



*But the angel said to them,  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you  
good news that will cause  
great joy for all the people."  
– Luke 2:10*

# THE ADVENT TIMES

## *Good News! Great Joy! All People!*

This glorious proclamation was joyously made over two thousand years ago, to the shepherds in the Bethlehem fields. But this proclamation is also for us.

In the wisdom and grace of God, He has chosen us to carry the good news of His love and salvation to a restless world. Yes, God displays His glory in sunsets. Yes, He appears to people in dreams. AND, He speaks His transformative truth through the lips and hands of mere humans.

Over the next four weeks, we want to stir up the great privilege and responsibility that believers have to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light. It may seem safer and more comfortable to celebrate within our own walls, but the shepherds did not stick around the manger. Let us participate in the thrill of hope.

First, we will **PRAY**.

Every day for the next four weeks, we will pray and ask God how and with whom we can share the good news. God is already moving so let's pay attention.

Then, we will **SHARE LOCALLY**.

Each Sunday describes how some of our mission partners have been serving All Generations, Cultures, Seekers and Experiences. Their testimonies will encourage us to share the gospel in word and deed throughout the week.

And, we will **GIVE GLOBALLY**.

*"We are ashamed that so many have [yet to be evangelized]; it is a standing rebuke to us and to the whole Church. There is now, however, in many parts of the world, an unprecedented receptivity to the Lord Jesus Christ." – The Lausanne Covenant*

We know that God's passion and heart is for those who are dying in their sin as well as those dying from physical need. That is why we have partnered with a number of global mission agencies and individuals who holistically minister compassion, justice and evangelism. May we who have been given much fulfill our duty to give generously.

## PRAY



As you meditate on the Scripture and needs, we invite you to cut out the daily sections (Monday to Saturday) as you pray. They are designed to be attached together as a paper chain that can be hung at home. May the growing length remind you of Jesus who came down to earth to love us first.

## SHARE LOCALLY



For ideas of how to love with actions, each week lists ideas for how God's love can be shared tangibly.

For help with what words to say, our partners at WayMakers have a great resource on how our prayers can lead to sincere and simple sharing. [thepeopleschurch.info/Prayer-Care](http://thepeopleschurch.info/Prayer-Care)

## GIVE GLOBALLY



This year's Christmas Giving Campaign is going to **The Peoples Church Global Mission Fund**. This will support many individuals and programs, global and local, urgent and long-term, all prayerfully and strategically discerned.

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 28



# What Does the Future Hold?

When Abhijit arrived at the Children's Afterschool Program he was small and shy and probably quite scared. He had lost his father in a tragic accident and his mother was struggling to feed him and his sister. Abhijit could have turned to crime and drugs as many young people who live in poverty in India do, but Abhijit's mother was determined that he would have better choices in life. She travelled two hours every day to take them to the Christian afterschool ministry, mainly so that her children would have something to eat and stay out of trouble. But they also heard about Jesus and that changed all of their lives.

Perhaps the faithful youth leaders could see leadership potential in young Abhijit, but probably few imagined that one day he would be the director of the very program he had joined as a boy. Now Abhijit is leading children out of poverty and hopelessness, so that they can live out their calling for their generation. That is the power and beauty of sharing our faith with the next

generation. Knowing Jesus gives elders the desire to teach and mentor; it gives youth the strength to make right choices and be a good example; it gives children hope so that they can dream about their future even when things are difficult.

It has never been easy to be a Christian in India, and it is getting increasingly more difficult. Leaders like Abhijit are doing what they can to teach and train Christian leaders from early childhood. Through your Christmas giving, we can support Abhijit in this challenging work of mentoring the next generation of Christian leaders in India.

Who do you know that needs to hear the good news that God has a plan for their future?

## MISSION PARTNER:

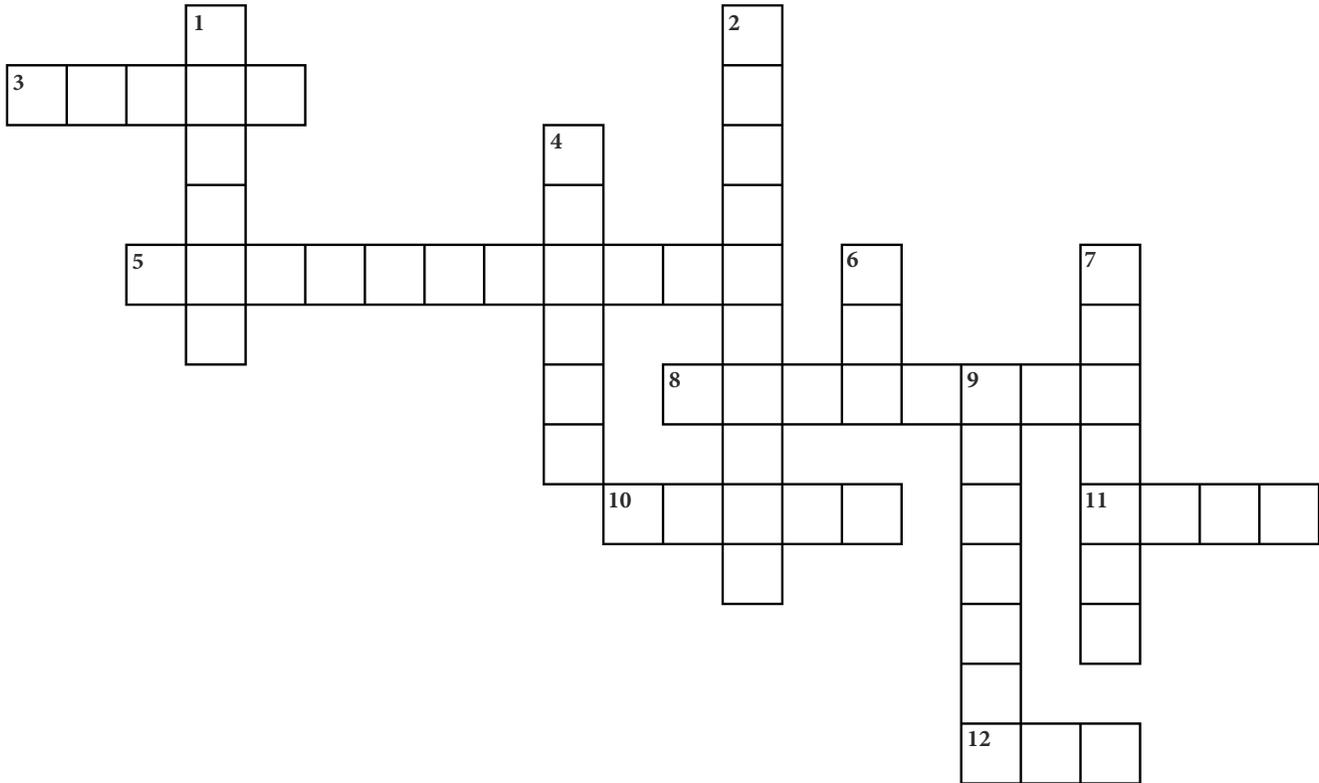


Partners International in India



- Since 1976 Partners International in India has been sharing the gospel with the marginalized in India
- It is a partnership of Christians who desire holistic transformation for the poor and marginalized and to seek justice for the oppressed
- It is the vision of this ministry to see Christ bring about a change in the lives of people so that they may enjoy life to the fullest
- Over 8000 children are being served in various locations in India through the Sponsor-A-Child program
- This partner also has ministries in community development, justice initiatives, employment training, and emergency relief

# CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS



**ACROSS**

3. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are... 1 Timothy 4:12
5. God shows his love to a thousand... Exodus 20:6
8. This is a crown of splendour – Proverbs 16:31 (two words)
10. The dominant religion in India
11. How many hundreds of children do our partners in India serve daily?
12. What percent of the people in India are Christians?

**DOWN**

1. The first name of our children's pastor at The Peoples Church
2. The name of our senior's ministry
4. What night of the week do our youth meet at The Peoples Church?
6. The first name of well-loved missionary to India \_\_\_\_\_ Carmichael
7. You are to honour these – Exodus 20:12
9. The name of the student that became the director of our mission program

**MY GLOBAL GIVING FOR THIS WEEK IS:**

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## GOOD NEWS CONVERSATIONS



### BEFORE YOU RESPOND, CONSIDER:

- Jeremiah 29:11-13
- Lamentations 3:22,23
- Psalm 23:6
- Revelation 21:1-4
- Psalm 71:17-18

## SHARE LOCALLY



### JUSTICE

Think of someone whom God used as an influence in your young life and send them a note of thanks

Make a point to talk to Andrea Y., Dee J. or Hartley R. to see how God may want you to join the children or youth ministries

Schedule a visit to a TPC Young Adults Gathering on a Thursday night

Offer your gently used children's winter clothing to a newcomer neighbour with children younger than yours



### COMPASSION

Offer an evening of free babysitting for a young family so parents can have an evening out

Drive or offer to bring groceries to a neighbour who finds it hard to go out

Look up and consider the Visitation Ministry at TPC which cares for those in hospital or homebound. Contact Reg A.

Get a version of the Christmas story for a child in your neighbourhood and read it, then give it to him or her



### EVANGELISM

Give a call to a grandparent, granduncle or grandaunt to ask about their worries and pray over them with hope

Message a young person that you know on a social media channel and send them some encouragement on one of their posts

At the next family gathering, have a 15min+ conversation with someone you don't normally talk to, seeing what you can learn from them

Hang a Christmas decoration on the outside of your home that points to Jesus and be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have



MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 29

## Children



Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

**PSALM 8:1-2**



### PRAY FOR:

- Parents and teachers to train up children early and firmly in the truth
- The buoyant hearts of children to bring glory to God and lead others to do the same
- God's fatherly love to be shown to those who have been disappointed by their earthly family
- Safety of children worldwide from violence and harm

*With a child-like spirit, draw a doodle of some little people that you are praying over.*

TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 30

## Youth



Part your heavens, Lord, and come down...

Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace...

Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.

**PSALM 144:5, 12, 15**



### PRAY FOR:

- Youth to make the Lord their God
- Youth to find a secure and fulfilling identity in Christ
- Youth to reach out selflessly and lovingly to new friends
- Trust and open communication with parents and mentors
- Adults not to look down on but learn from youth and help guide them

*Listen to a new song, perhaps "Be Glorified (Psalm 55)" by Shai Linne or "Way Maker" by Leeland. As you listen, pray over the youth.*

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 1

## Young Adults



I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

**PSALM 71:16-18**



### PRAY FOR:

- Students to cultivate their gifts and be ambitious for the broadening of God's kingdom
- God's truth to be proclaimed in settings that are hostile or cynical to faith
- Friendships and relationships to be provided and submitted to God
- Parents to bless, release and entrust their children to Father God

*Look up a local college/university/vocational school and think about someone in their 20s who you can bless in prayer.*

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 4**

## Unity Among Generations



“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**ACTS 2:17-18, 21**



### PRAY FOR:

- Bitter relationships to be mended by humility and forgiveness initiated by Christ
- Each member in the body of Christ to compliment and honor one another in serving God
- Appreciation and understanding of one another among the generations
- Novel and creative ways to connect and do ministry together

*Pray for a family where you know all three generations. Pray for their unity.*

**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 3**

## Seniors



Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

**PSALM 145:3-6**



### PRAY FOR:

- The latter years to be significant, reflecting the glory of God
- Caregivers and long-term care homes to receive good resources and grace to pour out
- Hearts to remain soft and grateful even when illness and limits come
- Memories and stories to be filled with testimonies of God's greatness
- Age-defying joy and contentment because of Jesus

*To pray, get on your knees while praying for seniors, feeling some of the physical challenges that they may face.*

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 2**

## Adults



Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.

**JEREMIAH 9:23-24**



### PRAY FOR:

- The identity of men and women to be centered in Christ-like servant leadership
- The vision of their lives to be to advance God's purposes
- God to be honored above all else, whether in marriage or singleness, with or without children
- The allure of earthly treasures to fade in the light of Jesus' glory
- The humility and desire to draw near to God in busyness

*Set your alarm for 5 minutes and pray silently for the adults who are feeling stretched for time.*





SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 5



# Dangerous Journey for Hidden Treasure

Tito travels for two or three days on foot and canoe, braving wild animals, uncertain weather, and unwelcoming opponents all to share his joy in knowing Jesus. At the end of each of his long and dangerous journeys Tito finds the hidden treasure he is searching for – people who still haven't heard the good news that they are loved by God! Most of the villages Tito visits are hidden away, not even on the map. The people are isolated and have few of the comforts we take for granted.

Even though Tito is native to this region of Peru, his ministry is often looked upon with suspicion as bringing a message that will rob the people of their culture and traditions. But Tito gladly shares that Jesus has come to people of every tribe, nation, and tongue, and that holiness can be lived

out and expressed in the culture of his people. Once initial suspicion is overcome, the people receive his message of love and salvation with eagerness and dancing! Villages are transformed – not so that they lose their culture, but so that they become kinder, more healthy communities.

Our Christmas giving helps Tito continue his dangerous, sacrificial ministry. He is committed to sharing the love of Jesus with every village in his region no matter what the cost. We want to stand with him in this journey of faith!

How far would you travel to share the love of Jesus with someone?

MISSION PARTNER:

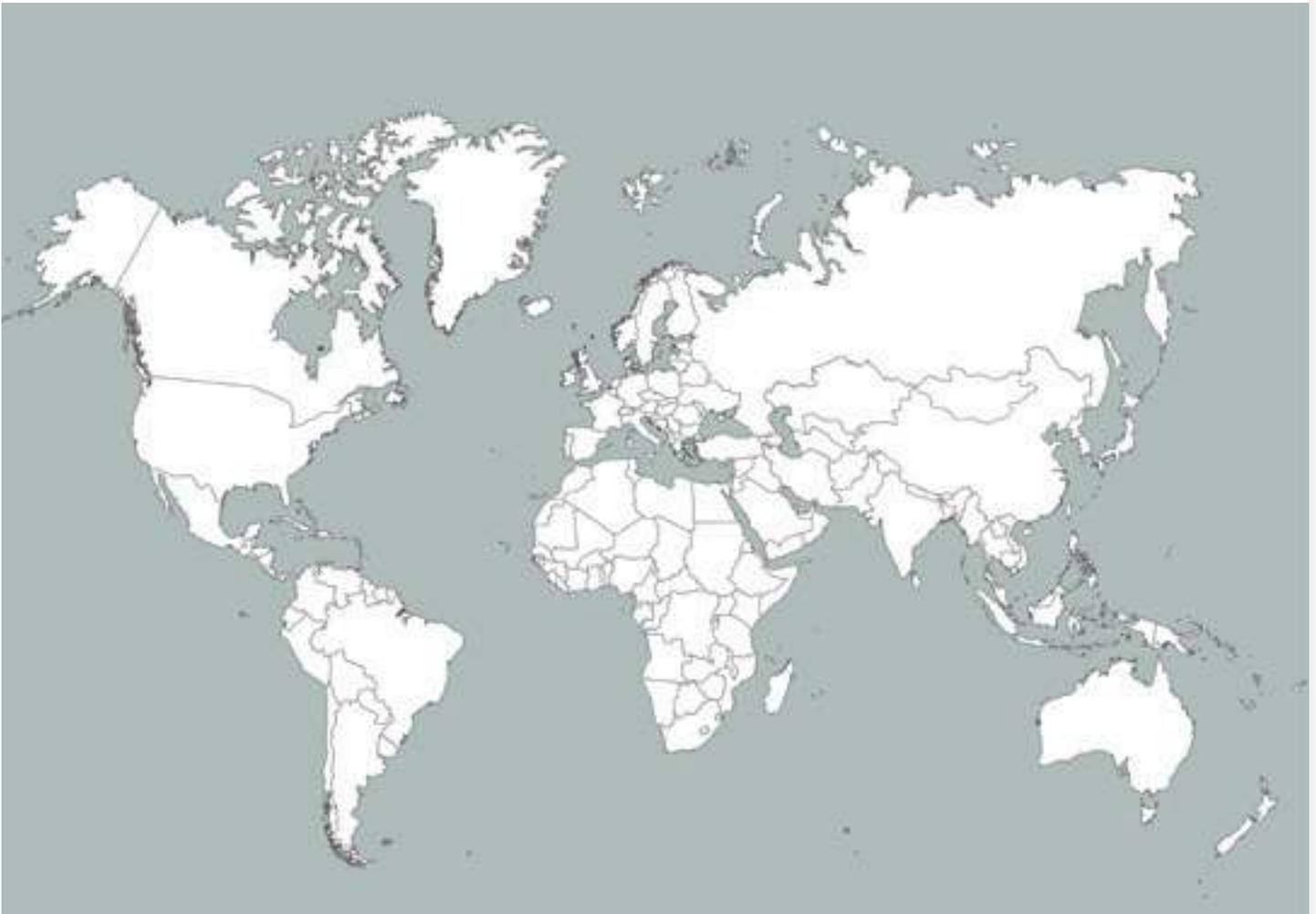
MINAP

MINAP Peru



- The vision of MINAP is to plant indigenous churches in the tribal villages of the Peruvian Amazon
- MINAP has fifteen indigenous missionaries who travel to isolated villages to share the gospel with the people or to encourage the believers
- Local missionaries face many hardships including dangerous travel, physical illness, threats and attacks from unsaved tribal members, but they continue to be faithful
- MINAP shares this good news from Peru from the past year:
  - 538 new believers
  - 10 new churches started
  - 396 local leaders trained

## FROM EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE



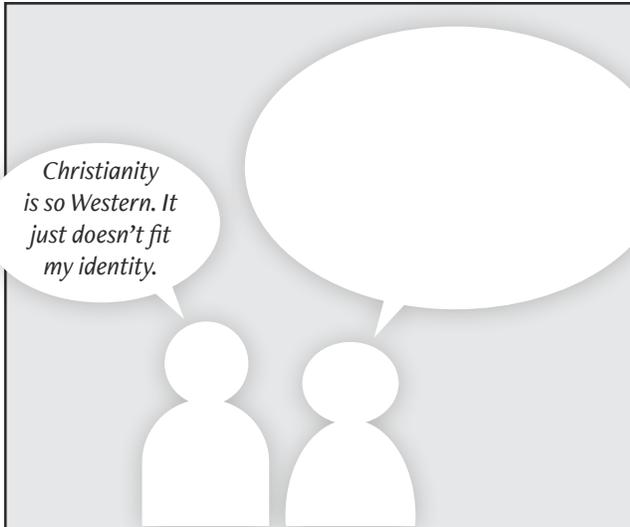
### ON THE MAP:

- Use green to colour the area that the Amazon rainforest covers
- Put a dot at the city where Jesus was born
- Colour in purple the country where God sent and protected Joseph, Mary and young Jesus as refugees (Matthew 2:13-15)
- Colour in yellow three countries where Christmas is celebrated on Jan 7 (there are many)
- Use red to trace around the continent where Christianity is growing the fastest (try the Status of Global Christianity report)
- Use blue to colour the country from which the real man Bishop (Saint) Nicholas used his whole inheritance to serve the poor
- Use orange to colour the country where Christmas carols and countdown start September 1 and last all the “Ber months” (clue: archipelago)

**MY GLOBAL GIVING FOR THIS WEEK IS:**

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## GOOD NEWS CONVERSATIONS



### BEFORE YOU RESPOND, CONSIDER:

- John 1:46 (Jesus came to earth as a man from the Middle East)
- Revelation 7:9
- Romans 12:2
- Acts 10:34-36
- “Christianity does not have simply one cultural expression, but rather, remaining completely true to itself, with unswerving fidelity to the proclamation of the Gospel and the tradition of the Church, it will also reflect the different faces of the cultures and peoples in which it is received and takes root ... Every culture offers positive values and forms which can enrich the way the Gospel is preached, understood and lived.” – an article by Reverend Timothy J. Ensworth

## SHARE LOCALLY



### JUSTICE

Explore a different neighbourhood in the city, praying as you walk, and do some shopping at a local business there

For a day, listen to Christmas music in a different language

Visit an ethnic church and join in their worship. Or stream an online service from another part of the world. Contact Zareh Z. if you need suggestions

Before your meals this week, watch a video from Prayericast and incorporate that region into your prayer time

Learn how to say “Merry Christmas” and “Jesus loves you” in a new language spoken in a country that you would love to visit



### COMPASSION

Think of your favourite thing to do in Toronto. Plan a date to take residents from The Peoples House. Contact [HouseManager@thepeopleschurch.ca](mailto:HouseManager@thepeopleschurch.ca) to arrange

Think about how God helps you endure cold and dark winters. Buy a nice winter accessory, activity or warm treat to give to someone new to the country

Go on a weekday morning to Ontario Christian Gleaners to chop vegetables for their food packs that are sent around the world. Sign up at [Ontariogleaners.org](http://Ontariogleaners.org)

Share joy and the truths of Christmas by surprising neighbours with a carol sung at their door



### EVANGELISM

Talk with a friend of a different culture about their special customs and holidays. Share what Christmas means to you

Go to a new ethnic grocery store or restaurant and chat with someone there to get a recommendation on a new thing to eat/cook, sharing why you’re doing this for Advent.

Include someone who is separated from their family in your Christmas preparations and celebrations. Contact Nelson C. if you don’t know anyone

Chat with someone of a different culture and do an exchange of Christmas treats or cook each other’s recipes together



**MONDAY  
DECEMBER 6**

**Americas &  
Caribbean**



For this is what the high and exalted One says... “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit... I was enraged by their sinful greed; I punished them, and hid my face in anger, yet they kept on in their willful ways.

I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s mourners, creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the Lord. “And I will heal them.”

**ISAIAH 57:15, 17-19**



**PRAY FOR:**

- The Holy Spirit to bring revival to the church in North America as he has worked remarkably in South America
- Accurate and powerful theological training to disciple many new believers and Christian leaders
- God to revitalize the urban poor in big cities and slums, using fearless and compassionate Christians

*Take out a map. As you pray, use your feet to walk around or your finger to trace around the shape of the Americas, all the way to the NSEW-ern most edges.*

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 7**

**Asia & the  
Pacific**



“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”

**JONAH 2:7-8**



**PRAY FOR:**

- With the three largest non-Christian religions rooted in Asia, for people to see the living God when facing spiritual warfare and persecution
- As prosperity increases, for people to turn away from idols and sacrifice to the Lord
- Asian believers to turn away from cultural things that don’t please God, yet worship him in their uniqueness
- Those coming to Canada to be welcomed warmly in Christ’s love

