



Rights of Indigenous People

"The imperial era was largely based on the dispossession of most of the world's indigenous people... It cannot be considered over until the world accepts these peoples' rights."

Stephen Corry, Director of Survival International

There are approximately 370 million indigenous people spanning 70 countries, worldwide. Historically they have often been forced from their lands, or in the centre of conflict for access to valuable resources because of where they live. Over the years, many groups of people have been wiped out, either by diseases of colonising peoples, or through policies of extermination.

Today, indigenous people are still often amongst the most disadvantaged people in the world. Most live in rural areas in subsistence-based communities (i.e. farming or hunting for food for immediate use).

Thankfully, the international community now recognises that special measures are required to protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. However, the struggle is still not over and governments are often guilty of violating the rights of indigenous people.

In some parts of the world, such as India, Brazil, Thailand, and Malaysia, multinational companies have been accused of participating in 'biopiracy', whereby biological resources used by communities openly for generations (decades, centuries, or even millennia in some cases) have been patented away, leaving the local people unable to use their own local plants and other resources. For other indigenous people, logging, dam projects and other activities threaten ways of life, sometimes leading to conflict.

Issues ranging from economic globalisation to climate change also have an impact on the lives of indigenous people. For example climate change in the Arctic Circle is thought to have been a contributing factor in the breakdown of Inuit society. Suicide rates among Inuit youth are now among the highest in the world.

Pray for governments around the world to work together to protect the rights of indigenous communities and prevent exploitation by multinational corporations. Pray too that laws enacted to protect indigenous people will not become a barrier to them hearing the gospel.

Based on *Rights of Indigenous People*, an article by Anup Shah

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To God be the Glory

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:7-8

Recently, I've been reading about William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. Booth was a man committed to gospel action and service, often at great personal cost. Night after night he would return home, battered and bruised after preaching in the streets.

How could he take it? All he did was for God's glory, not his own. His every activity was infused, undergirded, preceded and followed up with prayer. Famously quoted as saying, "Work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended on your prayer," Booth's life bore the fruit of these words lived out.

This is a tremendous challenge to me. I know in my head that prayer is powerful, but my prayer life (or lack of it) gives a truer picture of what I believe. I'm convinced that when I struggle to pray it is largely because I've got the wrong motivation – I've strayed from the kind of prayer talked about by Jesus and the New Testament writers.

Prayer is about giving God glory (John 14, 15), expressing trust in his will (Matthew 6:10), repenting from sin (1 John 1:9) and building relationship with him (1 Peter 5:7). Of course, God

cares about our petitions – he wants us to ask for things persistently, according to his will (Philippians 4:6). But when my prayer life descends into a shopping list, I know I have a problem.

At these times, the question I need to ask myself is this: am I pursuing God's glorification or my own desires? When our own desires and petitions intersect with seeking God's glory and will, we are on the right road.

A good place to start is praying for things that we know are his will, because they are promised in his word:

- wisdom in decision-making (James 1:5)
- an understanding of Christ's love (Ephesians 3:18)
- the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- freedom from fear as I share the gospel (2 Timothy 1:7-8)
- and, the fulfilment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Like William Booth, we too have the power that raised Jesus from the dead at our disposal (Ephesians 1:19-20)! Are we making use of it?

Danielle Wilson
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Pray for Eastern Asia and Oceania



1. The Philippines

More reports of extremist activity are coming in from the Philippines. Police linked terror suspect Basit Usman to a series of bombings in Cotabato City and in Mindanao. Three churches have been reported to be targets and local police are working to secure those properties and surrounding areas. The recent bombings and threats are thought to be attempts at terror due to recent developments in the leadership of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Pray against continued attacks or an uprising, for the protection of Christians in the Philippines and for the Holy Spirit to flood the nation, bringing salvation. (AsiaLink)

2. Australia

In Arnhem Land, the spiritual awakening that started last year is continuing in most communities. At present, regular meetings are taking place in Lake Evella (Gapuwiyak), where young and old alike are giving their lives to Jesus and finding new hope. It is encouraging for the faithful believers to see a new generation touched in this way but there is also a need for good discipleship and teaching. Pray for the new believers as they grow and learn more about Christ and share God's word in their communities. (MAF UK)

3. Thailand

During September and October the worst floods for decades severely affected a number of East Asian countries including Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines. In Thailand, the deputy prime minister wept as he watched a four-kilometre-long flood wall fail allowing water to pour into a high-tech industrial estate, home to 143 factories. Despite good infrastructure, the huge volume of water overwhelmed dams, levies and flood gates as it swept southwards to the sea. Vast tracks of agricultural land were inundated with consequent loss of crops and

thousands of businesses and homes have been damaged. Pray for the clean-up process and for the involvement of churches and individual Christians as they minister in practical and spiritual ways to those around them. (OMF)

4. Japan

Please remember to pray for Japan! Six months after the earthquake and tsunami restoration and reconstruction is agonisingly slow. Excavators continue to clear wreckage along the Tohoku coastline. The psychological effects of the disaster might only now be coming to the surface. Counselling services are building up their presence in the region for fear of increased suicides and other mental health problems. Mission agencies have joined with local students and church members to feed and befriend those who continue to reside in temporary housing and to help with clearing of rubble. CRASH Japan has linked the efforts of agencies together to optimise the effectiveness of resources and personnel. The longer the suffering of survivors, the greater the need of help and love from those who have eternal hope in Christ Jesus. (YWAM)

5. Burma (Myanmar)

In Mandalay, the capital of Myanmar, a church gained permission to visit a large prison compound regularly. Last year they were able to show the Jesus film twice (once for male prisoners and once for females). Many prisoners are interested in the good news and in May/June 2010 twenty-two convicts were baptised. The church was permitted to organise a large Christmas event and this time relatives of the prisoners were also invited. The leader of this outreach says that this prison work is a miracle. It may be closed down any day but as long as it is allowed to continue, he and his church will build God's kingdom, even in prison. (OMF)

Pray for the Americas



27. Bolivia

A protest about the construction of a highway through the Bolivian rainforest erupted into violence in late September when police used tear gas and batons to clear indigenous demonstrators from their base near the town of Yucumo. President Morales claims the road is vital for development but the Amazonian residents fear it will encourage landless people to encroach on their territory. Morales promised to hold a referendum in affected states but hours later the police moved in. An interior minister has since resigned in protest about this harsh treatment and the president has pledged to suspend work on the highway. Pray for peace and for the Bolivian church to be a prophetic voice on behalf of the dispossessed and marginalised. (Tearfund)

28. Uruguay

Miguel and Marta Tamayo head up the work in the Anglican Cathedral in Montevideo and, through the churches there, they run many outreach projects across the city. One of these is a Christian youth hostel safe house where young people without a place to live can stay, as long as they attend school and abide by the rules of the home. They also run feeding and wellbeing programmes for young children of disadvantaged families and have recently started a programme which enables women to get cleaning jobs with the state to help them to support their families. Please pray for these initiatives, that the people who these ministries touch will experience God's love and will want to learn more about Him. (CMS)

29. Colombia

More than 62,000 people have disappeared since the beginning of the Colombia's decades-long civil war between left-wing guerrilla groups and right-wing paramilitary forces. The war peaked in the 1980s, but at the end of 2010 at

least 3.6 million people remained uprooted from their homes and Colombia's Ombudsman says numbers of missing people have risen by 30 percent during the last 12 months. Pray that Colombia's government will offer more support to affected families and cut through the bureaucracy that currently prevents them from grieving. Pray too that God will strengthen and mobilise the Colombian church to help bring a just and lasting peace. (Tearfund)

30. Guatemala

An alarming 600,000 children in Guatemala are without any legal identity. Although registration itself is free of charge, many families still have to pay to travel long distances to registration centres. For poor rural families this is, unsurprisingly, low on the list of priorities. Not only does having no legal identity mean that children struggle to get access to education or healthcare, it also puts them at increased risk of being targeted for child prostitution, forced labour and involvement in drug cartels. Pray for the churches and childcare projects that are seeking to serve the country's 'invisible' children in this way. Pray too that those responsible for the registration process would seek to make it as easy as possible. (Viva)

31. Chile

In September thousands of people in Chile heard the gospel during the country's bicentennial celebrations. More than 2,100 young Christians from 21 cities across Chile donned yellow shirts 'to represent the light of Christ' and went out on the streets to proclaim the love of Jesus. "It was an enormous blessing to see the new generation taking seriously the call of Jesus," said Christobal Cera, the pastor who organised the outreach. Pray for Cristobal as he works to plant a church for students in Santiago, where the student population is 230,000. (CMS)

Pray for Sub-Saharan Africa



11. Lesotho

Pray for the landlocked nation of Lesotho where as much as 23 percent of the population is infected with the HIV virus and 100,000 AIDS orphans live in mountain villages with little or no access to medical services. Households caring for orphans and chronically ill family members frequently have nothing to eat. While HIV/AIDS continues to be an alarming threat to Lesotho and its people, land degradation, capacity depletion, and economic decline hinder the assistance efforts of humanitarian, development, and mission organisations. (MAF UK)

12. Mozambique

Pemba lies on the shore of the Indian Ocean in the northeast part of Mozambique. When Christianity first came to the people of Pemba, money and other materials were used as incentives in order to win converts from Islam. Unfortunately this has remained the expectation of the people, even today. Pray for the church in Pemba which is struggling to make an impact in this difficult environment. (Echoes)

13. Guinea

In September at least three people were killed, several dozen injured and more than 300 arrested after anti-government protesters clashed with police in the capital, Conkary. Demonstrators threw rocks, burned tyres, and barricaded roads and security forces responded by wielding truncheons and firing tear gas grenades. The violence followed the largest demonstration since last November's historic election, which saw the military hand power to civilians for the first time in over 25 years. Pray for peace in the run-up to December's parliamentary elections and for much needed reconciliation. (BMS World Mission)

14. Uganda

Hundreds of orphaned children roam the streets of Uganda's capital. Most have drifted in from rural areas - mainly northern Uganda, a region blighted by decades of civil war. Some are former child soldiers and the rest come from nearby slum areas following family breakdown - through HIV/AIDS, poverty or domestic violence. "It's hard to believe that there is a God when you are eating from the garbage," says Caleb Rukundo. Caleb, once a street child himself, now runs Amahoro (an East African word for peace) which provides centres of refuge for almost 100 destitute children and young people in Kampala. The aim is to offer the children loving communities with a sense of home, where they can learn life skills and values from peer mentors and church volunteers. Pray for all those involved in Amahoro: for God's guidance in reaching and nurturing children who have suffered such damage in their formative years. (Tearfund)

15. Zimbabwe

Imagine being a child growing up in Zimbabwe today. If you go to school, then you are among the privileged 20 percent who have this opportunity. If you suffer from any kind of mental or physical disability, there is a very high chance that you will never have access to an education. There is also a one in six chance that you will have lost your parents to AIDS, meaning it is probably difficult for you to get access to medical care, regular nutritious meals and maybe even a safe place to sleep. Thankfully, we believe in a God who can change the lives of Zimbabwe's children! Pray particularly for the ministry of 'bridging schools' that are working to provide education and learning resources to children of all ages and backgrounds, particularly those who have been out of school for a while and need extra help to catch up. (Viva)

Pray for Northern Africa and the Middle East



16. Syria

In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad is continuing his crackdown on dissent. Insisting he will not relent in his pursuit of 'terrorist groups', Assad has unleashed his security forces on towns and villages. The danger for those on the receiving end is that Assad will respond to events in Libya with an even harsher clampdown. Please remember persecuted groups in Syria for whom democracy is still a distant dream. (Tearfund)

17. Iran

Iranian women, renowned for their strength of character, are active in nearly every area of Iranian life. However, while strict dress regulations irritate some women, their legal status is offensive. For example, a woman's testimony in court is worth half that of a man's and there is a significant disparity between the legal rights of the two parties in a marriage. This injustice, coupled with a low view of the value of women, often leads to intense abuse within society. This partly explains the special interest women have for Jesus Christ, who shows them such radical respect. Around 60 percent of new believers in Iran are women. Pray for the legal position of women to be improved and for the dignity that Christianity gives women to be seen in the nation. (Elam)

18. Egypt

In Egypt mission organisations are now finally able to carry out their work in peace after the turmoil of President Mubarak's overthrow earlier this year. However, outbreaks of sectarian violence - fuelled by rumour and counter-rumour - have heightened tensions in Minya province. Please pray that God will comfort those who have lost loved ones and that further loss of life will be avoided. Pray too for Egypt's new government and community leaders as they deal with a series of sectarian clashes. Ask

that perpetrators will be brought to justice and that innocent parties won't be tempted to launch revenge attacks. (Tearfund)

19. Tunisia

Islam is experiencing a revival among Tunisians. "People are becoming aware of their identity and mosques are full," says the leader of one NGO. "Before the revolution this was not the case." The growing influence of radical Islam is also being felt by Tunisian converts. A church leader from Tunis comments: "A lot of young believers are facing much more pressure from their family. Before, family members would not dare to do anything, but now they feel much freer to threaten their family members, when they want to leave Islam." Pray for God to build his church in Tunisia and for courage and strength for Tunisian believers. (Open Doors)

20. Libya

At the time of writing pockets of resistance loyal to Colonel Gaddafi remain. However, as Libya prepares to embark on a new era, the main challenge is for the disparate rebel forces to quickly unite and fill the power vacuum. Pray for wisdom, that a strong transitional government may quickly emerge from the mix of factions that opposed Gaddafi and Libya can be rebuilt on new and better foundations. (Tearfund)

Pray for Southern and Central Asia



21. The Kolai

Nestled between five of the world's highest mountain peaks, in the north of Pakistan, live the Kolai people. The vast majority of the Kolai are Sunni Muslim and some also practice Shamanism. Shamanists believe there is an unseen world of gods, demons, fairies, and ancestral spirits, and thus they depend on shamans to cure the sick, communicate with the gods, and influence events in the human realm. Pray that God will raise up teams of believers to go to the Kolai people and share the love of Christ with them. Ask too for the hearts of the Kolai to be open to the Gospel. (Frontiers)

22. Pakistan

Pakistani converts to Christianity are often rejected by their families, friends and work colleagues as 'apostates' or even forced to go into hiding in fear of their lives. One young woman, who married a Christian and converted from Islam despite threats from her family, was attacked by an intruder in her home. She believes that the man, who poured kerosene on her stomach, had been sent by her family. Another convert, who was tied up and beaten by members of his own family, says his family will kill him if they find out where he is living. Please pray for safety, peace, wisdom and strength for these Christians. (Release International)

23. Afghanistan

Pamir Productions is producing a programme for SAT-7 in Dari, for viewers in Iran and Afghanistan. The programme is called *Secrets of Life*. Each week a short clip from the Dari version of the Jesus film is shown and the presenters then talk about Jesus and how His life, teaching and miracles relate to the Afghan people. Pray that many Dari speakers will watch the programme and gain a true understanding of who Jesus is. (SAT-7)

24. Bangladesh

According to a study by *The Lancet* in 2010, up to 77 million Bangladeshis have been exposed to toxic levels in drinking water in recent decades. The arsenic occurs naturally - deposited over thousands of years in the Greater Ganges delta. The World Health Organization termed this as 'the largest mass poisoning of a population in history'. Koinonia is an organisation helping 20,000 people in three districts of southern Bangladesh by monitoring arsenic levels, providing clean water supplies, and providing medical and nutritional support for arsenicosis patients. Pray for their work. (Teafund)

25. Nepal

Nepal's divided government is struggling to write the country's first constitution. Meanwhile, strikes and disruption continue to make everyday life difficult. In this setting it is easy to forget that Nepal's government today is more representative of the religious, political, gender and ethnic groups than ever before. Pray for an agreement to be reached so that Nepal can have a constitution and that laws limiting legitimate religious activity won't be passed. (BMS World Mission)

26. India

Following a severe drought earlier this year, in September an extended bout of torrential monsoon rain killed at least 81 people in India's eastern Orissa state. Officials say that flooding of the Brahmani, Baitarani and Budhabalanga rivers has affected 2.3 million people in more than 3,500 villages across ten districts. Some 46,000 houses have been destroyed and 223,000 hectares of crops inundated. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes, livelihoods and livestock: ask that their immediate survival needs will be met. (Tearfund)

Pray for Europe



6. Russia (1)

Drugs flooded Russia after the Iron Curtain fell. At the same time, organised activities for young people disappeared and social spending was slashed. Russia is still battling the ensuing drugs epidemic. Each year some 30,000 people die from narcotics abuse and more than 2 million Russians are registered addicts. The free Salvation programme balances the needs of body, soul and spirit: through sport, farming and other manual work, Bible study, counselling and skills training. After completing a first stage of recovery at the centre, participants are linked with a local church where they learn to serve others. Pray for those currently undergoing rehabilitation at the centre, that their addictions may be overcome, so they can enjoy His peace and comfort. Pray too for Russia's young people: ask for preventative measures to deter them from entering the self-destructive world of drugs. (Tearfund)

7. Albania

In 1967 Albania's Communist dictator, Enver Hoxha, proclaimed his country to be the world's first truly atheistic state. Under Hoxha's rule, Captain Berti Dosti served on an elite communications team monitoring Albania's borders for American incursions. However, this diligent soldier left his country unguarded for 15 minutes a week as he regularly tuned into Trans World Radio's broadcasts, ultimately becoming a believer. Had he been discovered he would probably have been shot, yet this young man with a growing faith continued to listen and today Berti Dosti is working with European Christian Mission to help rebuild Albania's damaged society. (ECM)

8. Russia (2)

Almost 1 percent of Russia's population of 142 million people is in jail. Approximately 350,000 prisoners are released every year - many of

them have tuberculosis, hepatitis and HIV. Light of Life has a small team in the Perm region of Russia, where 46 prisons house 32,000 people. As well as providing education classes, so far they have trained 1,500 inmates to offer health advice in Russian prisons. Pray for these trained prisoners, many of whom have experienced the healing of Christ from their addictions, and for good relationships with prison authorities. (Tearfund)

9. United Kingdom

Hemmed in by heavy doors and tight security, people who had lost hope are beginning to find freedom in the Bible. The readers are asylum seekers in a UK detention centre, in limbo. Their dreams of starting a new life in Britain are likely to end in deportation but they have recently been given copies of The Highlighted Freedom Bible. This edition of the Bible picks out 3,500 verses on freedom in simple language - perfect for those for whom English is not their mother tongue. There is a real thirst for the Scriptures amongst these asylum seekers and many have already been touched through reading God's word during their time in the detention centre. Pray for more opportunities to share God's message of freedom with asylum seekers in the UK. (Bible Society)

10. Moldova

Approximately 30 percent of children in Moldova live without one or both parents and this number is steadily rising as more and more leave the country in search of employment. Furthermore, alcoholism is a major problem amongst those who remain. Several churches who have risen to the challenge of caring for vulnerable children now run clubs, providing a safe environment and plate of food to offer children a temporary respite. Give thanks for these opportunities to show God's love to young people. Pray for their safety. (Eurovangelism)