



PRAYER GUIDE

18 PRAYERS TO WALK HAND IN HEART

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Introduction

/ Purpose of the Prayer Guide

Branches of Hope is an integral part of the Vine Church's expression of justice, and as a Christian organization, we believe in the power of prayer and collective action. We are always keen to work together with the church community to achieve dignity, justice and hope for the communities we serve. To this end, the congregation and Community Groups at the Vine are a natural partner for BOH, as well as churches and their communities throughout Hong Kong and beyond!



Every year, the month of July is of great importance to Branches of Hope and the communities we serve. Annually, World Refugee Day (WRD) and World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP) are marked on June 20 and July 30, respectively. There are roughly 6 weeks between the two dates, hence why this prayer guide is intended for a 6-week period.

We hope your participation will lift up the needs and challenges of our communities to God and help to raise awareness of their plight. An important aspect of this is focusing our prayers on provisions for refugees, asylum seekers, and people who have experienced human trafficking and/or labor exploitation, softening the hearts of policy makers who can bring positive systemic change, and seeking God's deliverance for those currently experiencing marginalization and exploitation.

Introduction

/ Suggested Use of the Prayer Guide

Although the use of this prayer guide is focused on the period between WRD and WDATIP, churches, their ministries, and Community Groups can choose to use it to explore these topics whenever it best suits their respective study path. It can be used in a single session or spread out over several sessions, depending on how often meetings take place, how much time is allocated, and how in-depth their conversations are. Ultimately, we hope it helps to create awareness for the communities Branches of Hope serves and keeps them in the thoughts and prayers of the Vine's congregation and Christians everywhere.

As you go through this prayer guide, be open and receptive as you learn about the situation in the world and remember the people in our community. Pay attention to how the Holy Spirit prompts you: is there anything God is highlighting to you? Is there anything new you need to learn? Are there perspectives you have not considered? Feel free to pause and take time to reflect and share your insights or any questions you have with your group. Also, pay attention to how the Holy Spirit is moving you; as we see the brokenness in the world, is He stirring your compassion? Is there any way He is prompting you to pray and respond?



Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 1: Refugees & Asylum Seekers

The beginning of these 6 weeks of prayer is marked by World Refugee Day (WRD), which falls on 20 June each year. It is the international day to honour people who have been forced to flee. WRD was held globally for the first time on 20 June 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

WRD shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but thrive. While it is important to protect and improve the lives of refugees every single day, international days like WRD help to focus global attention on the plight of those fleeing conflict or persecution. Many activities held on World Refugee Day create opportunities to support refugees.

Together, we can champion their right to seek safety, build support for their economic and social inclusion, and advocate for solutions to their plight.*

**Source: UNHCR*

(<https://www.unhcr.org/get-involved/take-action/world-refugee-day>).

Week 1: Day 1

**/ You shall also love the stranger,
for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

– Deuteronomy 10:19 –



World Refugee Day (WRD) is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on 20 June and honours the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. – UNHCR

**Jesus of Nazareth,
strangers, afflicted and rejected, came to you because,
with you, they hoped that they'd be seen
for who they were
not for who other people saw.
May men who are strangers see each other,
because we, like you,
need to be seen to be believed.
Amen.***

Write a prayer regarding your sense of how the Spirit leads you to lift up the men, women, and children forced to flee their home country for hopes of a less chaotic, more secure life.

**Adapted from "Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community" by Pádraig Ó Tuama*

Week 1: Day 2

/ Give us today Our Daily Bread.

– Matthew 6:11 –



Prayer request from ROAD Community Members:

"Please pray for my health and a roof over my head. I have diabetes and kidney failure and am living in the park because I could not afford accommodation."

"Ask God to free our brothers and sisters from immigration detention, and help us all find ways to leave Hong Kong for safe places."

"Father, we bring all our worries to you. Many in our community are feeling anxious about immigration appointments, and we ask for your peace to fill their hearts. We also pray for those struggling financially—help them with their daily needs for food, housing, and transportation. Surround them with love and support, and remind them that they're not alone in this journey. May they feel your presence and comfort in every moment."

Do not abandon us to our anxieties over finances and what we lack, o Lord. We ask you to use those worries to turn our hearts and thoughts to you. Teach us to hold both a trusting contentment and a greater confidence in your constant care for all of our need – be they financial, practical, spiritual, and emotional. We look to you, o God, who provides all things necessary for our lives.



Write a prayer on behalf of those in need and anxious about not having enough to get through the day to the God who does provide all things necessary for our lives.

Week 1: Day 3

/ I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'

– Psalm 91:2 –



Refugees and asylum seekers all over the world, and especially in Hong Kong, face an incredible amount of uncertainty. Will their case be accepted? How long will it take? In the case of Hong Kong, asylum seekers wait many years to find out if their cases are successful, and even as substantiated refugees, they wait many more years to be resettled to another country. Throughout this time, they are not allowed to work and are caught in stasis with meagre resources. All this waiting causes great mental distress and in many cases leads to real trauma.

Sustaining God,
Thank you for being our refuge and fortress.
You are our safe, unchanging place of refuge.
When the external world beyond us, is uncertain,
shifting, unreliable and overwhelming, we turn to you
O Lord to guide and secure us.
We find our peace in you.
You are the unchanging One in whom we will trust.

Write down the attributes that you know about Jesus which are unchanging. Reflect on these attributes, slowly and intentionally, and notice how this effects your feelings; even within an uncertain world.



Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 2 – The Role of Individuals

Alleviating social justice issues is a multifaceted effort that involves various stakeholders starting with individuals and organizations.

Individuals play a vital role in alleviating social justice issues by raising awareness and advocating for change. Through activism, education, and open dialogue, they can highlight pressing social concerns, using personal stories to humanize abstract issues. Many people also contribute their time and resources by volunteering with grassroots organizations and initiatives that support marginalized communities. Additionally, civic engagement, including voting and participating in local governance, empowers individuals to influence policies that promote equity and justice.

Week 2: Day 1

/ The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

– Matthew 25:40 –



Prayer without action is incomplete (James 2:17). Countless refugees lack access to housing, trauma counselling, or fair work. Trafficking survivors need safe employment, legal aid, and long-term mentorship. We might be hesitant to ask ourselves this question: "what can we do tangibly to respond?" – as the fear of stepping out of our comfort zone, or feelings of inadequacy paralyze us. Nevertheless, we have to remember that – it is NOT about us! It is about God, and it is for God. Jesus said to Peter to feed His sheep if he truly loved Christ (John 21:17). Do we love Him so that we will act on His command?

Sharing God,

As you teach us to not withhold good from those to whom it is due while it is within our power to give, grant us actionable courage to move beyond sympathy to actions. Grant us also your wisdom and boldness to help through advocacy, financial partnership, or hands-on service. Remind us of our talents, unique skills, resources, and voice we can lend to the vulnerable and convict us where we have prioritized convenience over justice.*

**Based on Proverbs 3:27-28.*

Take a moment to turn to God and ask Him to reveal to you what tangible actions you could take to help a person or community in need and who you can invite to join you as a prayer response.

Week 2: Day 2

/ From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth — he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

— Psalm 33:13-15 —



There are many lives going through injustices and brokenness around us. Yet, we often overlook their faces, stories, needs, and inherent dignity, due to the day-to-day busyness in life. It seems like they become unseen. Our God is “El Roi” (The God who sees). He sees both the seen and the unseen. May He shatter our numbness and awaken His perspective in us: that every displaced child, trafficked person, or persecuted family is seen by God through us, and intimately known by Him—“fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14).

El Roi, Grant us your vision, your eyes, your perspective, to see the needs around us, in this city, in this world. Awaken within us a prayerful longing and heart to see your righteousness, justice, and Kingdom outworked through your people.

We sing and pray: "Heal my heart and make it clean; Open up my eyes to the things unseen; Show me how to love like you have loved me; Break my heart for what breaks yours; Everything I am for your kingdom's cause: As I walk from earth into eternity"*

**Excerpt from from Hillsong "Hosanna."*

Write a personal prayer asking the living God El Roi to reveal to you how He sees the brokenness and injustices within ourselves, our neighbour, our community, and our city; and what this might look like for you to take action.

Week 2: Day 3

/ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people".

– Isaiah 56:3 –



Refugees often face xenophobia, isolation, and legal hostility in host nations. Trafficking survivors battle shame, distrust, and shattered identities. God commanded us to love the sojourners as ourselves, for our fathers were once sojourners as well (Leviticus 19:34). We are no different than them as we are all living on this earth temporarily, His kingdom is our eternal home.

Let us intercede for the society to embody radical belonging, starting from our own church community—taking down cultural, ethnic, and background barriers to fellowship.

Forgiving God, we come before you to repent – if we ever excluded someone different from our social circles, especially those who are the poor, the weak, and the oppressed – forgive us.

Loving God, we do not want to be hindered by media bias, political rhetoric, or personal comfort from embracing the needs of those who are different as we too are foreigners on this earth. Give us the courage to confront our prejudices and fears.

Creating God, make us a catalyst of building inclusive community and our church a sanctuary for the sojourners where the uprooted can find community, belonging, and rebuilt identities rooted in the love of Christ.

Take a moment to check our hearts and the perspectives we have towards refugees, trafficking victims, and other vulnerable communities. As we step into the shoes of others as if you were one of them, write your prayer to God on their behalf.

Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 3 – The Role of Organizations

Organizations, including nonprofits and NGOs, often lead efforts to address specific social justice issues. They provide essential services, conduct research, and advocate for policy changes that uplift marginalized groups.

Corporations also have a significant role; by adopting fair labour practices and promoting diversity, they can contribute positively to social justice. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives often focus on community support and addressing societal challenges. Furthermore, organizations frequently collaborate across sectors, forming coalitions that leverage resources and expertise to amplify their impact.

Week 3: Day 1

/ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves... as a firm foundation for the coming age.

– 1 Timothy 6:18-19 –

Pray for businesses – both large and small, global and local – to reflect God's values of justice, compassion, and stewardship. Especially in Hong Kong, where many businesses face significant economic challenges, give thanks for those who still choose to lead with integrity and generosity. Pray also for ourselves as employers in our own homes, particularly those who employ domestic workers.

Resurrecting God,

We lift up business leaders and employers who choose your way.

We give thanks for companies that invest in staff wellbeing- those that share profits and that offer rest days beyond the legal minimum.

We give thanks for household employers who treat domestic helpers with dignity, fairness, love, providing privacy, listening with empathy, and offering time off for rest, relationships, and spiritual renewal.

In a world that often values productivity over people, help us to follow their lead and reflect your justice in the places we influence – whether in boardrooms, offices, shops, or our own homes.

Take a moment to pray for a company or household you admire and reflect on how your own practices- big or small- could reflect God's heart more fully.

Week 3: Day 2

/ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbour, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”— when you already have it with you. Do not plot harm against your neighbour, who lives trustfully near you.

– Proverbs 3:27 –



Do we have an obligation to help those who flee into our lives and locations? Are they indeed “due” the good we can do to them? Their proximity qualifies them as our neighbour, and our Lord clearly teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves. This applies not just to individuals but to organisations as well! As organisations, we are uniquely positioned to extend mercy and pursue justice on a broader scale, using our collective resources and influence to meet the needs of the vulnerable. When organisations act with compassion and integrity, they become powerful instruments of God’s justice and mercy in the world. When they do so in a professional and efficient way, they serve as a great witness for the kingdom.

As Christians we have an obligation to help those who "flee" into our lives. Their proximity qualifies them as our neighbour, and our Lord clearly teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Loving our neighbour applies to organizations as well! As organisations, we are uniquely positioned to extend mercy and pursue justice on a broader scale, using our collective resources and influence to meet the needs of the vulnerable. When organisations act with compassion and integrity, they become powerful instruments of God's justice and mercy in the world, serving as a great witness for the kingdom.

Compassionate God,

By your grace, help organizations to imitate your kindness as your image bearers. Grant them the leadership that does not withhold good from those who desperately need our help, never plotting harm against the downtrodden, afflicted and homeless. May the loving-kindness of Christ be evidently expressed through our actions - both as individuals and organizations working together for mercy and justice.


Write a prayer asking Jesus to teach us how to be an advocate for the voiceless, communities, and organizations so that the love and kindness of Christ might be shown to those in need.

Week 3: Day 3

/ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

– Romans 15:13 –

Prayer Requests for Frontline Workers:

- 
- **Pray for protection over their mental health, that their hearts and minds are guarded, and resilience against secondary trauma or emotional fatigue.**
 - **Pray for rest and restoration, for calm and renewal during times of sleep and Sabbath, to shield them from despair, hopelessness, or burnout.**
 - **Pray for the courage and resources to seek help when needed, whether through counselling or peer support.**
 - **Pray for their families, who may also feel the weight of their loved ones' challenging work.**
 - **Pray for God to remind them that their work is making a difference, even when progress feels slow, and that He will bring justice and restoration.**

God of blessing, we lift to you the frontline workers who tirelessly support the vulnerable and marginalized. We ask that you renew their strength, protect their mental and physical health, and surround them with your peace. We pray for their financial needs, their families, and the burdens they carry for people they care for, trusting in your provision and faithfulness. We ask that the power of your Holy Spirit fill them with hope overflowing and sustain them with joy and renewed compassion as they serve.



Describe in your own words what “overflowing with hope” looks like. Write it down and make that your prayer for our frontline workers in Hong Kong.

Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 4 – The Role of Government

While individuals and organizations often initiate change, effective progress typically requires supportive policies and a cultural commitment to equity from society as a whole.

Governments hold significant power in the fight for social justice through the enactment of legislation and policy aimed at promoting equality and protecting the rights of marginalized populations. This includes the establishment of anti-discrimination laws and social welfare programs that address systemic inequalities. Public funding is also crucial; it supports initiatives focused on education, healthcare, and housing, which are essential for creating equitable opportunities. The effectiveness of these laws and policies hinges on robust enforcement to ensure that rights are upheld and violations are addressed.

Week 4: Day 1

/ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.

– Romans 13:4 –

Governments have the privilege and responsibility of carrying out both the Lord's mercy and judgement. Romans 13 continues to describe government as God's servant who "carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer," meaning that there is divine mandate to enact and enforce laws, punish wrongdoing, and maintain social order. This is a huge responsibility, as governments must mete out justice tempered with mercy, and safeguard the most vulnerable members.

Redeeming God,

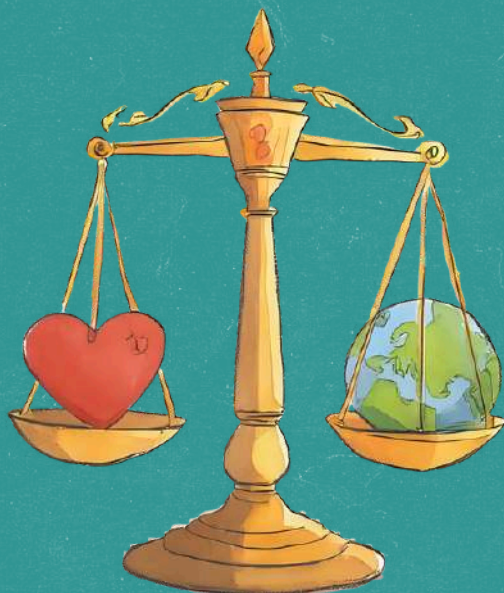
We pray that our officials be open to your will and intention, and indeed that their hearts break for what breaks yours. We pray for wisdom and discernment for our leaders, praying they will fulfil your call to act justly and love mercy, putting into place policies and protections for the most vulnerable in our society. Above all, we ask thy will be done through and in them.

Write a prayer on behalf of your government officials, that God would move their hearts to compassion and action, mercy and justice.

Week 4: Day 2

/ When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

– Leviticus 19:33–34 –



God's concern for the foreigner is not limited to personal relationships—it reflects a vision for how entire communities and systems are meant to operate. In Leviticus 19, He commands His people to build a society where the vulnerable are not mistreated but protected, valued, and loved.

As residents and citizens, we are called to pray and advocate for governments to reflect this justice. While policies are complex and laws may vary, the heart of God is clear: fairness, dignity, and compassion must guide the treatment of the foreigner. Governments hold power to shape systems that can either oppress or uplift. As followers of Christ, we can use our voices—not only to welcome the stranger ourselves—but to ask that our leaders pursue righteousness and mercy in how they govern.

Lord of all nations,

You raise up leaders and call rulers to account. We bring before you the governments of the world, especially our own. We pray that those in power would act with wisdom, courage, and compassion toward asylum seekers and refugees.

Shape policies that protect the vulnerable. Give lawmakers hearts that reflect your justice. Where systems are unjust, bring reform. Where fear rules, bring peace. Where decisions are difficult, bring clarity and conviction to do what is right.

And stir us, as citizens, not to turn away, but to pray, to speak, and to seek the good of those who are often forgotten.

Week 4: Day 3

/ I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.

– Ezekiel 22:30–31 –



In Ezekiel's day, God searched for someone who would stand in the gap—someone to intercede for a society breaking under the weight of its own injustice. What grieved God was not only the corruption of leaders, priests, and people, but the absence of anyone willing to plead on behalf of the land.

Today, many refugees and asylum seekers face indifference, rejection, or unfair treatment within the systems meant to offer protection. As God's people, we are called to stand in the gap—to intercede not only for individuals but for the very systems that shape their lives.

God invites us to pray for governments: that laws would reflect His justice, that policies would protect the vulnerable, and that those seeking refuge would find fairness, dignity, and compassion. In the spiritual gap between broken systems and God's desire for righteousness, prayer is our first and continual act of advocacy.

Righteous God,

You see every refugee and every foreigner who longs for safety and dignity. You also see the hearts of leaders and the decisions of governments. We ask you to raise up rulers and officials who act with justice and mercy toward the vulnerable.

Where there is delay, bring swiftness. Where there is confusion, bring clarity. Where there is injustice, bring reform. We stand in the gap on behalf of those who have no voice, asking you to stir the conscience of those in power and to move your Church to prayer and compassion.

Make us persistent in intercession until the laws of the land echo the heart of heaven.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 5 – The Role of Society

Society itself plays a critical role in fostering social justice by influencing cultural attitudes and norms. Public perception can either perpetuate injustices or challenge them, and cultural movements have the power to shift these perspectives, thereby impacting policy decisions.

A supportive community environment enables grassroots movements to thrive, empowering individuals to advocate for meaningful change. Ultimately, society must embrace the notion of collective responsibility, recognizing that achieving social justice requires the active participation of everyone to foster an equitable and just world.

Week 5: Day 1

/ Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ.

– Galatians 6:2 –

It is not news that difficult things are easier to overcome when done together. Moving apartments, paddling a boat, or cleaning the dishes after dinner are just a few examples of this. But Paul does not tell us to carry one another's burdens because it makes things easier. He reminds us that Christ carried our own immense burden of sin on Himself, and that we are to do likewise for one another as we follow after Him.

God of all flourishing,
Sustain us so we will not "become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

We pray for strength to confront the sin and brokenness of this world with confidence in our position in Christ—and confidence in your love for us.

We pray for those who have struggled alone, isolated or ashamed, that they be lifted up through our community and in our city. Show them they are seen, known, and precious in your sight, Indwelling God.

Ask God prayerfully and creatively how you can be more immersed in carrying the burdens of others in the communities He has imbedded you in.

Week 5: Day 2

/ He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

– Ephesians 2:14 –



**Crafted with heart, the above handprints are created by talented community members of*

STOP.
STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

and

ROAD
REFUGEE OPPORTUNITY
AND DEVELOPMENT

programs.

This verse speaks powerfully about peace that only faith can bring. In a world often divided by ethnicity, culture, and beliefs, it reminds us that Christ is the force that unites us and can be the glue of all of society to leave peacefully and justly in harmony.

As followers of Jesus, let's reflect on this peace in our lives. This might mean actively working to break down the barriers that separate us—sometimes as simple as daily acts of kindness and humility in learning from each other. We all reflect society, so we should reflect the society we want to be a part of.

God our companion,
we pray for the removal of both social and systemic
barriers that hinder meaningful interactions between
different communities.

Calling God, plant a vision in each our hearts for the
society you want to create and build through us, the
Church. Give us the long-suffering courage to work
towards that vision, all as one and one as all along the
guidance of your Holy Spirit.

Think about the specific barriers in your community that lead to division, such as language differences, cultural misunderstandings, or socioeconomic issues. Prayerfully ask God how you can show open-mindedness and acceptance in your daily interactions within your community.

Week 5: Day 3

/ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

– Isaiah 61:1 –



Pray that our society – across communities, policies, and relationships – would reflect God's heart by making space for the displaced and marginalised. Ask that those who have been pushed aside would be welcomed with dignity, able to contribute and thrive. Pray also that the good news of Jesus would be proclaimed clearly and compassionately among them.

Inviting Christ,

You came with good news for the poor and freedom for the captive. You walked among those the world forgot - refugees, the poor, the imprisoned, the lost - and offered healing, welcome, and hope. Help us not only to restore dignity, but also to build communities where everyone is accepted and included, regardless of their background or story. May we speak your name with gentleness and truth. May we carry your Gospel to the places where it is least expected but most needed. Let our lives proclaim the hope and salvation you bring. May our homes, churches, and cities reflect your inclusive love, embracing those at the margins as true neighbors.

Seek God and ask how you might play a participatory role in shaping a society that offers practical welcome and spiritual hope to someone at the margins who has not yet heard or experienced the tangible love of Christ.

Prayers & Prayer Requests

/ Week 6 – Human Trafficking & Labour Exploitation

The end of these 6 weeks of prayer is marked by World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP). The day is observed on July 30 and was established on December 18, 2013, by the United Nations General Assembly with the desire to:

- Raise awareness;
- Promote the protection of the rights of trafficking victims;
- Encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.*

**Source: IJM*

(<https://www.ijm.org/world-day-against-trafficking-in-persons>)

Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls. The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 per cent of those trafficked for forced labour are female. Conflict further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with armed groups exploiting civilians and traffickers targeting forcibly displaced people.*

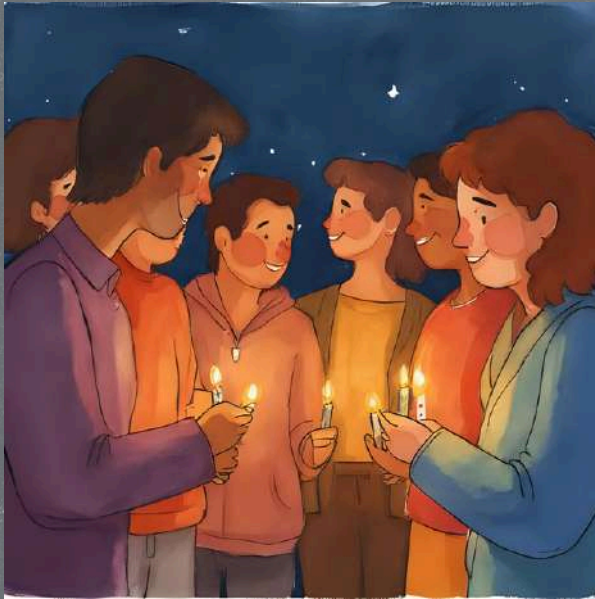
Human trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation!