*Pick a country on [Prayercast.com/nations.html](http://Prayercast.com/nations.html) and listen to a believer from that country pray for their country, as you see the beauty there.*

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 8**

**Africa**



You who fear the Lord, praise him!... For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help... All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

**PSALM 22:23-24, 27-28**



**PRAY FOR:**

- God to make himself known in the beautiful rural places in the continent, distinct from other powers
- The spiritual discipleship and vibrancy of the many believers there
- Spiritual warfare and hardship to bring people to seek the all-powerful God
- Visitors to Africa to humbly learn from God’s work in their land
- Urban Africans to keep their focus on Jesus’ mission despite material distractions

*Look up Countries Alphabetically on [Operationword.org](http://Operationword.org) to read some statistics and suggested prayer points for a specific country.*

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 11

## Indigenous Peoples of Canada



For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

**EPHESIANS 2:14, 19-20**



### PRAY FOR:

- Believers and lawmakers to work hard for the dignity and justice of Indigenous peoples
- The church to humbly initiate confession and contrition for their wrongs
- People to know that God hears and accepts their laments and frustrations
- Churches to flourish among Indigenous peoples and for God's praise to resound in native languages

*Before you pray, look up and listen to "The Lord's Prayer – First Nations Version" and hear God worshipped in another way.*

FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 10

## Middle East



The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

**PSALM 29:4-6, 10-11**



### PRAY FOR:

- God to revive Christians who feel lifeless to follow and live for him
- Believers to obey and sacrifice, whether it is to leave or stay in upheaval
- God to meet and use the millions of refugees and displaced people in his sovereign will, as he did Mary and Joseph
- Onlookers to see that God is sovereign and worthy of praise over conflict

*"The Blessing" is a song which has been sung over many places including Toronto. Look up and pray along to "The Greater Middle East Blessing" song.*

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 9

## Europe



"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**2 CHRONICLES 7:13-14**



### PRAY FOR:

- Willing and compassionate hearts to accommodate refugees and displaced people
- People disillusioned by religion to be revived by a relationship with Jesus
- God to raise up and bring down leaders
- Those who are trapped in modern day slavery to be freed by the God who sees them
- People in Europe who are materially poor and spiritually poor to call out to the Lord

*Before you pray, look up and worship with a praise song in another language of Europe.*





SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 12



# Searching for Answers, Finding the Truth

Layla is a smart and committed young woman. From childhood, she studied the doctrines of her Muslim faith for years under the teaching of her uncle who is a respected Imam. When her family travelled from Morocco to Spain, her faith was put to the test in a way she had never imagined.

One day she heard the testimony of a committed Muslim woman who had encountered Jesus in a dream and eventually put her faith in him as her saviour. Layla was offended and angry and wrote a scathing response to the radio show that had aired such a story. But she could not get the story of encountering Jesus out of her mind. Then, a while later, quite by chance (she thought), she heard another similar testimony of a person who was a devout and committed Muslim encountering Jesus and believing in him. She spoke to her friends about how disturbed she was by these stories. One of her friends encouraged her to go to the drop-in centre of Arabic Ministries in Spain (AMS), one of our mission partners.

Layla was greeted by a caring Christian community. She was respectfully listened to as she asked her questions and defended the faith of her family. Layla watched as the people at AMS worshipped and prayed together and she was moved in her heart by the sincerity of their love. For over two years Layla continued to visit the AMS centre and refute their teaching and their faith, and she was met with the constant and consistent love of Jesus. Eventually, she realized that she had grown to love Jesus too, and wanted to become his follower.

Through our Christmas giving, we support the work of AMS as it journeys with hundreds of Arabs from different parts of the world who come to Spain and Europe to find a new life. In their own countries, it would have been very difficult for them to hear about and experience the love of Jesus, but their difficult journeys have created the opportunity for them to hear this good news for themselves.

Who can you join on their journey, and share the love of Jesus with them?

