

## Monday 24th December

Today, Christmas Eve, we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. In our world today, so many Muslims need to know the One who came to bring Peace on earth.

Let's read God's Word in Isaiah 9: 2-7:

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.  
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.  
Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

- Let's pray that today Muslims across the world will see a great light – Jesus the Light of the world who was born to bring life and hope to all. (Isa 9:2)
- Let's pray that today God will increase their joy as Muslims experience the wonderful freedom that comes through accepting the gift of Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. (Isa 9:3)

## Tuesday 25th December

In 1739 Charles Wesley wrote a Christmas hymn that began 'Hark! How all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings'. Today we know it as the carol, 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.'

You might like to listen and sing along to Hark the Herald Angels [here](#).

- Let the words of this Christmas hymn be our prayer today as we thank God for the precious gift of His only Son, who humbled Himself and left the glory of heaven and came to earth to reconcile us, Christians, Muslims and every race and nationality that we may live in peace with God and with one another.
- Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die:  
Born to raise the son of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King !"

How amazing if Muslims everywhere received and sang these words! Let's pray this will be a reality for many this Christmas Day.

*Did you know? 'Welkin' in Wesley's Christmas hymn means sky or heaven, so the heavens were ringing at Jesus' birth!*

### **Wednesday 26th December**

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel" Matt 1:23*

Yesterday we prayed "hail the heaven-born Prince of peace." As Christians we know that Jesus came to bring peace on earth. Sadly this is not what we see in the world today. As we celebrate Christmas in peace in our country, let's just spend a couple of minutes remembering the millions of Muslims who are living in conflict areas or who are displaced.

Let's lift them to God today in prayer.

- Father we pray for Muslims caught up in conflicts, those who are displaced and living as refugees, those facing hatred and prejudice, that today they would know, Emmanuel, God with them.
- Let's pray for our workers who live in dangerous and difficult places, sometimes at great cost to themselves and their families, in order to bring the message of reconciliation with God and with one another. Let's ask for a special blessing upon them at this time.

### **Thursday 27th December**

#### **Pray for a Christmas miracle among China's Uighurs**

*"They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household." Acts 16: 31-34*

One Muslim group facing persecution today is the Uighurs, a Muslim people group in China.



They are victims of fear and prejudice by the Chinese government, who fear the rise of religious extremism and terrorism among the Muslim Uighurs in their country. In an attempt to stamp this out and crush any ideas of uprising in China, they have recently cracked down and as many as one million Uighurs have been detained. They've been sent to mass internment camps, heavily guarded centres with fortified doors and barbed wire. Inside those camps, detainees must withstand unhealthy living conditions, poor nutrition,

violence and torture.

Despite this suffering, we know hundreds of Uighurs who have found eternal hope in Jesus Christ and have placed their faith in Him.

In Acts 16: 25-34, when Paul and Silas were in prison, praying and singing hymns to God, we know it led to their jailer and his whole household believing in God and being baptised. This is a miracle we can pray for this Christmas, as the believing Uighurs are detained in internment camps.

- Let's cry out for Uighurs to sing out hymns of praise this Christmas and that they may see a radical change of heart among those detaining them, who too may become believers.
- Pray that this widespread assault on Uighur identity leads to an unprecedented questioning of ancient religious assumptions in China, openness to the answers found in the gospel and a yearning to know the Saviour of the world.
- Pray that the Chinese church would be moved by injustice and strengthened with a vision to reach their Muslim neighbours.
- Lift up those who are detained and pray for their release and restoration with loved ones.

## Friday 28th December

### Pray for Rohingya refugees

*"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matt 2:13*

We know that after Jesus' birth, he had to flee with mother and father to Egypt to escape persecution from Herod. Today more than 800,000 Rohingya live as refugees, many having fled over the border to Bangladesh to escape persecution from the Buddhist majority and government army in Myanmar. Jesus understands what it is like for them having to flee persecution.



The Rohingya people are hated by large parts of Myanmar society and particularly in Rakhine state where the worst persecution happened.

Recently, Myanmar and Bangladesh have agreed the Rohingya should gradually be returned to Myanmar and thousands of people have been approved for return.

Some Rohingya want to go home, but fear they will be returning to the same situation, with no change in attitude towards them. However, it is a problem if they remain in Bangladesh because of the strain it is putting on their economy, causing tension between refugees and the Bangladeshis.

We know that many Rohingya have heard the gospel message while living as refugees and have become believers. It would be amazing if they could return to their country in safety and take the

gospel message of reconciliation, love and peace. Let's petition God for this to happen and for a change of heart by the people of Myanmar towards the Rohingya.

- Father God we ask you to soften the hearts of the leaders and people of Myanmar towards the Rohingya, particularly in the Rakhine state.
- We pray for a complete transformation between the Muslim Rohingya and Buddhists of Myanmar, that they will be impacted by the love of God and see one another as God sees them, precious and dearly loved.
- We pray for the Rohingya to be able to return home soon in safety and peace.

### **Saturday 29th December**

As we look back over 2018 we recognise and rejoice that *"You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand..."* 2 Chron. 20:6

Thank You Father God for the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel, the Word made flesh.

We pray for all Muslims whose lives know only conflict and confusion, for those whose bodies are tired and tested beyond their ability to endure - precious Saviour, draw them close to You. Let them understand the truth of who you are; Jesus, who was born of a virgin and laid in a manger. You are still the One sent by a heavenly Father who offered not condemnation for our sins, but love and forgiveness.

We ask you to bless the leaders and rulers of all Muslim nations, that they may not covet power and glory but act responsibly for the welfare and peace of their people and country. We ask this particularly for all countries in the Muslim world suffering war and conflict.

We ask you to reach into the lives of all those caught up in Islamist extremist groups. We know Your love reaches not only those suffering under their oppression, but it reaches even into the ranks of their oppressors.

We thank you God for your Holy Spirit. We pray you would bless our workers this Christmas time and empower them with the spirit of reconciliation and peace and the ability to endure in the face of suffering, opposition and hardship.

Forgive us for when we forget the real reason for the Christmas season. Empower us to be peacemakers and to reach out with the truth of the Christmas message in our towns, cities and nations as we interact with Muslims.

As intercessors Lord, encourage and protect us as we pray and may we not grow weary, but persevere in prayer for Muslims everywhere, until you come again in glory. Amen.