

UNITED IN
PRAYER



LIFTING VOICES FOR
THOSE IN NEED



HOW TO PRAY WITH THIS PRAYER BOOKLET

On October 19, communities around the world are joining in prayer for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As part of this global, multi-faith effort, LOPC is also lifting up the needs of all our mission partners. This day is an invitation to stand with them in prayer, compassion, and hope.

This booklet is a guide for your time of prayer. Each page highlights a partner and offers prompts for prayers and reflection.

You may wish to pray silently, journal your thoughts, or share prayers aloud with others. There is no right way to pray. You can give thanks, name specific needs, sit in silence, or simply hold people in your heart. However you choose to pray, may you feel connected to God, to our mission partners, and to a global community seeking peace.

PRAYER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

God of all nations,
You are still at work in this world you love –
even when the headlines tell stories of conflict and
despair.

You are moving in quiet acts of courage,
in those who feed the hungry, shelter the displaced,
and speak peace into the noise of war.

We trust that your Spirit is never absent,
even in the hardest places.

We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the
Congo,

where violence has forced so many to flee their homes.

Bring safety to families on the move,
and strength to those working for stability and healing.

We pray for Israel and Gaza,
for civilians caught in the middle of deep pain and loss.

Make a way where there seems to be no way –
for food, medicine, and mercy to reach those in need,
and for hearts to soften toward peace.

We pray for Ukraine,
where war continues to tear communities apart.
Hold close those who grieve,
and renew the hope of all who long for home and safety.

And we remember every place where people suffer –
in forgotten conflicts, in the wake of disaster,
in the ache of injustice or poverty.

Let your peace take root,
your justice roll down,
and your love rise stronger than hate.

Teach us to keep praying,
to keep believing that our small acts and faithful words
join in your great work of renewal.

Through Christ, who makes all things new,
Amen.

Congo

Why Pray?

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) faces a decades-long conflict in its east. Often called “The Forgotten War,” this crisis receives little international attention despite a devastating human toll.

As of 2025, millions have been displaced and forced from their homes. Hundreds of thousands of women have been victims of sexual violence, and children under five account for half of the conflict-related deaths over the years. Rebel militias, many supported by neighboring countries, have exploited Congo’s vast mineral wealth. In 2025, Rwandan militias occupied two major cities: Goma and Bukavu.

Yet we trust that the God of peace still reigns. Let us join in prayer for peace in Congo, an end to violence, and the restoration of hope so that the Congolese people may thrive and return home.



Suggested Prayer

Lord of mercy, we cry out for peace in the DRC. May violence cease, families return home in safety, and survivors find deep healing. Strengthen those bringing medical care and working for peace, and let justice and hope rise again in this long-suffering land.

Call to Action

Email Sue Gibbons at clearspeech@suegibbons.com to learn more about and join the LOPC weekly prayer line for the DRC.

ATFALUNA

Why Pray?



Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza empowers people with hearing and other disabilities through inclusive education, audiology, vocational training, and community services. Despite the ongoing conflict and the destruction of its main center, Atfaluna continues to serve amid immense challenges – including increased war-related hearing loss, mass displacement, a shortage of

assistive devices, and deep trauma among children. The organization remains committed to offering essential services, such as temporary learning spaces and mental health support, to help children with disabilities survive, learn, and heal.

Suggested Prayer

God of mercy, we lift up the families and children of Gaza, especially those with disabilities. Grant them safety, healing, and hope. Strengthen their caregivers, and guide Atfaluna and all who bring relief. End the violence, and let peace and justice flourish.

Call to Action

Email Chris Johnson at chrisazim@gmail.com to learn more about and join the Zoom prayer group that meets every other Monday.



Children of Faith



Why Pray?

Children of Faith Missions (COFM), based in Visakhapatnam, India, has cared for some of the country's poorest and most vulnerable children since 2003. COFM provides more than shelter, focusing on each child's full development – physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

The organization supports orphans, semi-orphans, and children from families unable to meet basic needs. Locally led in India with support from a U.S. board, COFM is committed to accountability and stewardship, allocating 94¢ of every dollar directly to its charitable work.



Suggested Prayer

Gracious Father, we lift up the children in India and the dedicated staff who care for them. Cover them with health, safety, and peace. Bless the students – those preparing for exams, seeking college admission, or graduating – with clarity, confidence, and favor. We pray for their families, teachers, and leaders Anand and Rosie, asking for wisdom as they guide others. May the neighborhood come to know the love and hope found in Christ.

