

REFUGEE WEEK 2019

PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is for use in churches and prayer groups during Refugee Week 2019 (or at any other time). We suggest two areas of focus: refugees who remain on Manus Island and Nauru, and child refugees.

The tool is very simple to use. Invite someone to read the title and introduction for each prayer, followed by someone reading the prayers. You may also like to project the graphic on child refugees.

The prayer for those on Manus & Nauru does not seek to enter the debate that surrounds the ethics of detaining people offshore. This does not indicate that churches should not take a position on this – Australian Baptists have strongly opposed indefinite offshore detention – but that a prayer during refugee week is not the place to resolve the issue.

PRAYER FOR REFUGEES ON MANUS & NAURU

Since 2012 the Australian Government has sent asylum seekers who make their way to Australia by boat to detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island (PNG) and refuses them the possibility of ever settling in Australia. Today around 900 refugees remain on Manus or Nauru. The Australian Government has committed to finding other countries in which they might be resettled, but to date many still have nowhere to go. The absence of resettlement options has contributed to feelings of despair and hopelessness and high levels of self-harm.

Prayer

Loving God,

You hold the wounded, the broken & the despairing close to your heart.

We pray for refugees wounded, broken & despairing on Manus and Nauru.

As they grieve the people, places and possibilities lost to violence and persecution,

May they find you, the God who grieves with them,

weeps with them, and remembers with them.

As they despair of a future with new people, new places and new possibilities,

May they find you, the God who promises a future in which all wounds are healed

And all possibilities fulfilled.

And between this day of uncertainty, despair and mourning

And that day of resurrection hope, joy, and recreation,

May lands of hope, opportunity & a fresh start be found for them.

0-4 yrs



1.9m

5-11 yrs



2.8m

12-17 yrs



1.9m

CHILD REFUGEES

PRAYERS FOR CHILD REFUGEES

More than half the world's refugees are children. 1.9 million refugees are children under the age of 5. 2.8 million refugees are children aged 5-11. And 1.9 million refugees are children age 12-17. At least 180,000 children refugees have been separated from their parents or guardians and are at high risk of exploitation and abuse.

Loving God,
You hold children close to your heart.
We pray for those millions of children who are refugees,
These little ones for whom the difficult flight from violence and persecution
Is even more difficult, more uncertain, and more terrifying.
Grant them the comfort of their parent's arms,
Moments of play, wonder, and delight,
Experiences of friendship, loyalty and trust,
Opportunities to grow, learn and develop.

We pray for those tens of thousands of children,
Who are lurching into the dangerous unknown
Without parents or guardians.
Tear down those who would abuse & exploit them.
Build up those who would love and care for them.
And grant us, our leaders and the other members of the international community
Ears to hear their cries
Hearts that bleed for their pains
And the determination to empty ourselves
Creating places of welcome, safety and hope for all these little ones.