



ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK

SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2017

COMPASSION AND THE WORKING CHILD
PRAY FOR CHILDREN IN SLAVERY AND ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR.

PRAYER OUTLINE

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

*“to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.” Isaiah 61:3*

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER: God desires to hear the prayers of His people. Who will cry out to our Heavenly Father for the working child?

SCRIPTURE:

God has a special place in His heart for children. Jesus said: “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16).

PRAYER PERSPECTIVE:

1. God loves the working child far more than we do.
2. As we pray, the Holy Spirit will guide us and give us a greater understanding into the heart of God.
3. It is God’s joy to answer the prayers of His people when they pray for His will to be done. He wants us to tell Him what is on our hearts.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND AFFIRMATION

*Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless. Psalm 10:12*

REFRAIN: *Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.*

PRAY FOR UNDERSTANDING:

Pray for a greater understanding of the problem.

- 246 million children are working worldwide. Three-quarters of these children work in dangerous conditions. (UNICEF)
- 61% of the world's working children live in Asia. 32% are in Africa, 7% in Latin America, and 1% in the United States, Canada, Europe, and other wealthy nations.
- Africa has the highest rate of child labor: two children out of five (41%) are estimated to work out of all children 5-14 years old.
- More than half of working children toil for 9 hours or more per day.
- 22,000 children are killed every year in work-related accidents.
- 8.4 million children are trapped in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities.
- The number of children working in agriculture is nearly ten times that of children involved in factory work such as weaving rugs, or making clothes or soccer balls.
- More than 300,000 girls and boys under the age of 18 are fighting as soldiers with government armed forces and opposition groups, in more than 30 different countries.
- Children who labor may work as domestic servants, beggars, street vendors, agricultural workers, factory workers, manufacturers, soldiers, or prostitutes.

Pray for insight into the heart and compassion of God for children caught in the bondage of child labor.

REFRAIN: Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.

PRAY FOR CHILDREN CAUGHT IN THE WEB:

Pray for the children who have been **taken away** from their families.

- Kidnapped.
- Lured by being promised benefits that are never delivered such as good jobs, education, or food and shelter.
- Sold by parents or guardians into indentured service or other forms of bondage.

Pray for **protection** for children who are forced to do work that is a threat to their physical and emotional health.

- Fatigue from working long hours can cause accidents, negatively impact a child's education, and impair intellectual development.
- Working conditions may increase the risk of diseases and disability due to exposure to weather, toxic chemicals, parasites, and accidents from dangerous tools and motorized equipment.
- Child laborers are often forced to do work that is beyond a child's physical capacity, such as lifting and carrying heavy loads or handling dangerous tools and equipment.

Pray for the **release** of children in bonded labor who often are paid only a few pennies a day and are forced to work long hours.

- Paid only pennies—often less than an adult would make for doing the same work.
- Charged for mistakes, food, and housing.
- Taken advantage of because children are less aware of their rights, more compliant, and more willing to do monotonous work without complaining.
- Held in isolation away from family and friends.
- For some child workers—including those working in domestic service—verbal and sexual abuse and physical punishment are routine.

REFRAIN: Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.

PRAY FOR THE POOR:

Pray for the needs of families who cannot survive unless their children work.

- Both parents work but cannot earn enough for the family
- This forces the children to work
- Working children have no opportunity for education

Illustration: Sugandh, New Delhi, India

Sugandh means “fragrance,” and the Sugandh society offers the fragrance of hope to people living in the slums of New Delhi, India. Poverty is a pervasive issue in India’s inner cities. Often poor parents cannot afford to educate their children, and impoverished families may need their children to work to help support the family. But Sugandh has been able to make a difference. In the area where the Sugandh project works, parents often want their children to work instead of attending school. But as volunteers and staff from Sugandh counsel families, parents come to see the value of education and send their children to Sugandh for education and vocational training. Please pray that Sugandh’s work of counseling and raising awareness will continue and that parents will both hear and agree to Sugandh’s advice and offers of help.

REFRAIN: Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.

PRAY FOR PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE LAND:

Pray for peace in the lands where strife, conflict, and greed lead to wars and militants who steal children to fight their battles.

- Syria
- Congo
- Uganda
- Sudan

Pray for governments and their leaders to uphold the laws that protect children from exploitation.

- India (In October 2006 India banned domestic work and other forms of labor by children under age 14.)
- Philippines “This modern slavery is common ...under the rule of the elite.”

REFRAIN: Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.

PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE TO STAND IN THE GAP:

Pray for God’s people to stand up and speak on behalf of 246 million children who are denied the right to pursue God’s calling for them.

Pray for those who bring the Good News of Jesus to the oppressed children of the world caught in the web of child labor.

REFRAIN: Lord, in your mercy in hear our prayers.

*“When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3*

*Oakseed Ministries International is celebrating 25 years of faithful ministry and service.
Since 1992, Oakseed Ministries has been assisting indigenous ministries by serving abandoned children and the poor in the Developing World's largest cities, bringing the good news of Jesus through word and deed.*

www.oakseed.org (703) 876-9020 P.O. Box 1139, Wheaton, IL 60187