Thank You for Your faithfulness and love. Thank You that You remind us today that we must speak and preach the truth about You to our fellow human beings. Keep us from gossip stories. In Jesus name! Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**63.5 MILLION**

COLONISED BY GERMANY & BRITAIN (1885-1961) Arab traders first began to colonize the area in 700. Zanzibar was one of the largest slave ports in the vast Indian Ocean slave trade, which was dominated by Arab slave traders. The Arab slave trade originated before Islam and lasted more than a millennium. The slavers hacked their way from the Tanzania mainland coast into the African interior. The slavers traded, bribed chiefs, pillaged and frequently kidnapped to meet the high demand for slaves. Portuguese explorers reached the coastal regions in 1500 and held some control until the 17th century, when the sultan of Oman took power. In 1885, Germany declared East Africa a protectorate. Tens of thousands of people were starved, tortured and killed by German soldiers as they sought to put down the rebellious tribes between 1905 and 1907. After Germany's defeat in

World War II, Britain took control until Tanzania gained independence in 1963. TODAY- Tanzania has one of the smallest industrial sectors in Africa with aging transportation, communication and power infrastructures inhibiting growth as well. Recovery is slow but revenues continue to grow from gold mining and tourists visiting Tanzania's beautiful natural attractions.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity was introduced into Tanzania at the beginning of the 16th century through the establishment of a Franciscan mission in Kilwa.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 63% Christian, 34% Muslim and 5% practice other religions. Religious freedom is thought to be one of the motivating factors in Tanzania's peaceful history. With over one half of the population Christian and one third Muslim (99% in Zanzibar), actively religious communities have coexisted with little conflict. This is changing with increased internal Muslim conflicts, which have also prompted conflicts with Christians. Witchcraft, the occult, and superstitious spiritual practices are becoming part of even the mainline religions.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration - for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for the government to be bold to confront evil, and wise to bring community harmony and religious freedom. Pray for righteous leaders.
- Pray for trained, mature Christian leaders who will be able to evangelize the unreached in a predominantly rural nation. Pray for biblical leadership development and good theological training in Tanzania and Zanzibar.
- Pray for more effective Bible translation teams and initiatives. Bible translation is an urgent need finally being addressed. Widespread use of Swahili masked the need for further translations. Still, 51 languages have no Scripture at all and a further 32 have only portions.
- Pray that the church of Tanzania will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." John 15:4

ACTS 8:26-40

PSALM 22:25-31

1 JOHN 4:7-21

JOHN 15:1-8

*Lord, on this Sabbath day we come to worship You. Thank You for the past week. You have blessed us abundantly with Your grace and love. Let us therefore strive today to place You above all else. Thank You for Your never-ending love for us. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**8.7 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY GERMANY & FRANCE (1884 - 1960)** Togo formed part of the Slave Coast, from where captives were shipped abroad by European slavers during the 17th century. In modern Togo, Aného is a coastal town known as one of the largest slave centres in West Africa. Slaves from Ghana, Nigeria & other parts of the region were brought to be displayed, sold and thrown onto slave ships bound for the American plantations. Togo became a German protectorate in 1884. German rule in Togo was brutal. After their defeat in World War I, the Germans were forced to give up their African colonies to the French and British. German Togoland was partitioned between the British and the French. British Togoland would go on to become part of Ghana and French Togoland became Togo. French rule was also harsh & exploitative. In 1960 Togo received its independence from France.

A joint UN-Organisation of African Unity investigation into claims that hundreds of people were killed after controversial elections in 1998 concluded that the government was guilty of multiple human rights violations. TODAY- The political & economic situation remains unstable. High levels of poverty, illiteracy & a lack of economic opportunities have led to the widespread use of child labour and child trafficking. In many rural areas, parents hope that sending their children away to work for a couple of years will help them make ends meet.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity started in Togo in 1830 upon the establishment of a German Catholic Mission station.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 43.7% Christian, 35.6% traditional animist, 14% Sunni Muslim, and 5% followers of other religions. This region is believed to be the birthplace of voodoo & its spiritual hold on the Togolese nation persists today. There is a great need for the younger generation to be reached, with over 300,000 orphaned and unwanted children exploited in the sex trade and child labour.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that the Church will be able to break away from the traditional beliefs, such as African traditional religion and voodoo practises. Pray that the Togolese believers will continue to grow in their faith.
- Pray for an end to child trafficking, prostitution, and exploitation of the poor.
- Pray for peace and political stability. Ask the Lord to raise righteous and just leaders in the government of Togo.
- For indigenous mission agencies to establish themselves & for those who do not know Christ to have encounters with Him through dreams and visions.
- Pray that the church of Togo will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Psalm 98:4

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

ACTS 10:44-48

PSALM 98

1 JOHN 5:1-6

JOHN 15:9-17

*As a deer pants for the waters so our souls pant after You. Thank You that we are able to meet in the presence of Your Church ready to be fed with food for our souls and direction for the week ahead. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**12.1 MILLION**

COLONISED BY FRANCE (1881-1956) Modern Tunisians are the descendants of indigenous Berbers and of people from numerous civilizations that have invaded, migrated to & been assimilated into the population over the millennia. Recorded history in Tunisia begins with the arrival of Phoenicians, who founded Carthage and other North African settlements in the 8th century B.C. Carthage became a major sea power, clashing with Rome for control of the Mediterranean until it was defeated and captured by the Romans in 146 B.C. The Romans ruled & settled in North Africa until the 5th century, when the Roman Empire fell and Tunisia was invaded by European tribes,

including the Vandals. The Muslim conquest in the 7th century transformed Tunisia and the make-up of its population, with subsequent waves of migration from around the Arab and Ottoman world, including significant

numbers of Spanish Muslims and Jews at the end of the 15th century. It was a French protectorate from 1881 until independence in 1956 and retains close political, economic, and cultural ties with France. Tunisia's economic growth historically depended on oil, phosphates, agri-food products, car parts manufacturing & tourism.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came into Tunisia during Roman rule. Church fathers- such as St Augustine, Tertullian & Cyprian- developed Christian theology in modern day Tunisia, 2000 years ago. Tertullian stated, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." In 203 A.D. Perpetua and Felicitas are among the first notable Christian women to be martyred in Tunisia for being Christian. Perpetua, a nursing mother, and Felicitas, an expectant mother, stood firm in their faith until they were killed in the gladiator arena in Carthage. Persecution of the church helped spread early Christianity in the region.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Approximately 99% of Tunisia's inhabitants identify themselves as Muslims. Christians face persecution from family and friends, and following Jesus risks their jobs and social stature, and exposes them to pressure from authorities. Of the 23 people groups in Tunisia, 14 have never heard the Good News.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray that God will raise up workers to reach the millions of unevangelized in Tunisia.
- Pray for the government to officially recognize the Tunisian church. Pray also for wise, righteous leaders to be raised up in government and all spheres of society. Pray for peace over Tunisia.
- Pray for God's protection over the Tunisian Christians. Pray that God will give them His favour.
- Pray that the small church of Tunisia will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Lord to bless Tunisia and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." John 17:17

ACTS 1:15-17,21-26

PSALM 1

1 JOHN 5:9-13

JOHN 17:6-19

*Lord, we come before Your throne today and like Peter, we profess our love for You. Help us dear Lord to feed Your lambs. Help us to remain faithful no matter the challenges we may face. Bless Your Church as we gather in Your Name. Amen.*



**POPULATION  
49 MILLION**

COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1885-1962) Winston Churchill dubbed Uganda “the pearl of Africa” for its breath-taking scenery. However, Uganda’s history is stained by violence. Uganda was colonized in 1885 by the British before gaining their independence with little struggle in 1962. Independence was followed by political conflict. Uganda suffered devastating political instability, genocide and economic failure, under the rule of Milton Obote and General Idi Amin. It is estimated that during Idi Amin’s brutal reign, roughly 300,000 citizens were slaughtered. Milton Obote also claimed another 100 000 lives. These tragedies that occurred after independence have largely been blamed on British colonialism and their practices of ‘divide and rule’. In 1987, the Lord’s Resistance Army devastated Uganda with terror and violence. Led by Joseph

Koni, this rebel group killed over 10,000 people and was known for capturing children to use as soldiers, porters, and sex slaves. President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986 and has been re-elected for a sixth term in 2021. Moderate peace was achieved and he introduced democratic reforms and improved human rights in Uganda. More recently, almost 800,000 South Sudanese have fled to Uganda - home to one of the world’s largest refugee camps (Bidi Bidi).

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity came late to Uganda compared with many other parts of Africa. Missionaries first arrived at the court of Kabaka Muteesa in 1877, almost a century after the missionary impetus from Europe had begun. And yet within 25 years Uganda had become one of the most successful mission fields in the whole of Africa.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Uganda is mostly Christian (84%) and Muslim (14%). Public prayer is common even in government and judicial buildings, and many people attend church. Martyrs' Day is a national public holiday in Uganda on June 3rd. The day commemorates the 45 martyrs, both Catholic and Anglican, who were killed on the orders of Kabaka Mwangi II, then King of Buganda between 1885 and 1887.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for restoration, peace and healing after many years of war and conflict. Pray for an outcome for the 800,000 displaced people who are forced to live in refugee camps.
- Pray that the Church and its leaders will be rooted in truth and not swayed by false teachings and cultural sins. That the church will be captured with a vision to make disciples of Uganda's many believers.
- Pray for righteous leaders in government and all spheres of society and for corruption to be rooted out.
- Pray for relief for the many poor people especially for the destitute street children, who are most numerous in Kampala.
- Pray that the church of Uganda will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

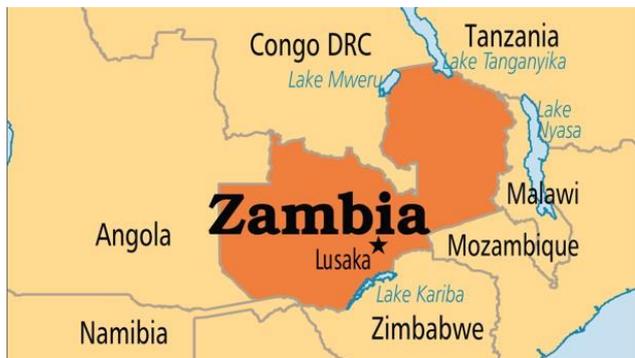
## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. Psalm 104:24

ACTS 2:1-21 PSALM 104:24-34,35B ROMANS 8:22-27 JOHN 15:26-27,16:4B-15

*O Spirit of Grace, thy kindness we trace. Thank You for the outpouring of Your holy Spirit, Lord. Thanks that it will embolden us to go forward in Your strength. Reveal to us Your Will so that we may proclaim Your Gospel as it ought to be proclaimed. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**19.5 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1888 -1964)** Zambia got its name from the Mighty Zambezi river. The name Zambezi comes from the Lunda expression **Nzambi enzi** which literally means “God Come”. **SLAVERY-** During the second half of the 19th century Zambia was convulsed by traders, raiders, and invaders who came from all surrounding areas mainly for ivory and slaves. **COLONIALISM-** At the end of the 19th century Zambia came under British rule. British interest in the region had first been aroused by the missionary and explorer David Livingstone. Livingstone’s reports of the expanding slave trade inspired other missionaries to come to central Africa & continue the struggle against it, but it was the mining magnate Cecil Rhodes who ensured that so much country north as well as south of the Zambezi came within a British sphere of influence during the “Scramble for Africa.” Zambia

became an independent country in 1964 and is one of the few countries that transitioned peacefully from colonial rule to independence. Zambia, best known for the Victoria Waterfalls and the Zambezi River, is a country with abundant resources and high literacy rates. The stable politics, along with the country’s beauty, has made it one of the top tourist destinations in Africa. The nation’s economy is heavily dependent on copper, and it is one of the world’s largest producers of the metal.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Christianity is believed to have arrived in Zambia in the form of European Protestant missionaries and African explorers during the mid of 19th century. David Livingstone inspired abolitionists of the slave trade, explorers and missionaries. He led the way in Central Africa for missionaries who initiated education and health care projects for Africans.

**CHURCH TODAY:** Zambians practice freedom of all religions. 95.5% are Christian; 2.7% are Muslim. Many people combine Christianity and indigenous beliefs.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Praise God for real growth in the church of Zambia. Pray for an ongoing commitment by Zambians to be a Christian nation that honours God.
- Pray for the development of training programs that will raise up educationally and spiritually equipped leaders. Pray that God will raise up good teachers and trained pastors.
- Pray for wisdom in tackling the extreme poverty and the devastating HIV/AIDS crisis.
- Pray that the church of Zambia will fulfil Jesus’ prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that God would grow a spiritual fervency among Zambian believers, sending them out with the Gospel to the lost, poor, sick, and spiritually needy.
- Ask the Lord to bless Zambia and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. Isaiah 6:3