Call to Action

Go to childrenoffaith.org to learn more about how you can get involved and support their mission.

Food Bank



Why Pray?

The Food Bank faces mounting challenges as federal and state funding cuts threaten key food programs. They've lost nearly \$1.9 million from a USDA grant for fresh produce, and shipments from the Emergency Food Assistance Program have been suspended, resulting in over 250,000 fewer meals. Rising costs, especially for protein and produce, make it harder to serve the 65,000 households they help each month. As demand grows, the Food Bank is expanding advocacy to protect programs like CalFresh, but the gap between need and resources is widening.

Suggested Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for all who face food insecurity, especially those relying on the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano during these difficult times. Strengthen the Food Bank's efforts to nourish families, protect vital programs, and make every donation count. Move us to give – our time, food, or resources – so that no child goes to bed hungry.



Call to Action

Volunteer with the Food Bank on a love does/LOPC WorkDay. Email Sandy Ducey at sandrducey@comcast.net and/or Linda Groobin at lgroobin@gmail.com.

FotoKids



Why Pray?

Guatemala currently faces serious challenges due to climate change. This year, the country has seen its highest rainfall in 30 years, causing devastating landslides and widespread flooding, particularly in vulnerable rural communities.

We ask for prayers that hunger does not worsen as a result of these climate events. Crop and infrastructure damage has already affected food security, and there are concerns that rising food prices will make basic nutrition even harder to access for low-income families.

Please also pray for the many deported migrants returning to Guatemala. May they find dignified work, support, and opportunities to rebuild their lives after difficult and traumatic journeys.

Suggested Prayer

Heavenly Father, we lift up the people of Guatemala as they endure extreme rainfall, landslides, and flooding, especially in vulnerable rural areas. Grant them protection and provision during these climate challenges. Prevent hunger from worsening as crops are lost and food prices rise. Sustain families in need. Have mercy on returning migrants, and may they find hope, dignity, and new opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Call to Action

Go to fotokidsoriginal.org to learn more about how you can support their mission and to sign up for their quarterly newsletter.



Hope Solutions



Why Pray?

Hope Solutions is on the front lines in Contra Costa County, working to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness through a housing-first approach and wraparound supportive services. They serve thousands of vulnerable individuals and families each year but face significant challenges: soaring housing costs, extremely low vacancy rates, a widening gap between affordable housing and demand, and

government funding cuts and uncertainty. Funding volatility, regulatory shifts, and structural shortages in affordable housing threaten to slow their ability to expand and sustain solutions for those most in need.

Suggested Prayer

Loving God, we lift up Hope Solutions and all those they serve. Draw individuals and families in crisis to their welcoming doors, and bring healing to the deep wounds of poverty and homelessness within a haven of safety and dignity. Fill the staff with boundless compassion, energy, and resilience as they journey beside each client. Inspire steady and generous support from both public and private hands, so this important mission may flourish and endure despite rising costs, scarce housing, and uncertain funding.



Call to Action

Volunteer. Donate. Be the Solution. Learn more at hopesolutions.org.

JF Kapnek Trust

Why Pray?

JF Kapnek Trust once received USAID funding for HIV, cervical cancer, and TB screening programs. These needs have grown, but USAID funds were sharply cut this year. The US State Department asked Kapnek to increase HIV screening with fewer staff and stop all TB work. Only recently was some cervical cancer work allowed to continue. Despite these setbacks, Kapnek is finding creative ways to adapt. Thankfully, the ECD porridge program for preschools remains funded by non-governmental sources.



Suggested Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord, source of all compassion and love, our world is troubled. Countless people around the globe are desperate for your compassion and support as they endure circumstances beyond their control that threaten their survival.

We think of our friends in Zimbabwe, a country whose people remain joyful despite illness, poverty, and hunger. Our friends at Kapnek Trust are challenged to provide more help with fewer and ever-dwindling resources as they treat illnesses, to feed your flock, even if it's only one meal a day.

Wrap your loving spirit around the employees and volunteers of Kapnek Trust, who work tirelessly to reach as many people as possible despite limited resources and increasing challenges.

Give them good rest to face yet another day of knowing that their work will be the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord.

