

Prayers

With special thanks to CARE for the prayer points taken from their prayer guide.



'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.'

(St Francis of Assisi)

Intercede for children abused by parents or other household members and friends, who feel so overwhelmed by fear, shame and secrecy that they cannot see how to escape from their ordeal. Pray that wrong-doing will be exposed and children rescued.

Pray for those who bring relief and support to the six million seriously injured or permanently disabled children and the twelve million children who have been left homeless as a result of wars over the last decade.

Lord, please give wisdom and courage to Christians involved in medical research and practice who are facing critical moral issues; that they may recognise how Your will can be best accomplished through them in their daily work.

Remember those reviewing the role and responsibility of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. Pray that future legislation needed to accommodate new technological advances will respect human life.

Ask God to grant wisdom to all Christian organisations opposing the practice of human cloning; especially since the Law Lord's affirmation of therapeutic cloning (which treats early human life as a means to an end) as legal.

Ask God to give wisdom, insight and success to scientists developing ground breaking stem cell research using consenting adults rather than embryonic stem cells.

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Give thanks that a recent opinion poll reported that many more British Doctors are opposed to euthanasia and pray that bills, like the one introduced by Lord Joffe to the House of Lords arguing for voluntary euthanasia to be legalised, will not succeed.

Lord, we intercede for the National Health Service, operating with seriously increased demands; that the founding principles of excellent care and consideration for patients and staff will continue to be the goal of future reforms and policies.

Intercede for a major change in public opinion about adoption; that a growing number of mothers will feel able to entrust their child to a loving family instead of having an abortion.

Pray for anyone who is making such a choice today between abortion and adoption, to have the courage and strength to do what is best.

One in five pregnancies in England ends in abortion. In London the figure is one in four.

Ask God to grant Godly insight and compassion to those in Government who are seeking to reduce the high rate of teenage pregnancy. In the UK 10% of all babies are born to teenage Mums the highest in Europe.

Give thanks for positive sex and relationships programmes like *'Love for Life'* in Northern Ireland currently being piloted by CARE in the rest of the UK. Pray that such resources will have a real impact on young people.

Intercede for girls in some of the poorest countries in Africa that have the world's highest teenage birth rates; and for millions of other young people in the developing world who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, disease and poverty.

Seven out of ten under-16-year olds in the UK are not sexually active.

77,000 young people run away each year, including 20,000 young people who are under the age of 11.

Give thanks for all concerned with the welfare of children and adolescents who are homeless. Pray that they will find ways to help young people deal positively with difficult issues in their lives.

Lord we pray for those caring for elderly relatives who have become frail in body and mind - loved ones whose personality and grasp on reality have changed. Please help the carers to cope and guide them through especially difficult times.

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Ask God to strengthen and inspire all Christians involved in caring for others. May they shine in the community as beacons of comfort and hope to the lonely and needy.

Remember those who care for children and adults in residential institutions, hospitals, special units, education settings, prisons and detention centres. Pray that their compassion and hope will not be worn down by the difficult tasks they face.

'He is a God who always comforts and helps people. He helps us every time we have trouble. Then we are able to be strong and help other people every time they have trouble. We can do this with the same comfort that God gives us.'
2 Cor1:3-4 (Worldwide English Version)

Loving father, please help all who care for and nurture others. Especially encourage those finding their responsibilities burdensome; strengthen them by Your Spirit each day.

One in eight (almost 6 million) people in Britain is now a carer. Three-fifths of them care for someone with a disability. Nearly one million carers provide care for more than fifty hours a week.

Give thanks for church fellowships that are faithfully demonstrating God's Word; living out the compassion of Christ in their local communities through practical caring and appropriate involvement with issues of local concern.

Pray for those who are responsible for protecting children and vulnerable adults; social workers, police, health and education professionals and parents. Pray that cases of abuse and neglect will be brought to light and dealt with wisely.

Remember frail elderly people living alone, especially the 650,000 whose only visitors are local authority social workers and carers. Pray for many more to be befriended by Christians locally and to feel safe and secure where they live.

'My mind and body may grow weak, but God is my strength; He is all I ever need... How wonderful to be near God, to find protection with the Sovereign Lord and to proclaim all that He has done.'
Psalm 73:26, 28 (Living Bible)

Around 11% of boys and 8% of girls are diagnosed with some kind of mental health problem. (www.mind.org.uk)