

2
SEPTEMBER
71 DAYS

At one time you were far away from God. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. He spilled his blood for you. This has brought you near to God. Christ himself is our peace.
Ephesians 2:11-18 (NIV)

Brian Mills is a British-based, international prayer leader and author, and helps lead the international reconciliation movement.

CHRIST OUR PEACE

Around the world God is working through his children who, as advocates for peace, bring healing to those whose lives have been damaged by war. Some wounds are still raw and sensitive since the conflicts may be recent or continuing. In those cultures, without a Christian world-view, the call for revenge has to be replaced with a desire to forgive. The process begins with those who are willing to take a first step towards forgiveness.

One of my friends conducts 'Healing the wounds of ethnic conflict' workshops in war-torn areas. Another is writing reconciliation songs in culturally-sensitive ways and training young people from such areas to sing them. Another has had to be moved out of a war-torn zone for her own safety. Another is bringing aid to refugees and orphans in war-torn Iraq and seeking to disciple them. Some address the historical nature of continuing antagonism in order to dismantle ongoing prejudice and foster reconciliation. Others are seeking to follow God's leading in restorative justice, in dealing with past genocides, as in Rwanda.

As we pray today for the victims from the various wars, let us pray particularly for women and girls. They are the ones who face the trauma of losing their fathers, husbands, brothers, sons. They are the innocent victims. Their grief is seldom recognised, but God sees, knows, and empathises. Can they learn to forgive also?



PRAYER

Father, thank you that forgiveness is always available from you. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Please help all those who need to forgive their enemies to do so with grace and love, and to embrace all that is involved, with Christ's help. Amen

ACTION

Fill a shoe-box with children's goodies and take it to a refugee family who have fled a conflict zone. Listen to their story, and respond with love and understanding.

27
AUGUST
77 DAYS

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
John 10:10 (ESV)

Rev Dr Michael Jagessar is responsible for Global and Intercultural Ministries of the United Reformed Church.

LOVE IS STRONGER

'Pace on earth, good will to all people', were words located in the context of occupation. People were desperate for a 'saviour-liberator'. The 'good news' offer of full life for all does not mean that our walls and our updated defence capability will insulate us from the evils of war. The allure of war still inhabits the imagination of whole nations. The good news, though, is that love is strong enough to come in weakness, neutralising fears and offering openings towards greater understanding of each other. In offering love as antidote to the culture of death and hate, God gives rather than rob or steal. There lies our hope. This hope is grounded on God's faithfulness. It is based on the possibilities of God irrespective

of how things are. It thrives even in situations that can elicit utter hopelessness – for it is based upon God breaking into our midst to transform. Remember well!

PRAYER

Lover-of-justice-and-peace, shape our consciences and hearts according to your way of just, peaceful and loving lives. Move us beyond fear to speak with compassionate courage and to act with both conviction and humility. Give us ears, eyes, hearts and voices to discern, respond and embody hope through our actions, in private and in public. Bless us with wholeness, and through your Spirit continue to sustain us in the face of powerful forces bent on denying life.

28
AUGUST
76 DAYS

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.
Psalm 119:165 (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.

SOLID FOUNDATION

Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19) because it gives us the ability and stability as Christians to 'wish' for something (I wish that such-and-such would take place). It is that which latches on the certainty of the promise of the future, which God has made for you and me.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for another day of grace. I humbly ask that my hope in you remains the foundation of my faith, giving me the ability and capability to ask for anything through your Son Jesus Christ.

29
AUGUST
75 DAYS

Peace I leave with you... I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 (NIV)

Sophie Jelly is Canon Missioner at Durham Cathedral and Director of Mission, Discipleship & Ministry for the Diocese of Durham.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

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ometimes we need peace from another place: a really busy day, a tough set of circumstances or some unexpected news. Maybe this is true for you just now or perhaps for someone you know. The Bible tells us that God loves to give good gifts to his children as a kind and loving Father. We may not always recognise his gift when it comes but he wants us to know his peace. Peace is 'shalom' it means wholeness, life and wellbeing. Ask God to give you the gift of his peace, his shalom today in your home, work, friendships and

PRAYER

Loving God, grant me your peace this day: Speak peace over my home. Speak peace over my work. Speak peace over all I love and those who love me. Grant patience in times of waiting - that the world may know your gift of peace, through Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen

30
AUGUST
74 DAYS

Happy are those who find wisdom... Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:13-18 (NRSV)

Rev Dr Barbara Glasson is Deputy Chair of the Yorkshire West Methodist District and Team Leader at Touchstone, an interfaith project in Bradford.

REMEMBER THE ELEPHANT

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n my first trip to Asia we visited projects and schools, hospitals and churches. There was only one thing left to do: ride an elephant. Although situated in the heart of a vast city an elephant was located, we clambered on his back. Up there it was possible to look down on the traffic: here a motorbike with a family of five, mum side-saddle on the back carrying the baby; there a bicycle with a chest of drawers on the handlebars.

I could see that a police officer on the junction would soon sort all the hooting and commotion. Then I remembered, it was me that was sitting on the elephant!

PRAYER
Help me, Creator God to climb off the mighty elephant of my own opinions. Let humility transform the way I meet others, so that, through listening and learning the world will be changed from the inside out.

31
AUGUST
73 DAYS

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NRSV)

Frederick Obeng is ex-Army, a Methodist local preacher and Bible Society supply chain manager.

HOPE IN GRIEF

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he Thessalonian Christians believed in the speedy return of our Lord Jesus Christ. They appeared to believe that death was the end, and that only those who are alive when Jesus returns would go to heaven. Paul wrote to let them, and now us, know that there is coming a day when even the dead will rise again. Our loving God who moved in power to create the world and all that is in it, is the same one who will raise the bodies of the dead.

PRAYER

Our God of love and truth, we bring before you on this day those who have gone before us and those whose names we will continue to remember. Help us to lift our eyes above this world's troubles and let us find hope in you alone. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen

1
SEPTEMBER
72 DAYS

By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

Proverbs 24:3-4 (NIV)

David King is a director of Kingdom Voice Ltd, an ambassador for Gather and one of the leaders of Movement Day UK.

A CITY OF PEACE

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he fullness of peace is not just the cessation of violence and threat, but the fullness of God's kingdom and his presence. As we pray for the peace of God to be evident in our cities and the places we live, let us not limit the effects of his peace at work in and through us. Let us see its fullness as we look to him for the wisdom, understanding and knowledge to build our cities as he would have them built, where all are loved, cared for and honoured.

PRAYER
Father, may your peace be evident in our cities. We ask that in your peace we may know your wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Father, may we be made one in you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen