

4
NOVEMBER
8 DAYS

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God
Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

Gavin Calver is Director of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance, the Chair of Spring Harvest and a member of the HOPE leadership team.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MAKE PEACE

A frail elderly black woman sits in a South African courtroom. Close by is a white policeman who's been found guilty of murdering her son and husband. He'd come to her home and shot her son dead before returning to take her husband too. Eventually he came back for her. She was taken to where her husband lay on a pile of wood. The last words from him as petrol was poured over his body and he was set aflame were, 'Father forgive them...'

Now the woman's here listening to the man's confession. She's asked, 'What do you want? How should justice be done to this man who destroyed your family?'

'I want three things' she says. 'Firstly, to collect my husband's ashes and give them a decent burial.' She continues: 'Secondly, I now have no family so I want him to become my son. To come and visit me at home so I can pour out on him whatever love I still have remaining in me.' 'Finally,' she says, 'I'd ask someone to come to me and lead me across the courtroom so I can take him in my arms and let him know that he's truly forgiven.'

The man faints. Those in the courtroom, many victims of oppression and injustice begin singing, 'amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me'.



PRAYER

Lord please help us to be people of peace. Where we need to forgive give us strength to do so. Where we need to make things right, give us grace to make this possible. Help us to be peacemakers and give us all we need to do so. Amen

ACTION

Think of those in your community who seem unloved or who are marginalised. Every place has people on the outside. Do all you can to reach out to these people and make peace in your community with those who would otherwise be ostracised.

29
OCTOBER
14 DAYS

Nations will not go to war against one another. They won't even train to fight anymore. Everyone will have their own vine and fig tree. And no one will make them afraid.
Micah 4:3-4 (NIRV)

Elizabeth Clark is the National Rural Officer for the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church prior to this she spent 15 years in rural ministry.

PEACE AND LAND

In this vision of peace, tools of war are turned into the means to produce food. The hope is for settled communities where all may feed themselves and flourish. One of the first casualties of war can be the land itself as fields become battle grounds and the rhythm of agriculture is interrupted. Communities move to avoid conflict and food becomes scarce. We see that today as refuges flee worn torn countries. A vision like Micah's where communities are settled and can provide for themselves, is one we should all strive for. These words of Jesus, 'I was

hungry. And you gave me something to eat ... I was a stranger. And you invited me in' (Matthew 25:35) can challenge us afresh as we look at the world today.

PRAYER

Loving God, we pray for those who are uprooted by war and who seek refuge in another country, or a place that is strange to them. When they feel rootless and alien help them to find refuge in you. May we all value and care for our communities. In Jesus' name. Amen

30
OCTOBER
13 DAYS

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me...'
John 14:6 (NIV)

Laurence Singlehurst is a HOPE trustee. He is also director of Cell UK.

UNITED IN CHRIST

When I close my eyes and listen, in my imagination I can hear them marching: a whole generation of men going to war; my grandfather; your relatives. Marching out of duty: scared, brave ... all emotions. We remember what they did. Their hope for peace; love of family. In all conditions they marched: mud, sun, danger; many never to return. Their hope: peace, unity,

a better world. That's our hope, that through Jesus who said 'I am the way,' we could find a way of unity and peace by living in his way.

PRAYER

Father God, we join with Jesus as we pray that your people may be brought to complete unity so the world will know that you sent Jesus and you love them. Amen

31
OCTOBER
12 DAYS

For a child has been born—for us! ... He'll take over the running of the world ... His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (MSG)

Canon Yemi Adedeji is associate Director of HOPE and director of the One People Commission.

LIMITLESS

Jesus took on the limits of our humanity. God became flesh! A suffering servant, who experienced pain, exhaustion and grief just as we do. He was broken, so we can be made whole. His blood poured out, so we can be forgiven. He was there one hundred years ago in the agonies of the trenches, and he is with us today. God with us, the Prince of Peace. What a Saviour!

PRAYER

We praise you Father God for all you have done for us in Christ. May his Kingdom come. May his rule extend across our nation. May his peace reign. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

1
NOVEMBER
11 DAYS

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)

Michaela Youngson is President of the Methodist Conference..

NOT STRANGERS BUT CITIZENS

A short walk from the Syrian/Jordanian border, there is a farm on some of the most arid land imaginable. The Jordanian farmer who tends the land has struggled to produce sufficient crops to support his family. Methodist charity All We Can works in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation to support people fleeing the Syrian war, and has been able to fund water capture systems for the farmer. The ability to keep water has increased his yield and this has meant he has been able to employ four Syrian refugees as farm workers, supporting four other families as well as his own.

One of the ways of bringing peace into the world is to support refugees, not just in the short-term with emergency aid, but in long-term projects that are sustainable and respect the needs of host and guest alike.

PRAYER

Prince of Peace, to those who are frightened, bring reassurance; to those who are lost, bring hope; to those with no shelter, be a home and a resting place. Help us to welcome the stranger and to recognise Christ in each other, that peace will flow out into our broken world and that love will bring healing. Amen

2
NOVEMBER
10 DAYS

The Lord gives strengths to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.
Psalm 29:11 (NIV)

Jadesola Ayoola works for the Peace Alliance, a national crime reduction charity founded as a response to the rise in knife crime across London.

PEACE FOR DAYS TO COME

God can work peace through us only if he has worked peace in us. Those who are in the best circumstances but without God can never find peace, but those in the worst of circumstances, with God need never lack peace.

John MacArthur

PRAYER

Thank you Lord for strength for another day. May I continue to know your strength and peace in the days to come. Bless those who need it most with peace of mind. In the name of Christ Jesus, I pray.

3
NOVEMBER
9 DAYS

For through the living and eternal word of God you have been born again as the children of a parent who is immortal, not mortal.

1 Peter 1:22-25 (GNT)

Luke Walton is an actor and film producer, and also an ordained minister of the Church of England.

GLORY LIKE WILD FLOWERS

Before dawn, 100 years ago tomorrow, the commander of a Manchester Regiment was helping his brigade in bringing up duck boards from the Sambre & Oise canal. He was killed by machine gun fire, just one of endless such anniversaries, lives passing like wild flowers. Yet we have reason to remember this death for the commander was the poet Wilfred Owen. His death was only reported to his family as the Armistice Bells were ringing on 11 November, but his words live on: moving, brave, tragic, ever

urging us to seek peace. Peter urges his readers to remember of whom they are born and that while 'grass withers, and the flowers fall, the word of the Lord remains forever'.

PRAYER

Immortal Father have mercy on us. May your eternal word live in our hearts, and bring healing to the wounds of nations. May our lives be always in your everlasting care, and by our lives and words may we reflect your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen