FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

30 DAYS TO EXPLORE THE WORD AND THE WORLD

platform 67
Until the whole world hears
The Psalms ought to make our heart sing!

The key word in this ancient songbook of devotion is Hallelujah, that is, praise the Lord. And no wonder!

Every page reveals a God utterly worthy of worship. The joy of missions lies in ensuring all peoples everywhere, north, south, east and west, enter into that magnificent experience too.

Over the next 30 days, you’ll be able to both pray around the world and read your way through the whole of the Psalms. Take your time and enjoy Him!

Until the whole world hears,
Platform 67
Until the whole world hears

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Albania’s road to democracy has been difficult. **Generations were raised as atheists as gospel witness was eradicated.** Widespread evangelism began in the 1990s but has struggled to keep momentum with so many Christians fleeing poverty to settle outside the country. **Churches, barely thirty years old, need to be refreshed with more Bible teachers.** Poverty is biting but opportunities remain for literature distribution and church planting. There are some excellent Albanian gospel workers steering the work.

**Albania**

Pray for a national awakening to the truth of the living God; for Albania to be spared from radical Islam; and for churches to make the most of current freedoms.

**Psalms 1-6**

What is God laughing at in Ps. 2? It’s the laughter of ridicule and v.6 tells us why. The nations may shake their fist at Him but they fight a losing battle!
GREECE

Greece, with islands just four miles from Turkey, has become the epicentre for unreached peoples funnelling into Europe from North Africa and the Middle East. The country struggles to cope. **Gospel opportunities are plentiful leading some to consider Athens one of the best places on earth at the moment to reach Muslims.** Along with practical help, evangelism and discipleship prepare Afghans, Iranians and others to begin new fellowships wherever they go.

Ask the Lord to raise up many faith-filled and passionate evangelists and Christian leaders equipped to return one day to their home countries carrying the Good News with them.

PSALMS 7-10

*David may not have always understood what God was doing but he certainly knew why he ought to publicly declare His name. Read Ps. 9:7-11 again and see for yourself!*
The Psalms are great to read in times of anxiety. They teach us how to view life from God’s perspective. Billions of people foolishly dismiss Him. They are missing out.

Pray for national repentance; for courage to proclaim truth publicly; for immigrant Christians to lead a fresh awakening; thank God for the many Finnish missionaries serving cross-culturally.

FINLAND

Finland has been consistently named the world’s happiest place with good social support networks, honest government, safe environments and healthy lives. In an increasingly secular society, courage is required among Christians to publicly proclaim truth. Refugees continue to arrive from North Africa and the Middle East to a country wide open for gospel witness. That’s joyful news given how difficult evangelism is in their home nations.

PSALMS 11-14

The Psalms are great to read in times of anxiety. They teach us how to view life from God’s perspective. Billions of people foolishly dismiss Him. They are missing out.
Ps. 16:11 is a great affirmation and well worth memorising. Repeat it often this week. This is the nature of the God we want the world to know and enjoy.

Ask for locally-driven, gospel communities with eyes on Jesus for their every need. Ask God to sweep through the deep darkness and save many.

“Your kingdom come!”

PSALMS 15-17

France, like much of western Europe, faces a loss of trust in its bankers, religious leaders and politicians. While many are losing faith in democracy itself, secular France also struggles to know how to handle people of faith, not least the six million French Muslims with roots in Morocco, Algeria and Turkey. There is one evangelical church for every 26,000 people. With just one new church planted every ten days, it will take over a century to reach the many towns and villages with no gospel witness. More prayer is needed.

Ask the Lord to help French Christians live by the truth. Pray for integrity in the workplace. Pray too for gospel life to take root in the massive French Muslim communities.

Ps. 16:11 is a great affirmation and well worth memorising. Repeat it often this week. This is the nature of the God we want the world to know and enjoy.
One of the fastest growing economies in Europe but progress could be halted by a shortage of labour. Unusually, Poland has recently lowered its retirement age. There are also more than a million Poles living in western Europe, many in the UK. There are thought to be more evangelicals in Saudi Arabia than in Poland. Many thousands of villages have no Christian presence. There are several Bible training schools and courses but students are few in number.

Pray for many to train for the ministry. Ask for a spiritual awakening and a turning from religion and cults. Pray for many living outside their country to be saved.

David’s experience of mercy was too great to hide. Everyone needs to hear such great news! Paul quotes Ps.18:49 in Romans 15 as the gospel spreads to the gentiles.
At least ninety per cent of Portugal’s citizens are Roman Catholic. Many young people know nothing of Jesus except what they might see in a religious procession. They long for hope. Summer camps are great opportunities for many to be introduced to the Good News. New Bible training opportunities are emerging but accessing a local, gospel-preaching church is still a long way off for the vast majority of the eleven million Portuguese.

Pray for the Bible to be read, believed and proclaimed. Ask the Lord to help pastors understand and teach God’s great cosmic story of hope in Christ from start to finish.

Ps. 22 reveals just how contagious praise is. Not only will all nations come to worship but ‘all the families (or clans) of the nations’ (v27). The scope of God’s activity is staggering.
Growing nationalism and a shift toward Islam point modern Turkey in a different direction. **There are very few Turkish Christians.** Most face stern opposition from families, at work, and in the media. Hate crimes are common and make witness more difficult. The Kurds are a hard-pressed minority group while millions of Afghan and Iranian refugees would love to cross the sea to Europe. **Some excellent Bible commentaries are being translated and supplied.**

**Pray for lasting fruit from work with Kurds; for wise government; for more church leaders; for Turks abroad to come to Christ and return as living witnesses to Jesus.**

**PSALMS 25-29**

*As David discovered, the Lord is King over every storm. ‘Let us never forget to pray, and let us never doubt the success of prayer. Prayer will succeed where all else fails.’*  
*CH Spurgeon*
Our witness is both verbal and visual. The nations observe our conduct and so too does the Lord. How can you ‘bless your nation’ this week? Ps. 33:12-15

Pray for firm hope in Christ rather than in a strong economy; for a passion in churches for worldwide evangelisation; for Christians to confidently witness at every level of society.

PSALMS 30-33

UNITED KINGDOM

The disregard for Biblical truth is taking its toll across society, not least in what can and cannot be taught in schools or spoken at work. The country appears morally rudderless and needs an urgent return to humility before the Lord. Cultural diversity has raised questions about how faith and society integrate. There are encouraging, cross-denominational networks among evangelicals and new congregations being planted but some counties are in urgent need of awakening.

Pray for firm hope in Christ rather than in a strong economy; for a passion in churches for worldwide evangelisation; for Christians to confidently witness at every level of society.

PSALMS 30-33

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ARGENTINA

Waves of European immigrants have influenced much of the country. Even today, Italian is widely spoken in Buenos Aires. This is also home to the largest Jewish community in South America but an increasingly secular population demanding legalised abortion reflects the country’s spiritual emptiness. **One in ten is unemployed and one in three impoverished.** Difficult years of austerity lie ahead. Distrust in the Roman Catholic Church is high and **evangelicals now make up to 15% of the population.** Many believers **have generously welcomed refugees** from crises in both Venezuela and Syria.

Pray that generous gospel love toward refugees will win many to Christ; for widespread confidence in Christ alone as people turn from religion; and for Christian witness at work today.

**PsALMS 34-41**

Ps.37:4 urges us to appreciate God to the full! Bask today in all that God is and then allow your worship to empower your witness among those who know nothing of Him.
BOLIVIA

Every two minutes a new baby is born in Latin America’s second poorest country. Bolivians are used to political upheaval. Violent protests are common. The country appears to live permanently on a cliff edge without actually falling over and the likelihood of a more moderate government seems remote anytime soon. There is excellent student ministry in Santa Cruz and the Quechua Radio station continues to broadcast Bible teaching to hundreds of indigenous churches that have no trained leaders.

Pray for the many young evangelicals to live attractive, Christlike lives this week. Ask the Lord to help the many churches display compassion and generosity amidst the poverty.

PSALMS 42-45

Have you ever doubted that God will achieve His mission? Don’t let the world’s narrative tell you otherwise. Allow Ps.45:17 to frame your outlook today.
Angry demonstrations are not unusual in Chile and are often led by campaigners for everything from social justice to cheaper bus fares. The story of the church is encouraging with more than 20% of the population considered evangelical. Chilean churches are also sending missionaries around the world from various mission agencies within the country, often with a strong cooperation across churches and a keen focus on reaching the least reached in the world.

Pray for persevering faith; for growing love for Christ among young Christians; for sustained global missions vision; for political and social peace across communities.

Mission is so much more than programmes and statistics; it’s all about Jesus! Ps.47 paints a masterful portrait to enthral our hearts. No wonder everyone must hear.
What people believe about God affects how they live (Ps.53:1). Tragically, most people live as if He doesn’t exist. How might that colour their heart, mind and conduct do you think?