Week 6: Day 1

/ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and broke their bands apart.

– Psalm 107:14 –



WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PEOPLE (WDATIP)

is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour all those who have experienced human trafficking and exploitation. It falls each year on 30 July and aims to uncover the staggering hidden toll of modern slavery by opening the eyes of everyone to its existence.

– UNODC

O Christ, we confess that we have looked away.
 Walk with us to the margins of our world,
 where you have always been,
 and abide in proximity with those who are not forgotten.
 Though the discomfort may break us,
 O Healer, meet us where we lack and repair us with gold.
 We crave an easy way, but strengthen us to rise above,
 taking on each other's burdens as our own,
 learning that we are inextricably tied with our fellow
 image-bearers,
 and we need each other on our march upward toward
 Zion.*

**Excerpt from A Liturgy for Those Crying out for Justice.*

(<https://liturgies.nyc/A-Liturgy-for-Those-Crying-Out-for-Justice>)

Ask God prayerfully and creatively how you can be more
 immersed in carrying the burdens of others in the communities He
 has imbedded you in.

Week 6: Day 2

/ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

– Amos 5:24 –



STOP.

STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

Prayer request from STOP Community Members:

“May the Lord grant me strength during my ongoing trial hearing. I pray that He touches the heart of the Judge to show me mercy, and most importantly, that I may be acquitted of the charges against me, as I am not guilty. Amen.”

“I am experiencing a difficult situation because the violence I experienced caused stress and I have just had a cure surgery of my uterus. I ask that I be given health and that my case be made easier.”

“I am currently experiencing debt problems with a money lending company in Hong Kong. I ask that I be given strength and smoothness to be able to pay off the debt. Hopefully I can quickly be free from the burden of debt.”

God of mercy, how many are my foes!

Lord, we know that you sustain us against all odds, even against those who doubt you. Psalm 3 teaches us to not be fearful "though tens of thousands assail us on every side." And so, Lord, we echo the Psalms and cry out: Arise! Deliver us, our God! We pray for the deliverance only you can provide and ask that your blessing be on your people. Maranatha, Lord Jesus – we pray for the protection and strength of your Spirit.



Write a prayer on behalf of those in need and anxious about receiving the justice they long for to the God of justice and righteousness.

Week 6: Day 3

/ The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.

– Psalm 18:2 –



Scam networks continue to be a growing source of human trafficking and modern slavery. Each technological advancement, including AI, presents new opportunities for exploitation. And even in places like Hong Kong, many individuals, especially migrant workers, encounter exploitative employment and deceitful employers.

We ask God to dismantle systems thriving in secrecy, declaring that corruption, greed, and violence will not resurface. We pray against AI-generated scams and for God to raise technologists, governments, and truth-bearers to confront these digital harms. We seek God's help in removing indifference and softening employers' hearts to treat their employees justly, with dignity, and in accordance with the law.

God of deliverance,

We thank you for hearing the cries of the oppressed and responding with power. Tear down every structure of injustice. Block every plan of the enemy. Pour out provision, strategy, healing, and hope. Let the deliverance of body, soul, and spirit continue until there is no more darkness hidden behind any wall. You alone are our hiding place. You surround the vulnerable with songs of deliverance. You are the great Deliverer.

Take a moment to ask God to reveal specific ways you can fight to end human trafficking – e.g., through volunteering, advocacy, or simply offering a listening ear.

/ Further Reflection

Below are a few questions to initiate a discussion around the lived experiences of refugees, asylum seekers, and people who have experienced human trafficking and/or labor exploitation. As you go through these, lower your guard and let the Holy Spirit guide you to the truth of your thoughts and feelings tucked away in your heart. Feel free to explore other questions that your discussion or reflection may provoke and pause on how you think Jesus might respond to these challenges.



Have you ever fallen victim to a scam or been tricked in some way? How did it make you feel? How do you think this experience relates to people who are tricked into accepting fake jobs?



There is often discussion in the media about the 'legitimacy' of an asylum seeker's claim for protection. How relevant do you think this question is, knowing the hardships refugees and asylum seekers face in Hong Kong irrespective for the reason why they left their country of origin?





Have you ever had to spend time away from your spouse, your children, those nearest and dearest to you, to be able to pursue a career opportunity? What was the hardest part about it, and what made it bearable? How does this compare to the experience of migrant domestic workers?



What lengths would you go to secure your own safety and prosperity? What about that of your family? What about someone you do not know?



Under what circumstances would you consider moving in with your employer or only having one day off a week? How does this compare to the circumstances of migrant domestic workers?



How much money do you need to live comfortably? What is the minimum level of comfort you could possibly endure, and how much money do you think would be needed to sustain this? How does this compare to what refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong have to subsist on?

Ideas for Further Action

We believe in both the discipline and power of prayer - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 teaches us to pray continually, and Jesus encourages us in Mark 11:24 that “whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Our prayer is that this guide has inspired you and/or your Community Group or church to explore how you can become involved in serving the marginalized. Perhaps after careful prayer and reflection you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to action! If so, Branches of Hope would like to offer some ideas for you and you and/or your Community Group to consider.

/ Become an ambassador for our community members:



- Take time to develop a greater level of understanding about the situation of refugees, asylum seekers, and people who have experienced human trafficking and/or labor exploitation in Hong Kong.

- Engage with Branches of Hope online by following, liking, and sharing our social media updates. Spread the word and invite your friends to events being organized! We're active on IG, Facebook, and LinkedIn.



/ Become an ambassador for our community members:



- Consider inviting fellow Christians who have walked with our community members to speak to you and/or your Community Group about their experience. Branches of Hope can help connect you!

- Involve your place of work or school by arranging talks. Branches of Hope can provide speakers from its staff or ask its community members to share about their lives. You can even become a Corporate Ambassador and unleash the power of CSR in support of our work!



Ideas for Further Action

/ Provide in-kind or financial support to Branches of Hope:

- Volunteer during the ARISE fellowship lunches on Wednesdays or with donation sorting and distribution. You can do this as a one-off activity or become a regular!



- Organize in-kind donation drives to collect much needed resources for our community members. Please coordinate your efforts with Branches of Hope to ensure that donated items are in demand.

- Become a donor, either as an individual or as a group. You can organize your own fundraising events, or consider becoming a monthly donor to contribute and sustain our much needed financial assistance programs, such as the Support Trust for the Accommodation of Refugees (STAR) fund.





- If you work for a corporation that has a donation matching program, please consider using it in support of Branches of Hope and the communities we serve (please also ask us about our Corporate Ambassador program).

These are just some of the ways people typically get involved, but there are many other creative ways to make a difference.

Do you have some ideas? Let us know!



Ideas for Further Action

/ How to get in touch with Branches of Hope:

If you enjoyed this prayer guide or found it helpful, or have suggestions for future versions, please let us know. We would also be delighted for you to share your prayers with us!

Our common communications channels are listed below:

Website: <https://www.branchesofhope.org.hk/>

Email: info@branchesofhope.org.hk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BranchesofHopeHK/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/branchesofhopehk/>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/branches-of-hope-ltd/

WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/F6GvNyY6fS5BCMIJpdxsnO>

Website



Instagram



WhatsApp



Thank you!

/ Prayer Guide Contributors

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- *Harmony Baptist Church Lost and Found Refuge*
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- *OASIS*
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