

# PRAY FOR AFRICAN DIASPORA



## Prayers from diaspora workers

This guide focuses on areas to help you and your church pray for the African diaspora living in the UK and Europe. "Pray for..." is designed to enrich your prayer life and help you engage more deeply with various topics.



## 1. THE CHURCH

As we find many people from different nations coming to the UK and Europe, whether for work, education, or because they are fleeing to safety, the church is uniquely situated to welcome people. We can provide hospitality, practical help and support, friendship, and offer them the hope that can be found in Jesus.

Lord God,

We praise you that you 'created every nation' (Acts 17.26) and made each person in your image. You know and love them intimately. We are sorry for the times that we have collectively or individually failed to welcome and receive people with the love of Jesus as you call us to.

We pray that you will awaken the Church to the tremendous opportunities this migration of people has created for us to show God's love. Pray for a spirit of unity among churches, and that in particular

partnerships may be formed with the vibrant African churches in many of our cities planted by Christians from denominations in Nigeria, Ghana or DR Congo. Move and enable us to share the gospel with those who are from people groups that are some of the world's least reached and most resistant to the gospel but who are now, for the first time, our neighbours. Lead churches to welcome, integrate, disciple and support individuals from these groups who have come to faith in Jesus or who are seeking truth.

Amen.



## 2. REFUGEES

We bear witness to the heartbreak, pain and suffering of people forced to leave their homes, families and everything they know in order to live in safety. God calls believers to be his hands and feet in the world, meeting people in their suffering, walking alongside them and advocating for those who need protection.

Dear Lord,

As so many people need to flee from their countries because of war, civil violence, repressive governments or the devastation of climate change, we pray that you will give them faith when they most desperately need it. Enable them to take things they will need. Protect them from dangers on the journey: accident, exposure, disease, crime and unscrupulous people-traffickers. When they stop in places for various lengths of time, protect them from being exploited.

We praise and thank you for those

who meet refugees when they arrive at the entry-points to Europe and support them while they have to spend time in camps in Greece, Italy, Spain or Calais. We pray that you will raise up people and provide the resources to welcome refugees in your name; to extend to them your love and to share the gospel, as well as give practical help, advice and orientation to life in Europe. Please enable refugees to find healing from the trauma many of them have suffered before or during their journey from home.

Amen.



### 3. DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

Starting a new life in an unfamiliar country is tough, whether you have moved there by choice or not. New language, culture, systems to navigate, as well as unwelcoming attitudes and racism, mean that integration can be challenging and life can feel lonely and disorientating.

Father God,

We pray for African people who have settled in towns and cities across the UK and Europe. We pray that wherever they now live, they will find Christians in their neighbourhoods or at their workplaces who welcome them, befriend them and help them to integrate into life in their new location. We also pray for areas where whole communities of diaspora people have settled. We pray that you, Lord, will enable them to find homes suitable for their families and school places for their children.

Through Christians they know, enable them to distinguish between real Christianity and the negative aspects of Western culture they may experience here. Lord God, mobilise Christians to be proactive in spending time in their neighbourhoods, serving needs and building friendships; and within those friendships to share the gospel through word and deed. We pray for good relations between diaspora groups and local communities; for your protection against racist, suspicious or antagonistic attitudes that lead to segregation; and for mutual acceptance, care and respect. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,

Thank you for the freedom of religion that we enjoy in this country. We recognise that some diaspora groups in the UK and Europe have come here from places with virtually no opportunity to hear the gospel, where following Jesus might have meant extreme persecution.

We pray for Christians who are reaching out to members of diaspora groups that are traditionally resistant to the gospel - whether through living near them, working with them or meeting them through teaching or

caring. We pray that you will lead them to individuals in whose hearts you are working. May your Holy Spirit enable them to display Christ's love in practice; and to discern and rely on your guidance more than their own skill. Give them the courage and the wisdom to explain their relationship with you in ways that lead their friends to you, Lord. As this kind of ministry tends to be long term and sometimes discouraging, we pray that you will keep reminding them that you have called them to this task and that you are at work among the people they are working with. Amen.



### 4. MINISTRY TO DIASPORA GROUPS

For some people groups, moving to the UK or Europe will be the first time they experience an opportunity to hear about who Jesus is and what he has done for us. It can be confusing though, moving to a 'Christian' country, to decipher what is Western culture, and what are Christian values.



### 5. CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Even though someone may have moved to a country where there is freedom of religion, it may still be a very hard decision to make to follow Jesus. It can be difficult for the families and communities of new believers, especially when culture and religion can be a strong link to the homes they have left.