Call to Action

Email Phil Hunter at hunter.p@mac.com for more information.

Monument Crisis Center



Why Pray?

Monument Crisis Center, based in Concord, supports low-income individuals and families across Central and East Contra Costa County with food, resources, and referrals for long-term stability. Now, California's budget crisis, including a \$3.4 billion Medi-Cal shortfall, threatens access to vital healthcare and social services, especially for undocumented and low-income residents. These challenges come amid record-high demand, as the Center faces food shortages and struggles to meet the urgent needs of hundreds of families seeking daily assistance.

Suggested Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Monument Crisis Center. Please sustain and strengthen their work as they provide food, education, and assistance to families in crisis. Grant the staff wisdom and compassion. Inspire volunteers to support their mission, and encourage ongoing donations of food and resources so the Center can continue serving those in need. May all who seek help there find hope, stability, and the support they need.



Call to Action

Volunteer your time, donate food using the collection barrels at LOPC, and learn more at monumentcrisiscenter.org

STAND!



Why Pray?

STAND! For Families Free of Violence is committed to promoting safe and strong families, offering prevention, intervention, and treatment services, including emergency shelter, crisis hotlines, counseling, legal advocacy, and education. Serving over 10,000 clients each year, STAND! faces rising demands, reduced funding, increasingly complex

cases, especially among underserved and marginalized populations, and the ongoing challenge of reaching victims early and safely.

Suggested Prayer

Loving God, we lift up survivors of domestic violence, their children, and all who bear the scars of abuse. Surround them with your healing presence. Grant them courage to speak, strength to leave, and wisdom to those who protect. Bless organizations like STAND! as they intervene; may they be empowered, sustained, and deeply effective. In Your name, Amen.

Call to Action

Volunteer your time and advocate for survivors by supporting STAND! as they work to end domestic violence and rebuild lives in our community. More information at standffov.org.



Trinity Center



Why Pray?

Trinity Center in Walnut Creek serves individuals facing homelessness and housing insecurity in Central Contra Costa County by providing meals, showers, laundry, case management, and seasonal shelter. As demand grows and resources are stretched, the center increasingly relies on donations of essentials and the dedication of volunteers to fulfill its mission.

Suggested Prayer

Lord, we lift up Trinity Center and all in our community facing homelessness and housing insecurity. May our newest mission partner remain a doorway to opportunity, offering not only meals and shelter but hope, dignity, and a path to stability. Grant that their members receive essentials and that compassionate volunteers step forward to guide others toward self-sufficiency. Remind us that we each can make a difference in caring for our neighbors.

Call to Action

Throughout October, donate warm clothes or other year-round essentials – details and Trinity Center’s Amazon Wish List are at lopc.org/serve (drop off in Ministry Center reception). Learn more about volunteering at trinitycenterwc.org.



Mission Friends



Why Pray?

Alongside our ten local and international mission partners, LOPC also supports several Mission Friends – trusted organizations we walk

alongside through prayer, service, and giving. We'd like to especially highlight three of these friends: Primera Iglesia Presbyterian Church, our sister church in Oakland; Extended Families Program (EFP) in Walnut Creek; and Youth Homes.

Primera Iglesia: A vibrant Spanish-speaking church in Oakland, lovingly serving the Oakland community through worship, outreach, and pastoral care.

EFP: A group in Walnut Creek that helps recently unhoused and refugee families by providing furniture and household essentials to turn apartments into homes.

Youth Homes: Contra Costa County's provider of trauma-informed residential care and supportive services for foster youth and young adults.



Suggested Prayer

Loving and faithful God, we lift up our Mission Friends – Primera Iglesia, Extended Families Program, and Youth Homes – who serve with courage and compassion amidst the many challenges facing our communities. In a time of uncertainty, rising needs, and limited resources, we ask that You strengthen their leaders, staff, and volunteers with renewed energy and unwavering hope. May Your grace surround the families they serve, bringing healing to broken places, shelter to the vulnerable, and light to those walking through the darkest valleys. Guide their hands and hearts as they embody Your love in tangible ways, and inspire us to walk alongside them with generous spirits and faithful prayers. In Your holy name, Amen.

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MAY OUR
PRAYERS
RIPPLE OUT IN
LOVE, PEACE,
AND HOPE
ACROSS THE
WORLD.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.
James 5: 16