Pray for work opportunities to supplement income for many church leaders. Ask the Lord to give courage for ongoing public proclamation.

A Christian worldview is increasingly unacceptable in politics, media and government, while the illegal drug trade is a dangerous temptation. **This remains a difficult place for Christians willing to denounce criminal activities.** Threats have forced large populations out of rural areas into cities and helped evangelical churches in cities grow strongly. **Indigenous tribes enjoy government protection and are much more difficult to reach with the gospel.**

**PSALMS 50-54**

What people believe about God affects how they live (Ps.53:1). Tragically, most people live as if He doesn’t exist. How might that colour their heart, mind and conduct do you think?
Melting Andean glaciers make Peru vulnerable to climate change. Corruption in politics has long hampered trust, and recent economic growth hasn’t reached the very poor. Social conflict boils below the surface, especially among indigenous groups. There are many growing churches but gospel witness has not yet taken root in every ethnic group. Good theological training is preparing a new generation of leaders.

Pray for greater efforts to reach isolated groups like the very wealthy and the growing numbers of street children; for bold witness in confronting sin and societal injustice.

**PSALMS 55-59**

Like many Christians in hard places, David was pursued by both ‘friends’ and enemies. It brought the best out in him – opening the day with praise and closing it with prayer (Ps.57).
Many churches refuse to register with authorities and submit to restrictions about what can be taught from the Bible and to whom. Some ethnic groups are seeing strong Christian growth despite suffering and it would be great also to see the gospel spread across different languages and cultures taking root where there are currently no Algerian Christians at all. Many bedouin groups are in this category. Media ministries are witnessing through some excellent film resources.

Ask the Lord to give grace to mothers coming to faith but facing expulsion from their homes. Pray for the salvation of Arabs and Berbers in huge numbers.

As David’s enemies circled, he may have wished to give up. That, however, is never God’s intention. Faithfulness under trial has long been a means of effective witness.
Summarise Ps. 67 in your own words.
How has God blessed you, and why? How might your life change as a result?

PSALMS 65-68

Ask the Lord to provide more visas for European missionaries; for Christians to demonstrate grace and reconciliation; for theological clarity in churches.

ANGOLA

The fallout from civil war lingers making it difficult for different churches to work together. Six million landmines remain but many thousands of people already live with disabilities. Landmines also make it difficult to build infrastructure like schools and hospitals, to farm land, build houses and shelter the many refugees. Poverty is normal for most. Many more churches are needed in cities. Some tribes are still unreached. Mistaken beliefs are a major problem in churches.

PSALMS 65-68

Summarise Ps. 67 in your own words.
How has God blessed you, and why? How might your life change as a result?
ETHIOPIA

Warmer oceans and more cyclones make ideal breeding grounds for plagues of desert locusts. In a country where farmers need every ounce of food, a swarm covering one square mile could consume as much food in a day as 90,000 people. The government has its hands full. **Meanwhile, an awakening among the 30 million Oromo people has been thrilling.** Churches are praying and organising themselves to get the gospel to areas of the country still unreached. **Much of the south is strongly Muslim.**

*The church (like everywhere) needs more good leaders. Pray for peace in the many inter-tribal conflicts. Ask for clear-thinking, compassionate, and wise Christians in government.*

**PSALMS 69-72**

*There is no better message to take to a desperate, broken, unreached world than Ps.69:32. No wonder the unsaved are attracted to Him.*
There are no visible Libyan churches. Until stability returns to national government, danger is on every side. As in many Muslim-dominated countries, there are expatriates who love the Lord and whose witness in the workplace is vital. However, that too is a deadly risk. Peace between violent groups remains elusive. Many thousands have died either trying and failing to reach Europe or because Europe has repatriated them to Libya where consequences have been fatal.

Ask the Prince of Peace to restore stability and good governance. Pray for the urgent provision of audio Bibles in Libyan Arabic. Pray for courage to live for Jesus.

PSALMS 73-77

The antidote to Ps.74:18 comes in the Lord’s Prayer. There is no stronger motivation for worldwide witness than ‘Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.’
The East African nation has battled everything from deep poverty to flooding, terrorism and even locust infestation. Six million live in squalor and most are acutely hungry. It is now on a slow path to economic recovery and better governance. The Somali church is alive but meeting secretly and under heavy persecution. There are thought to be barely a few hundred Christians. Abroad, some have come to faith in Europe.

