



'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' *Isaiah 9:2*

<p>Mon 2</p>	<p>Praise and Thanksgiving Monday. Give thanks for the classroom furniture and learning equipment that has now been delivered to Ark Quest in Kenya. Special thanks to the amazing team in Northern Ireland – headed by Andrew McCormick – who pedalled around Lough Neagh to raise money for the completion of this project.</p>
<p>Tue 3</p>	<p>Today is Giving Tuesday, and the start of our annual Big Give Christmas Challenge. This year we need to raise at least £34,000 for the story-telling therapy at our Joy Centre and kindergarten supporting Ukrainian refugee children now resident in Romania. Thank God for the match funding which doubles the value of every donation up to this amount, and for the fun of using our online platforms in a creative way. Find out more and get involved at ineeds.org.uk</p>
<p>Wed 4</p>	<p>It's the final IN Network Call to Prayer of 2024 today, with team members from the International Needs global office leading on the theme 'Pressing On with Joy'. Wherever we are, whatever we are doing, let's make sure that we share the joy of our relationship with Jesus, especially at this time of year where we are preparing to celebrate Christmas. Pray especially for IN staff in countries where openly sharing the gospel is illegal or met with hostility or indifference.</p>
<p>Thu 5</p>	<p>From 7:30 this evening, we are holding a special online IN Christmas Gathering, including updates from around the IN world and particularly from our Ukrainian refugee ministry in Romania. Pray that this would be an enjoyable and fruitful time together as an International Needs family, recognising God's generous provenance over the year and highlighting some of the great work being done. We'd love you to join in – it's not too late to register at ineeds.org.uk</p>
<p>Fri 6</p>	<p>Our team in Egypt asks for prayer for the country's economy and political situation, and for the knock-on effect of the conflicts in neighbouring countries. Pray for refugees, especially from Sudan, Gaza and IN's support of them. Give thanks for 22 leaders currently undergoing training, and for their service when they take up positions in different villages in due course.</p>
<p>Weekend 7-8</p>	<p>16 days of activism against gender-based violence in Ghana are coming to an end, spearheaded by the International Needs team in Accra. Stand in solidarity with 14-year-old Akosua, a victim of sexual abuse, whose carer is struggling to get justice more than a year after the attack. With our colleagues in Ghana, we seek God's perfect plan for a world where women and girls are free from violence and discrimination because of their gender. Pray too for a peaceful election this weekend, as the country heads to the polls to elect its next President.</p>
<p>Mon 9</p>	<p>Praise and Thanksgiving Monday. Praise God that the site of the Leadership and Talent Centre near Nairobi, Kenya, is now fenced, has a water supply installed and now hosts a finished site house – in which members of the team will live and work from as the installation of the main facilities begins in 2025. Thank God for Pastor Joshua's vision for this plot, and his compassion for the young people whose life trajectory would be very different were it not for his support.</p>
<p>Tue 10</p>	<p>The Big Give Christmas Challenge culminates at midday today – take a look at ineeds.org.uk for the current total, against a target of £34,000. Give thanks for every donor who has given in the last week, and pray that we would continue to receive financial support for our Joy Centre and kindergarten serving Ukrainian refugee children, covering its operation well into 2025.</p>
<p>Wed 11</p>	<p>Offer God thanks for a successful antimalarial campaign by the clinicians at IN's healthcare centre in Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso. Many mosquito nets have been distributed among the displaced community, with testing and treatment for malaria and dengue being conducted.</p>

<p>Thu 12</p>	<p>As we decorate our homes and wrap presents to exchange, pray for families in conflict-hit areas such as Burkina Faso, DRC, Gaza and other parts of the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. Pray that even where circumstances are incredibly difficult, the true Christmas message will prevail. Pray that we would have faith in the familiar words of Isaiah 9:6: 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Lord Jesus, bring peace miraculously into these places as you do into our own hearts, we pray.</p>
<p>Fri 13</p>	<p>Several villages in northern Sri Lanka have been affected by very severe flooding, including Nochikulam (which IN UK supporters might recall from our WASH programme/peanut enterprise). Due to the weather conditions, most daily wage earners are currently unable to work, resulting in a loss of income. While the government is providing meals, they are only making these available to those in government shelters, leaving many families without access to basic food. IN Sri Lanka has launched an urgent emergency appeal to raise US\$3,500 in order to supply dry ration packs to 100 families, to support them through this challenging period.</p>
<p>Weekend 14-15</p>	<p>On the day of the <i>Strictly Come Dancing</i> final, give thanks for the renewed awareness of disability inclusion that this series has championed through the participation of blind comedian Chris McCausland. Pray for IN's disability inclusion programmes in Uganda as proposals are developed to reach new areas of the country in 2025. Praise God that we are all made in his image, and all have value and worth. Pray particularly for next year's inclusive sports festivals, that these would be joyful occasions that show how children can interact with other children no matter what their ability or disability.</p>
<p>Mon 16</p>	<p>Praise and Thanksgiving Monday. Thank God for the generous response to the Winter edition of <i>invision</i>, and particularly its invitation to support the Joy Centre and kindergarten initiatives in Sighisoara, Romania. Praise the Lord for all who have been moved to give to this ministry.</p>
<p>Tue 17</p>	<p>Pray for Zambia, currently suffering from drought conditions in many areas. Doreen from IN Zambia asks: 'Please pray for our country to receive good rains. Last year's drought has really impacted our lives negatively because of escalating prices of food and no power supply.'</p>
<p>Wed 18</p>	<p>Please bring before God families supported by the ACTS Himalayas team in Dehradun, India. Because of the inclement weather, many of the children and their parents are sick. Please pray for healing. Pray, too, for the half-yearly exams that many young people are undertaking.</p>
<p>Thu 19</p>	<p>Our friends in Bobo-Dioulasso ask: 'Pray firstly for the staff of IN Burkina Faso, so that God himself guides, assists and gives us intelligence for the progress of all the activities that we undertake. Secondly, pray also for our sponsored and displaced children for the success of their studies, and pray for their parents so that God would strengthen them more to overcome the difficulties of life. Finally, pray for our country so that peace and stability can reign.'</p>
<p>Fri 20</p>	<p>As many of the IN UK staff finish work today for Christmas, please pray for rest and recharging for the whole team. Pray also for our frontline practitioners who will be working throughout the Christmas period – ask that they would be able to achieve a good balance between work commitments, family time and adequate opportunities to spend worshipping God.</p>
<p>Weekend 21-22</p>	<p>Whether or not it's Number 1 this weekend, pray that the controversy surrounding the 40th (!) anniversary remake of BandAid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' would spark wise conversation about international aid, charity and development. Ethiopia's prime minister Abiy Ahmed has said while the 80s original was 'well-meaning at the time', it was 'frustrating to see the nation's ancient history, culture, diversity and beauty reduced to doom and gloom'. Meanwhile, singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has objected to his vocals being reused for the new track because 'the narrative has changed'. He has endorsed British-Ghanaian rapper Fuse ODG, who argues the song perpetuates 'damaging stereotypes' that Africa is 'plagued by famine and poverty', which can only be remedied by Western assistance. In all of this, pray for IN's model of empowering local communities, building up/equipping local leadership to help address self-identified needs.</p>

<p>Mon 23</p>	<p>Praise and Thanksgiving Monday. Give thanks for our loyal army of child sponsors, who have ensured that Christmas is not 'lost' on the most vulnerable children who we support together. Give thanks for every Christmas gift that will be given in Jesus' name, to boys, girls and families, as a reminder of the best gift that could ever be given – Jesus himself.</p>
<p>Christmas Eve 24</p>	<p>Pray for special Christmas events taking place in projects around the IN world throughout this week, each intended to celebrate the birth of Jesus and share the Good News with children and families who may never have heard it before. Pray for the creative approaches used – that each conversation, game, song, reading and activity would be a blessing imbued with rich meaning.</p>
<p>Christmas Day 25</p> 	<p>Praise God that it wasn't to the rich and famous that Jesus was initially revealed. Reflect on these well-known words – 'The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests"' (Luke 2:10-14 NIV). Give thanks for Jesus' humble arrival.</p>
<p>Boxing Day 26</p> 	<p>In Victorian Britain, 26 December was the day on which wealthy individuals would 'box up' items they no longer needed to give to members of the community in greater need. As we look at the gulf between rich and poor in the UK and around the world, perhaps there is a growing need for such philanthropy to return. Amid the rightful celebrations, ask that God would put on our heart the needs of those for whom daily living is more of a struggle. Pray too for IN's Unwanted Christmas Present campaign, where the crestfallen recipients of questionable ties and ill-fitting socks can sell them on eBay to raise money for International Needs projects around the world!</p>
<p>Fri 27</p>	<p>Today is the UN Day of Epidemic Preparedness. As we give thanks to God for helping us through recent epidemics and pandemics, we pray for doctors, biologists, researchers and pharmaceutical scientists in their work. Pray for effective vaccine development and affordable treatments to be made available, particularly in those parts of the world most susceptible to outbreaks and spreading of disease.</p>
<p>Weekend 28-29</p>	<p>Take time amid the busyness of this Christmastime to be quiet before God – just you and him. Breathe calmly. Listen carefully. What is he saying to you in this moment – for this day, this month, this season? Why not write it down neatly, decorate it, and give those precious words to yourself as an extra-special present? If you feel God is saying something about International Needs, we'd be thrilled if you would share this with us. Email us at inuk@ineeds.org.uk.</p>
<p>Mon 30</p>	<p>Pray for a gathering of leaders from IN's main supporting countries (Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, New Zealand, UK, USA) meeting to discuss strategy and common interests. The meetings take place in East Anglia next month. Ask that the Holy Spirit would guide all their conversations and help the group unite in decision making.</p>
<p>New Year's Eve 31</p>	<p>As 2024 gives way to 2025, dwell on these verses from Psalm 65 (1-2,5,11) : 'Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come ... You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas ... You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.' Thank you, Lord, for your provision and promises honoured. Amen.</p>
<p>New Year's Day 1</p>	<p>Happy New Year! At the start of this new year, pray for all the children, families, communities and service users that rely upon the support of International Needs and our partners around the world. Pray for all our programmes and projects, from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to Health, from Education to Livelihoods and for our important work in Church Support and building up leadership capacity in the areas in which we work. Pray for our national leadership teams, as they seek to make prudent decisions; for our trustees and boards that scrutinise difficult choices.</p>



Young Ukrainian refugee dressing the Christmas tree at IN's Joy Centre in Sighisoara, Romania

Thank you for supporting International Needs in prayer –
we are grateful for your partnership.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

*name changed for privacy/security



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