We praise you, Lord,

For those individuals from gospel resistant cultures who are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We praise you that although their numbers are still very small, they are constantly increasing. We pray that diaspora communities of other faiths will become more tolerant of their own members whom you lead to faith in Jesus.

We pray for the families of these people to accept the new faith of a family member as your calling rather than as an act of betrayal and rejection of family and community. Please enable new Christians to remain living in their

families as opposed to being disowned or divorced by them and ostracised by the community. Please protect them from harm. Empower them to witness by their lives to the truth and power of the gospel. Enable them to explain their new faith effectively to their families and friends. We pray for 'secret believers' who dare not let their conversion be known by anyone for fear of repercussions; please encourage and strengthen them. We pray that new converts will find ways to meet together, encourage each other and grow; and that they will find welcoming, supportive churches. Amen.

Father God,

We praise you for the way you have made the internet into a powerful instrument for building and extending your kingdom. We thank you that for many millions around the world, Christian radio, television channels and websites provide ways for the gospel and Bible teaching to be accessible. We praise you for the many who have come to saving faith through the internet. Thank you for the way that Christian media and the internet can enable isolated Christians, even if they are new or 'secret' believers, to be in touch

with each other, to have their faith deepened and to be disciplined through online courses.

We pray that you will continue to equip and guide those who operate these media and those who produce video, audio or online programmes and maintain personal contact online with often hundreds of people who respond, ask questions or request prayer. We pray that you will continue to protect these workers from burnout and from those opposed to the gospel who would want to put a stop to their ministry and who urge others to do them harm. Amen.



### 6. THE INTERNET

The rise of the internet has created incredible opportunities in terms of how, and with who, we can connect and communicate. It has opened new doors for sharing the gospel with people who would otherwise not be able to hear it, and has allowed new ways for communities to form.



## 7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Issues of identity and culture can be confusing when starting life in a new country, especially for younger generations. Maintaining a connection to home and family culture can be important, but can also feel at tension with integrating into life in a new location.

Sovereign Lord,

We praise you for bringing children and young people from families of other faiths into our education system where questioning and independent thought are valued. We pray that these opportunities will develop their curiosity and enable them to search for spiritual truth for themselves.

We pray that Christian children will befriend classmates from families of other faiths and that those friendships will reveal more about Jesus and lead to an openness to hear more about Christianity. We also pray for teenagers and young adults from these

communities, many of whom were born in the West and live within both the home culture of their parents and that of where they now live. As they explore what it means for their identity to bridge two cultures, we pray you would protect them from religious radicalism or Western secularism. Many live in inner-city environments where poverty can mean that crime, drugs and gangs become attractive means for survival. We pray for realistic alternatives to be presented and modeled by Christians around them. Lord, please lead young people from diaspora families into a living faith of their own. Amen.

The UK government recently announced the Rwanda Asylum Plan. Under this plan, some asylum seekers who cross the Channel to the UK will be given a one-way ticket to Rwanda, with the pilot scheme focusing on single men arriving on boats or lorries.

## JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIANS TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE AND FOR:

### 1. THOSE ABOUT TO ENTER THE UK

Potentially already suffering from the traumas of their journey, and the home situation that caused them to flee, travellers are now faced with the additional dilemma of whether to try and enter the UK. Pray for them as they weigh up their options, make difficult decisions and try and tell scattered relatives and friends where their final location may be.

### 2. THE AVAILABLE ROUTES TO THE UK

There are currently very few safe routes to the UK and none available to citizens of countries that make up the bulk of those granted refugee status in Britain. Under the new system the government would instead receive refugees from UN-run refugee centres. Pray for openness and transparency in this process.

### 3. CONNECTING WITH FAMILY

Often men take on the dangerous journey across the channel first, as they seek to protect women and children from the risks involved. Once their asylum claim has been accepted and they are free to remain in the UK, then family are allowed to travel through safe routes to join them. Pray that under the new rules, women and children wouldn't feel forced to take on the risk, or be exploited by people smugglers.

### 4. THE UK GOVERNMENT

Pray that politicians and civil servants would be able to develop plans that give care, support and justice to some of the most vulnerable in our world. Pray that they would be able to balance the interests of UK citizens with offering generosity and kindness to those in need. Pray that they wouldn't act out of selfish ambition or for their own power, but out of duty and respect for others.

## Pray for African diaspora Seven prayers from diaspora workers

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### Pray with us online

You can also continue praying with us through our regular online prayer meetings. To find out when the next meeting is and to sign up, visit: [eu.aimint.org/prayfor](http://eu.aimint.org/prayfor)



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