Pray for the church to grow in depth and number through the suffering; for firm confidence in God’s ways; for God’s blessings to be made known to others.

PSALMS 78–83

God placed Israel among the nations for a reason. Let’s not waste the opportunities all around us. ‘Where He leads me, I will go; where he plants me, I will grow.’
TOGO

Responding to mental illness in poorer countries is challenging. **An estimated 80% of sufferers in west Africa are unable to access care.** The cost often falls heaviest on families. West Africa is considered to have generally stable politics but democracy seems under threat in Togo where the same family has governed since 1967. Literacy rates are improving and gospel literature and radio is widely available. **Fewer than ten people groups remain unreached. A third of the population practise ancestral religions, including voodooism.**

Pray for compassionate allocation of government resources; for more trained health professionals; for follow-up work to radio ministry; for more Togolese evangelists.

**PSALMS 84-89**

‘Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of God.’ What do you think people say as they observe your life? ‘You are fellow citizens…members of the household of God.’ *Ep.2:19*
Ps.100 beckons praise from all of space and history. There are no exceptions. All the earth and every generation is to know He is God.

Pray for accuracy and speed in ongoing Bible translation work for minority languages. Ask the Lord to prosper Christian witness through various humanitarian opportunities.

Ps.100 beckons praise from all of space and history. There are no exceptions. All the earth and every generation is to know He is God.

AFGHANISTAN

This remains one of the world’s most dangerous places for Christians. Afghan churches meet but never in public. Worship, discipleship and witnessing can be a fatal risk. Outside, the country, work among Afghan refugees is bearing fruit and vibrant congregations have sprung up in some European cities. Might these be the next generation of missionaries to their own country? The Afghan deaf community is one of the least reached on earth.
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

Many of the islands, 600 miles east of India, are off limits to outsiders to protect their biodiversity. **There are almost 300 indigenous tribes, making up the 400,000 population.** Most are hunter-gatherers. Commonly spoken languages in the islands, such as Hindi and Telugu, are used elsewhere in India, making possible witness easier. **Among them are the Sentinelese who are considered among the most isolated populations on earth.**

Pray confidently for gospel witness to bear fruit where it has not been heard before. Ask God to establish vibrant churches. Pray for wise witness from Indian tourists.

**PSALMS 90-94**

‘The Lord reigns!’ **He rules the earth with all its tumultuous nations and will forever. That frames how we live today. Ps. 93 delivers an emphatic message for a despondent world.**
Ps.108 reinforces our personal responsibility to live out our faith publicly and gratitude before the nations. This is what we signed up for when we became followers of Jesus.

Pray for God to humble those who hate the work of Christ and live to destroy it; for more Bibles; for children to hear the Good News; and for courage, especially for Christians in jail, to live boldly for Christ.

Despite every effort, the government has failed to curb church growth over many decades. However, the all-consuming lust for power at the heart of China’s system has led to complete surveillance of the activities, movements and social media of all citizens. Foreign Christians have been expelled. China’s Christians are being hard-pressed and congregations are being dismantled. Many believers are struggling to keep going. Some researchers estimate that at least 100,000 Christians a year are being arrested.

PSALMS 107-112

Ps.108 reinforces our personal responsibility to live out our faith publicly and gratitude before the nations. This is what we signed up for when we became followers of Jesus.
Would you have described Joseph (Ps.105) as being ‘sent’ to Egypt? How about the exiles in Babylon or the scattered believers in Acts? God sends us to the nations in remarkable ways.

Pray for wide availability of gospel resources for the various languages; for open hearts and minds to the gospel; for the tiny groups of believers to display grace and forgiveness.

PSALMS 101-106

The BBC once described Dagestan as ‘the most dangerous place in Europe.’ The Avar people are highlanders from between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Formidable wrestlers and fighters, Islam binds together national pride, ethics, and family life. Dagestan is a stubborn thorn in Russia’s side. Honour and revenge dominate society while grace and forgiveness are barely known or shown.

Amazingly, new believers have begun to appear but they are a tiny minority among the 99.99% Muslim majority.
Paul quotes Ps. 117 in Romans 15:11. Read the whole chapter and see how determined he was to win more and more peoples (not just individuals) to the Lord.

IRAQ

Social media has contributed to the spread of intolerance, ensuring violence is never far below the surface. The majority Shia are familiar with war and dysfunction. For many, it is all they have ever known. **An indigenous Kurdish church is slowly emerging and New Testaments are now available in several Kurdish languages.** The ancient and long-suffering Yazidi people congregate around the Mosul and Dohuk areas but barely a handful know Jesus.

Pray for a multitude of Iraqis to find satisfying life in Christ. Ask that recently translated Scriptures bring light and counsel. Remember the handful of Kurdish converts.

PSALMS 113-118

Paul quotes Ps. 117 in Romans 15:11. Read the whole chapter and see how determined he was to win more and more peoples (not just individuals) to the Lord.
Many Japanese follow centuries-old traditions. Families might even have a Buddhist altar and a Shinto god-shelf in the same house. They pray to their ancestors believing that the dead can protect them. For the Japanese, the most important thing is to be like all other Japanese. Intense, shaming, peer pressure is a huge obstacle faced by those wanting to step out and follow Christ.

Pray that the name of Jesus would be known across Japan’s 6,000 islands. Ask for boldness and fruit in witness to peers and family members.

PSALMS 119

How different would your life be without God’s Word in your language? Some 2,000 languages don’t even have a verse of the Bible. Can you find a way to help this week?
The Burmese make up by far the largest part of the population but most are strongly anti-Christian. There are, however, some excellent, locally-led ministries, including Bible training, student outreach, community development projects, and rescue and relief for the masses displaced from their homes.

Thank God for every new believer. Pray for the powerful, living witness of a godly, resilient life to attract many Burmese to Christ; for greater mercy from government.

**PSALMS 120-127**

It would not have been easy for God’s people in exile to pray for those authorities holding them captive. What steps can you take to stay informed about Christians worldwide?
Ps.131 urges intentional contentment of the heart, not in circumstances but in the One who never changes in His love for us...and then commends that contentment in Him to others.

NEPAL

While more than 270 ethnic groups remain ‘unreached’, nevertheless there has been significant church growth in the last decade. With new believers witnessing widely, especially in the Kathmandu valley, this has become one of the fastest growing churches in the world. The law, however, now prohibits evangelism, threatening prison sentences for Nepalis and deportation for foreigners caught. With Hindu nationalism on the rise in neighbouring India, persecution by Hindu radicals is now also testing Nepalese churches.

Ask the Lord to grow the church through suffering. Pray for confidence in the gospel to save many. Remember those tribes with too few believers to form viable churches.

PSALMS 128-134

Ps.131 urges intentional contentment of the heart, not in circumstances but in the One who never changes in His love for us...and then commends that contentment in Him to others.
Living as a Christian in Pakistan has become increasingly difficult. Anti-blasphemy laws and Islamic oppression make it not only difficult to find good work but hugely dangerous to be a witness for Jesus. **Young Christian women face particular risk of rape and forced marriage to a Muslim.** Believers are a tiny minority among 200 million but there are courageous ministries helping the most downtrodden. **Many hundreds of ethnic groups have no church in their language.**

*Pray for courage for new believers facing their family’s rage at the ‘shame’ of leaving Islam. Pray too for faith-filled churches and leaders of godly character.*

**Psalms 135-137**

In 1 Tim. 2:1-4 Paul mixes a burden for the unsaved with a command to pray for authorities. Many governments violently oppose the gospel. Choose one and pray for them today.
Several completely unreached people groups across Sri Lanka (as well as India and Nepal) have been confronted with gospel-truth in recent years, including some you may never have heard of - the Barhamu, the Galle Gurung, the Rajput, the Thuana, for example. This means that there are now trained, baptised believers from these people groups meeting together. This is just the start and years of discipleship lie ahead but the nations are listening and responding. Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord! This is entirely His work. Pray for widespread conviction of sin in all these peoples and for many to repent and turn to Christ.

The Psalms deal with real life in the muck and dirt of the real world. ‘Listen, self: If God is for you, who can be against you?’ John Piper
Yemen is host to probably the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. Urgent steps to peace are needed between the major powers like Iran and Saudi Arabia fighting for control. Twenty million have no access to adequate health care, clean water or sanitation and are considered ‘one step away from famine’. Islamic opposition is violent from both the state and from family members toward any who come to Christ. And still the church grows!

Pray for Christian Yemeni Arabs to be keenly aware of God’s compassionate love; that they will stand firm in their faith; for availability of food, jobs, shelter and medicine.

Psalms 146-150

‘Jesus shall reign where’er the sun does his successive journeys run; His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall rise and set no more.’ Isaac Watts