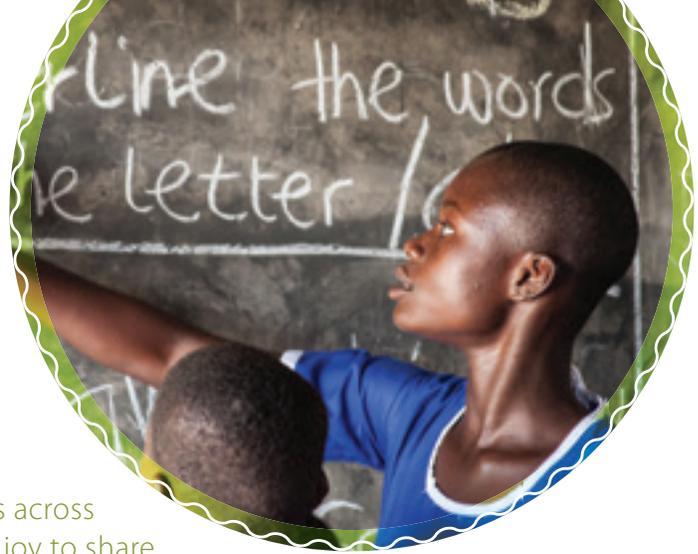


ADVENT 2018

PRAYER GUIDE



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Each year, we provide a calendar to help Christians across North America enter into a season of prayer. It is a joy to share the stories of how God is working across the Global Anglican Communion. These stories and prayers are based on actual people and places and the things God is doing through them. This Advent, week by week we give God praise for the lives transformed through educational projects implemented by the local church.



PRAYER FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 2, 2018

ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY: Preschool sets up a spiritual foundation for the youngest students.

"I like the way in which my son is motivated, I like that he is hearing about God. Seeing the school developing gives me hope." – María Angelica Gomez Ocampos, Bruno's mom

Early childhood development is crucial. Yet many small children in poor urban areas do not receive a decent education, especially preschoolers. The church in Paraguay has partnered with Redeemer Anglican Church in Zeballos Cue, an urban neighborhood in Asunción to increase enrollment at their preschool. After building new classrooms, the school now has space for 50 students, up from 16!

PRAYER: Lord, this first week of Advent we pray for these youngest students who are integrating into school for the first time. We pray for Bruno and the other students of Pepe Semillita Preschool, that the truths they learn about You at school would be the foundation of their lives. We pray for their parents that they would come to know You as well and that the Christian education that their children receive would be a blessing to them as well.



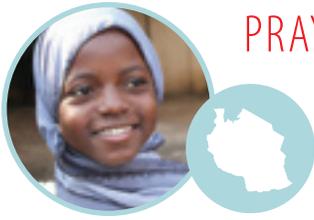
PRAYER FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 9, 2018

KATANGA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: The church welcomes those whom the world discards.

"Now all my four children will go to school and as a pygmy I will not be discriminated [against]. Thank you for the church for this support to our village. I am studying literacy [through the church] and now I can read and write. I have started reading the Bible in the Church." – Ms Kaputo Clarise

Pygmies are a neglected minority in the Kalemie region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Elementary age kids are discriminated against in school. They experience racial stereotyping and social exclusion. Because of this, many drop out of school, leaving them mired in an ongoing cycle of poverty. They needed a school that would accept them and their parents. The church has built a school that will bring together pygmy and non-pygmy families in an inclusive environment. Meanwhile, the mothers have the opportunity to study literacy in the afternoons.

PRAYER: Lord, we accept Your call to love those that the world sees as least and to bring them into Your kingdom. We pray for the pygmy students who now can study closer to home without fear of discrimination. We pray for Clarise and all of the mothers who are improving their own education. May all of this be used for Your glory in the community.



PRAYER FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 16, 2018

TABORA, TANZANIA: A Christian hostel allows girls in high school to continue their education.

"If there were no hostel at the school ... I would not have gotten the chance to attend secondary school. But, because the accommodation here is safe, my parents agreed to pay for me to stay there and attend school." – Happyness Gasper

With many high schools located far from the villages, many girls drop out of school after completing primary school. Parents worry about sending them off to the city to rent a room from strangers. And even for those who could walk, the trek is often dangerous for these teenage girls. But the church in Tanzania is creating safe places by building hostels adjacent to high schools in order to allow more girls to enroll.

PRAYER: Lord, we praise You for the new communities created because of the most recent hostel in Tabora, Tanzania. We pray for the newest students, that they would continue to develop into their full potential with Your help. May they always trust in You.



PRAYER FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 23, 2018

ACCRA, GHANA: A vocational training center provides a spiritual community for young adults.

"The training I received helped me to start my own business. I initially was reluctant and did not want to join the program, but I have never regretted the decision to join. I learned and gained a lot ... It is a program that brings together young people to learn and become better people in the community." – David Obisama

Not everyone can go to college, especially in poverty-stricken areas. In the slums around Accra, Ghana, many young adults drop out of high school and then have a hard time finding jobs. Without meaningful employment, they turn to gangs, petty theft, and illegal drugs. To counter this, the church has been providing vocational training. Now they are building a vocational center where more young adults can be served. This center will provide young people ages 17 to 25 with a place to gather for spiritual, educational, and physical development. When the students are admitted, they will join a community that will not only provide them with viable skills, but also the knowledge of Jesus and the fellowship of other believers.

PRAYER: Lord, we pray for the young adults in the slums of Accra, where opportunities are few. We pray that this new center would be a light for You and that David, along with the others receiving trainings, would trust in You as they use their new skills to become productive citizens. May You become more visible in the dark places outside of Accra through the trainers and the graduated students. We pray for their parents that they would come to know You as well and that the Christian education that their children receive would be a blessing to them as well.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25, 2017

Lord, we praise You for giving us hearts and minds to follow You. We thank You for the thousands of prayers said by our partners and their prayer recipients. We praise You for the communion of saints worldwide who continue to grow in the love and knowledge of You. We pray once again for all of the students. May they grow into strong lovers of Your word and glorify You in all they do in the years to come.