## MISSION PARTNER:



Arabic Ministries in Spain

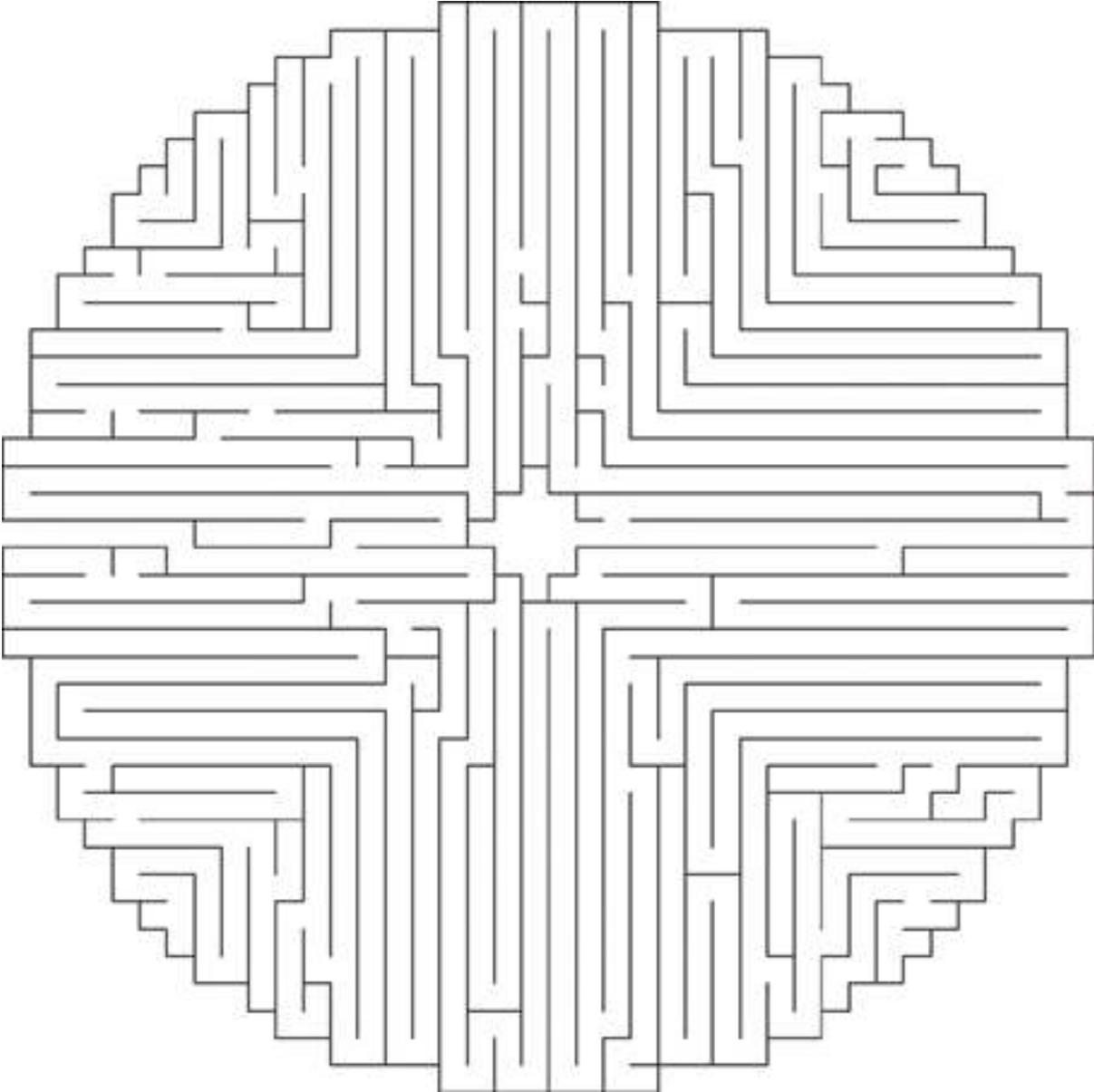


SPAIN

- The ultimate goal of AMS is to explain the meaning of the love of Jesus to each person, and how this love meets the deepest human spiritual needs
- AMS has different gospel expressions including a media studio, music, arts, and discipleship training
- The core of their ministry is their drop-in centre which offers unconditional hospitality to all newcomers
- AMS is a Christ-centered community for people to find support in their settlement and a new start in life
- To learn more about the ministry of Arabic Ministries in Spain go to [www.ams.org.es](http://www.ams.org.es)

# **GOD GUIDES ALL SEEKERS**

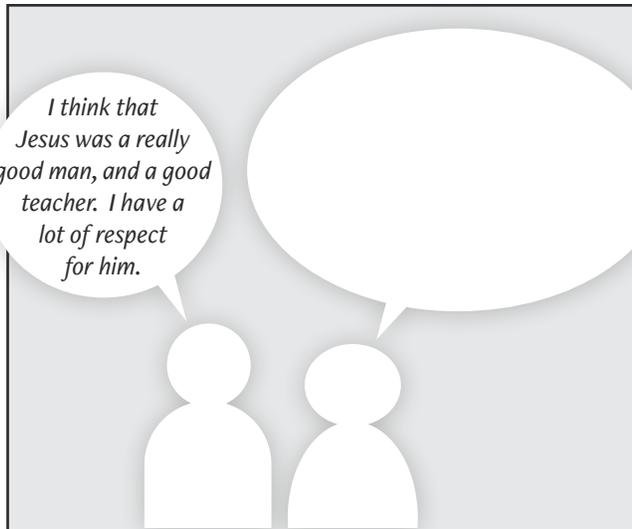
As you complete this maze, pray for all the people around the world who are seeking God and his plans for their lives. Many of them are actually wandering – physically, and spiritually, and some are lost in a maze of difficult decisions and choices. Pray that they will continue to seek and be drawn to Christ who is our centre!



**MY GLOBAL GIVING FOR THIS WEEK IS:**

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## GOOD NEWS CONVERSATIONS



### BEFORE YOU RESPOND, CONSIDER:

- John 14:6
- John 11:25
- “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” - C. S. Lewis, “Mere Christianity”

## SHARE LOCALLY



### JUSTICE

Look for a multi-faith prayer room in your workplace, library or community centre and pray that Jesus would meet people there

Read up on an important festival in another religion and put it on your calendar to pray during that time. i.e. Vaisakhi, Ramadan, Rosh Hashanah, Wesak

Go to the service of another Christian church in the city to see how God is at work there



### COMPASSION

Think of a friend of a different belief who has gone through a difficult illness, death or job loss. Send them a note to let them know you are praying for them

Make some tasty Christmas treats and attach some scripture or a note to drop off for someone God brings to your mind

Help the Jesus Network with their Christmas basket & Jesus DVD distribution this week. Visit [jesusnetwork.ca](http://jesusnetwork.ca)

Look for the different mosques, synagogues and temples in your neighbourhood. Walk there to pray for the people who gather there



### EVANGELISM

Do some research to learn about what another religion believes. Consider what is different in the person of Jesus Christ

Send a Christmas note to your neighbour letting them know you have been praying for blessing in their life

Think about a meaningful Christmas decoration (light, stars, scripture) and give one as a gift along with a note of encouragement to someone who doesn’t know Jesus

Find ways to engage with people of other religions. Eat a meal at an Indian, Iranian, Thai restaurant for example, and get to know their wait staff

Pray about who God wants you to invite to the Peoples Christmas Eve service. Then contact them!



