

BRIGHT HOPE // 2020 PRAYER GUIDE

BRIGHT  HOPE

The needs and challenges of the extreme poor are severe — even feeling daunting or impossible. But nothing is impossible for our God who is deeply in tune with the needs of every one of His children. This prayer guide is designed to help you pray for some of the top needs of those living in extreme poverty. May it inspire you to pray boldly and faithfully, never underestimating the power of your prayers.

THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY IS TO STRETCH OUT OUR HANDS AND ASK OF ONE WHO WE KNOW HAS THE HEART OF A FATHER. // DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



1. ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

An estimated 140 million children around the world have lost one or both parents. Pray that these precious, vulnerable children would know God as their Father and Provider. Pray that God would protect them and put people in their lives to nurture and care for them.

My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." // Psalm 35:10



2. HUNGER & THIRST

Nearly 800 million people don't have access to clean, safe water. And over 800 million people don't have enough food. These are staggering statistics. Pray for the provision of nutritious, ongoing food sources, so that no one will go to bed hungry and no child's development will be impaired. Pray for affordable clean water solutions that prevent waterborne illnesses.

The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him — may your hearts live forever! // Psalm 22:26



3. HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Every 5 seconds, a child under age 15 dies—most often from a preventable cause. Pray for access to affordable, high-quality medical care, and pray that more education could be given about hygiene, sanitation and other preventable and treatable health issues that can become life-threatening.

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the LORD. // Jeremiah 30:17



4. AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

An estimated 79% of those who live in poverty live in rural areas. For many, crops and animals are the main source of food and income. But devastating droughts and floods, as well as the absence of quality seed and agricultural training, hinder their success. Ask the Lord to prosper the work of their hands and to multiply their harvest.

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. // Zechariah 10:1



5. EDUCATION

Globally, 264 million children don't go to school. There are many reasons — some preventable and some not — but pray that parents would understand the power of education to release their children from poverty; pray that God would financially provide for parents who can't afford it; and pray for more schools to be built for children who live too far to attend.

It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. // Ephesians 2:10



6. BIBLES & CHURCHES

Oftentimes, the extreme poor don't have access to the Word of God, and their church leaders may have little to no biblical training or access to spiritual resources. Pray for increased access to the Word of God and pray that strong churches would grow in breadth and depth as many come to faith in Christ and are discipled.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. // Psalm 119:105



7. BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Just under 50% of Sub-Saharan African children live in extreme poverty. Pray for them, their families and caretakers who are suffering under the crushing burden of just trying to survive. Pray they will find physical and spiritual Hope, strength to persevere, and access to resources and opportunities that will help them break the cycle of generational poverty.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight. // Psalm 72:12 - 14

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR THE EXTREME POOR

Continue praying by joining our Bright Hope Prayer Text Team. Receive a few texts a month with real-time prayer requests from places of extreme poverty.

Brighthope.org/prayer-team

Sign up to receive our weekly blog email. Read transforming stories of God at work in the nations, resourceful articles about poverty, and learn inspiring ways to bring Hope to those living on less than \$2 a day.

Brighthope.org/blog

I KNOW THAT THE LORD SECURES JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND UPHOLDS THE CAUSE OF THE NEEDY. // PSALM 140:12

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