ISAIAH 6:1-8

PSALM 29

ROMANS 8:12-17

JOHN 3:1-17

*Lord on Trinity Sunday we acknowledge You as the Triune God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Lord thank You that You are ever present in our lives. Renew our lives and fill us anew with Your Spirit. Amen.*



**POPULATION**  
**15.3 MILLION**

**COLONISED BY BRITAIN (1890-1965)** Dating as far back as the 11th Century, historians and archaeologists have found that Zimbabwe was a major trade route. Before colonialism the Shona people had long been subjected to slave raids. **COLONIALISM-** In 1890 the country became a British colony. In 1965 the white minority declared independence from Britain. Racism in Zimbabwe began during the colonial era, when white colonisers began racially discriminating against the indigenous Africans. They imposed racist policies in all spheres of public life. Zimbabweans were frustrated by their continued subjugation & so in July 1964, a civil war broke out between Ian Smith's white minority government, Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) & Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). In 1980 the country gained independence after 15 years of

Civil War. Robert Mugabe became the first president of the newly independent Zimbabwe. In 1997 he started a land redistribution campaign which caused an exodus of white farmers. In many cases the farms were given to party loyalists and their families. This led to a sharp decline in production and caused the collapse of the agriculture-based economy. Zimbabwe faced years of seemingly unending national emergencies. It had once exported food but was no longer able to feed its own people. Hyperinflation was so bad that Zimbabwe's own currency was rendered worthless. Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years, it is said of him that he traded the mantle of liberator for the armour of a tyrant and presided over the decline of one of Africa's most prosperous lands. **TODAY-** Zimbabwe remains in severe humanitarian crisis. Poverty grips millions & they have one of the world's worst AIDS crises.

**HOW DID CHRISTIANITY GET THERE?** Roman Catholic missionaries were the first to arrive in Zimbabwe. The first attempts to introduce Christianity to the Shona was made by a Portuguese Jesuit missionary, during the Monomotapa dynasty, until he was murdered as a result of court intrigues in 1561.

**CHURCH TODAY:** 86% Christian, 11% no religious affiliation. As in most countries in Africa many people mix Christianity with traditional beliefs.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for deep healing, repentance, restitution and restoration for the wounds caused by slavery and colonialism.
- Pray for God to restore this once-prosperous land and to use His people to bring relief from the decades of suffering.
- Pray for increased health care and preventative education for this HIV/AIDS ravaged nation. Thank God that the rate of infection has begun to slow in recent years. Pray for wisdom to help the nation cope with this great loss of life. Pray for churches to engage with the moral, spiritual, and economic effects of AIDS.
- Pray for a moral, visionary government to rebuild this impoverished nation. Ask the Lord to raise up righteous leaders.
- Pray that the church of Zimbabwe will fulfil Jesus' prayer from John 17: to be one with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

WEEKLY  
WORLDWIDE  
MORAVIAN  
WATCHWORD

I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8

DEUTERONOMY 5:12-15      PSALM 81:1-10      2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-12      MARK 2:23-3:6

*On this Sabbath we want to thank You, Lord for the opportunity to enter Your Home of Prayer. Teach us, to always take Your Word to heart as to allow us to grow in our faith in You. May goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Amen.*

# PRAYER OF REPENTANCE FOR RACISM

Father, I submit to You

I stand before You and every black person across the world. I stand in the gap as an intercessor and as a white woman. I stand like Daniel stood on behalf of his people - for white people of the past and present. I also stand in the gap for those white people whose hearts are hard and who will never say sorry. Have mercy on us Lord.

I ask forgiveness today to all black people. We, as white people have sinned against you, over and over again. Today we repent unconditionally.

I ask forgiveness for slavery and colonialism.

I ask forgiveness for the forced removal of people from their homes, lands, countries and continents.

I ask forgiveness for the way slaves were treated by white people across the world.

I ask forgiveness for the land that was dispossessed and for the way black men and women became incorporated into colonial society as low-status servants.

I ask forgiveness for the white domination and the human rights violations.

I ask forgiveness of the plundering of Africa by white people.

I ask forgiveness for all oppressive legislation.

I ask forgiveness for the mutilations.

I ask forgiveness for the capitations.

I ask forgiveness for the lying and the stealing.

I ask forgiveness for the many broken covenants.

I ask forgiveness for the way Africa was cut up during colonialism.

I ask forgiveness for the way we treated you.

I repent of the pride of the white people.

I repent that we thought that we are better than you. It is a sin.

I repent for the way that we shamed, humiliated and oppressed you, your mothers, your fathers, your brothers, your sisters, your uncles, your aunts and your children.

I ask forgiveness for the derogatory names we called you.

I ask forgiveness that we did not treat black leaders with respect.

Lord forgive us for racist jokes.

I ask forgiveness for the bloodshed and killings.

I ask forgiveness for the inferior education.

I ask forgiveness for the pain, anguish, the fear and shock that you had to endure by the hands of white people.

I ask forgiveness for our ignorance.

I ask forgiveness for the detentions.

I ask forgiveness for the imprisonments.

I ask forgiveness for the torture.

I ask forgiveness for the violence.

As a woman and a mother, I repent on behalf of all white women that influenced our husbands and children to be racist and to treat you harshly.

I ask forgiveness that not more of us stand for justice. I ask forgiveness to you and to God that racism even entered our churches. I ask forgiveness that those of us who know God do not do more to reflect to you the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Forgive us for the many that turned away from the Gospel, for the way we, as white people brought it. I thank God and those of you who stayed true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lord I pray that You will open our eyes to those things we as white people continue to do that still cause offence and hurt to others.

I would also like to ask forgiveness to every nation on earth for the pride and atrocities of white people towards black people through all the centuries.

Lord, I acknowledge Your Word as the supreme truth and Your Word says there is only 'one race' – the human race, made from one man, Adam.

Forgive us that we made the colour of our skins the reason to hate those that do not look like us.

Lord please forgive us for the blood of innocent people who died of racist injustices.

Lord please forgive us for not doing more to understand and implement true restitution. Lord please show us the way. Lord please bring conviction of the sin of racism across the world. Lord lead Your church into repentance. Help us to lament with our black brothers and sisters and to not always justify ourselves. Help us to do more to seek Your healing and restoration for the pain of the past.

Lord please turn the tide, root out racism and heal Africa and the nations.

# GOD BLESS AFRICA

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The national anthem of South Africa is an adaption of a Hymn that Enoch Mankayi Sontonga wrote in 1897. Let us pray the original hymn over Africa & may the Prince of Peace bring wholeness and healing over Africa.

## GOD BLESS AFRICA

### *Original Lovedale English Translation*

Lord, bless Africa; May her horn rise high up;  
Hear Thou our prayers And bless us.

Chorus - Descend, O Spirit,  
Descend, O Holy Spirit.

Bless our chiefs. May they remember their Creator.  
Fear Him and revere Him, That He may bless them.

Bless the public men,  
Bless also the youth  
That they may carry the land with patience  
and that Thou mayst bless them.

Bless the wives  
And also all young women;  
Lift up all the young girls  
And bless them.

Bless the ministers  
of all the churches of this land;  
Endue them with Thy Spirit  
And bless them.

Bless agriculture and stock raising  
Banish all famine and diseases;  
Fill the land with good health  
And bless it.

Bless our efforts  
of union and self-uplift,  
Of education and mutual understanding  
And bless them.

Lord, bless Africa  
Blot out all its wickedness  
And its transgressions and sins,  
And bless it.

Amen

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Putting together this Daily Prayer Guide has been quite the task & so many people have given input, advice, time, knowledge, prayers & love. Acknowledging everyone is difficult, but we would like to mention a few:

- GOD! This journey has been exciting & we cannot wait to see what You have in store. Thank You Father!
- YOU: the readers, our prayer warriors. Thank you for embarking on this journey with us, we trust that your prayers for our Continent will not stop here.
- Simone Greyling and Sophie Greyling for design work, editing and formatting the booklet.
- Michael Curle, Dagmar Weston and Moss Ntlha for the final editing of the booklet.
- Anneke would like to give a special word of thanks to her husband Ralph and children for their continued love and support.
- All the intercessors & friends that have faithfully prayed & continue to pray with us!
- Bishop Augustine Joemath for the Daily Watchword & Moravian history.
- We give credit to & acknowledge all the people, missionaries & bodies working hard in God's mission field, to turn around the physical & spiritual pain & suffering brought about by colonialism in the countries of Africa.
- A special recognition also the following three Prayer websites: [www.prayercast.com](http://www.prayercast.com)  
<https://operationworld.org>  
<https://prayer.africa>
- We are grateful for the support of the leaders & staff of the following ministries:



in Harmonie  
a place of change



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