**MONDAY  
DECEMBER 13**

**Muslims**



I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

**1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6**



**PRAY FOR:**

- The eyes of Muslim people to be opened so that they can recognize the risen Jesus
- God to continue calling Muslims in dreams and visions, and for believers to follow up with answers and compassion
- Young Muslims who have found Jesus to be a good witness to their families while enduring persecution
- Creative use of media and technology to reach isolated Muslims

*We can learn from the devotion of others. Set your alarm for five different times throughout today. When the alarm sounds, give thanks to God who came for you and all people.*

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 14**

**Buddhists**



“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

**JOHN 10:14-16**



**PRAY FOR:**

- Those who are tired of trying to do good to find the free loving gift of salvation from Jesus
- Healings and other powerful events to reveal the living God
- Christians to listen well and learn from Buddhist people and the Holy Spirit on how to love others, even with rejection or persecution
- The faith of those who have converted to Christianity to grow, especially in the face of persecution or violence

*Before you say any words to God in your prayer time, be still before the Lord and meditate upon one attribute of God for a few moments as you listen to Him.*

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 15**

**Hindus**



Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.

No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.

**JEREMIAH 10:5-7**



**PRAY FOR:**

- The omnipotence and glory of the one true and living God to overtake all others
- Bible translation and availability for those in the Hindu world
- All believers on mission locally and globally to be urgent, kind, and bold
- People who are oppressed because of castes to meet our all-loving God
- Hindus who move to new places (including Canada) to hear about Jesus through Christians

*Many Hindus celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. Light a candle and pray that they would find Jesus, the light of the world whom no darkness can overcome.*

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 18

# Christian Church in Canada



With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?... Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?...

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

MICAH 6:6-8



## PRAY FOR:

- The beauty of different cultures to be on display in the church
- Diversity of local churches to mean that many people can find community
- Believers from other countries and faiths to inspire and convict the church from stupor
- Believers from our church to compliment others and work in unity for God's kingdom
- Church leaders to be strengthened spiritually and physically

*Look up another nearby congregation of Christian believers and pray for them to minister powerfully this season.*

FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 17

# Secular



See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice...

Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen.

The fearful heart will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected.

ISAIAH 32:1, 3-5



## PRAY FOR:

- God to keep opening the eyes and ears of those who may be self-reliant
- That believers would minister with the kindness of God that leads people to repentance
- The truth of God to be seen for the wisdom and perfect design that it is
- Those who have been hurt by the church and have turned away to find Jesus and humble believers

*Hold your hands over your eyes, ears or heart, as you think about unbelieving friends. Then pray for our loving God to open them.*

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 16

# Jews



Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved...

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

ROMANS 10:1, 12-13



## PRAY FOR:

- The Church to understand God's heart and plans for Israel and Jewish people
- Believers not to be ashamed of the gospel, but to share its saving power with everyone, including Jewish people
- Long standing offenses to be healed in the forgiveness that begins with Jesus
- Jews to understand that they can accept Jesus without denying their Jewish identity

*Write out a piece of scripture and carry it with you today, remembering God's invitation to talk to and think about Him everywhere you go.*





SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 19



# Unlikely Hero Saves Many Lives

Christopher wouldn't consider himself a hero. Neither would Jane, the leader of their Caregiving team at Hands at Work. Both Chris and Jane have come through too many challenges in life to be proud or ambitious. Their life challenges have given them compassion and understanding for the needs they see in their own people. And this has become their calling.

We all understand the life and death nature of our calling to share the gospel, but when people are particularly vulnerable through extreme poverty, neglect, and hunger, the urgency of sharing the love of Jesus becomes even more pressing. Daily, Christopher, Jane, and their team of caregivers seeks out the lost, the lonely, and the forgotten, in the Honde Valley region of Zimbabwe. Their home visits are often met with tears of thanksgiving, and praises to God. The team works hard to encourage families led by elderly grandparents, or older siblings facing constant challenges in the very basics of life. The team supports not only with food, but also by planting gardens with the families so that they will be able to grow their own food.

In addition to the home visits, the team welcomes hundreds of children and families to the Carepoint Centre where they receive a warm meal and an encouraging message that they are loved and known by their Saviour. There is always great joy as the children play safely together with full tummies at the Carepoint Centre.

We often refer to Jesus as our Saviour, but this wonderful name of Christ becomes particularly meaningful to those who are living in desperate circumstances and rely completely on God answering their prayers and providing through faithful heroes of faith like Christopher and Jane.

Our Christmas giving supports Jane and Christopher in their life-saving ministry through Hands at Work as they serve the most vulnerable people in their communities of Zimbabwe.

Who do you know that is alone and in need? How is Jesus inviting you to be part of his answer to their prayers?

## MISSION PARTNER:



Hands at Work



## ZIMBABWE

- Started in 1996 through the prayers of a group of widows in Zambia
- The vision is to see the local Church in Africa effectively caring for the orphaned, the widowed and the dying, and to be unified in this mission with the Church outside Africa
- The goal of Hands at Work is to share the gospel with 100,000 orphaned and vulnerable children through its unique model of community care through local churches, caregivers, and Carepoint Centres
- To learn more about the ministry of Hands At Work go to [www.handsatwork.org](http://www.handsatwork.org)

## FINDING THE LOST

Jesus reminds us to constantly be on the look out for those who are hidden – the lonely, the sick, the forgotten. He sees them and cares for them and wants us to do the same. As you find these words, pray for the important work our partners in the Honde Valley Zimbabwe are doing to seek out the lost.



This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it. First find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction (including diagonal, right to left and bottom to top) and share letters as well as cross over each other.

|         |           |             |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| CARE    | CAREPOINT | CHRISTOPHER |
| ELDERLY | FEED      | FORGOTTEN   |
| GARDEN  | HANDS     | HONDE       |
| HOPE    | HUNGER    | LONELY      |
| ORPHAN  | PRAYER    | VALLEY      |
| VISIT   | WIDOW     | ZIMBABWE    |

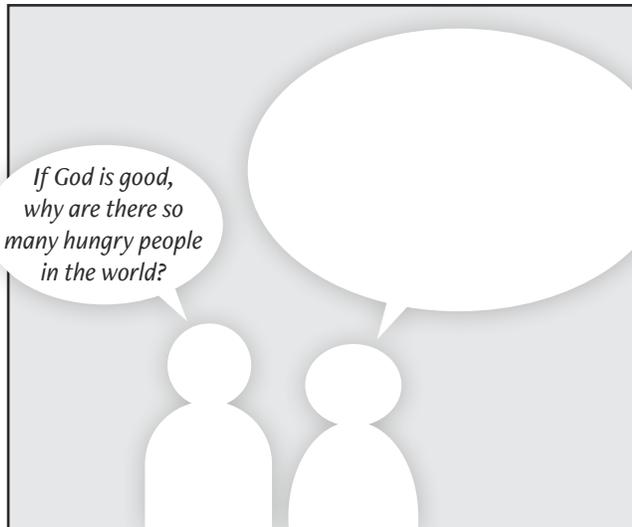
Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

\_\_\_\_\_

**MY GLOBAL GIVING FOR THIS WEEK IS:**

.....

## GOOD NEWS CONVERSATIONS



### BEFORE YOU RESPOND, CONSIDER:

- Luke 14:13
- Matthew 25:42
- Isaiah 58:7
- The world’s farmers produce enough food to feed 1.5 times the global population. Despite this excess, hunger still exists. (United Nations Food and Agriculture Department)

## SHARE LOCALLY



### JUSTICE

Think of a place that you frequent and consider how someone with different abilities would visit. Approach the management to advocate for improvements to accessibility

Ask someone who experiences physical, mental or material limitations to share what brings difficulty and what brings joy

Read a newsletter of Urban Promise ([urbanpromise.com](http://urbanpromise.com)) and pray for the amazing children who are becoming leaders



### COMPASSION

Come with a joyful and open heart to worship with special individuals at the Friendship Class. 11am every Sunday at TPC

Make a new friend by helping a recently arrived person navigate Toronto streets and services. Contact [NewcomersN@thepeopleschurch.ca](mailto:NewcomersN@thepeopleschurch.ca) about our Hosting Ministry

Connect with a working mom and find a time to watch her kids so she can do something she needs

Think of someone whom you know who is looking for work, and invite them to join you at a volunteer opportunity at church or with partners. Check out [thepeopleschurch.ca/serve/](http://thepeopleschurch.ca/serve/)



### EVANGELISM

Include a newcomer family in your tree decorating, reading the Christmas story together as well

Take someone who doesn't have a car Christmas shopping with you. Talk about the transformative gifts of the Spirit that God has given you

Write a note of encouragement and bring a coffee card to someone who is a care-giver. Offer to pray for them

Buy a pair of gloves or socks to give to someone who is asking for support on the street. Offer to pray for them



**MONDAY  
DECEMBER 20**

**Children Without  
Parents**



Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

**PSALM 68:4-6**



**PRAY FOR:**

- Caring people besides parents to model and display God’s own nurturing love
- Parents who are in physically or spiritually desperate situations to be ministered to by the Holy Spirit and believers in action
- Godly families to hear the call to foster and adopt
- God’s powerful hand to redeem hurts in miraculous ways
- Children to cling ultimately to God for their hope and security

*Do you know a child who is without parents or someone serving one? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 21**

**Single Parents**



God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up.

**GENESIS 21:17-20**



**PRAY FOR:**

- Single parents to be refreshed and strengthened in serving their children
- At-home parents to know that God sees and has not abandoned them
- People to treasure children in all circumstances, as much as God does
- Believers to be generous with friendship, resources and time to support hurting couples and families
- God to reconcile strained couples

*Do you know a single parent? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 22**

**People Who Are  
Unemployed**



Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

**PSALM 90:1, 14, 16-17**



**PRAY FOR:**

- God to meet the needs of the unemployed in a way that they can thank God for his provision
- Satisfaction and honor of doing all things as unto Christ
- The unemployed to give glory to God in all circumstances and deepen their reliance on him
- Uprightness, honesty and thanksgiving to mark the application and waiting process
- Safe, just and dignified workplaces to be established and multiplied

*Do you know someone who is unemployed? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 25**

**People Who Are Displaced Or Homeless**



I say to the LORD, “You are my God.” Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy. Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle.

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence.

**PSALM 140:6-7, 12-13**



**PRAY FOR:**

- Physical needs to be met with dignity and stability
- Christians to open their homes in loving and helpful ways
- Immigration and settlement to happen safely and honorably
- All those unsettled would set their hearts at rest in God’s presence
- God’s spirit and God’s people to work powerfully, even when policies and governments fail

*Do you know someone who is displaced or homeless? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*

**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 24**

**People Who Are Differently Abled**



There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**EPHESIANS 4:4-6, 16**



**PRAY FOR:**

- God to speak in special, intimate, and tangible ways to those differently-abled
- Despair to be replaced with a passion for God’s soon-coming glory
- Christ’s forgiveness to free those paralyzed by their sin
- Our society to become a friendlier and proactive place for different abilities

*Do you know someone who is differently abled? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 23**

**People Who Live With Physical Or Mental Illness**



Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**ISAIAH 35:3-4, 10**



**PRAY FOR:**

- The sick to renew their trust in God and be transformed in affliction
- Opportunities of the ill to share their hope in God with others
- Thankful, joyful and God-glorifying endurance through chronic pain
- Caregivers and families to grow in grace, compassion and patience
- God to work through science and medicine to bring relief

*Do you know someone who is ill? Write their name here and pray. If not, pray that God would make you more sensitive to them.*



*"As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him."*

**LUKE 2:20**

