

BRIGHT HOPE 2022 PRAYER GUIDE

The needs and challenges of the extreme poor are severe—some even feel daunting or impossible. But nothing is impossible for God, so please join us in praying for the poor. We designed this prayer guide to help you pray for some of the top needs of those living in extreme poverty. May it inspire you to pray boldly and faithfully, never underestimating the power of God's answer to your prayers!

1. PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

A report by Worldbank states, "the pandemic led to 97 million more people being in poverty in 2020." In fact, "in the poorest countries of the world, the impact of COVID-19 on poverty is not only still present, but it is worsening."¹

- The pandemic led to massive job loss. Pray for sustainable jobs for those who need work.
- In some of the poorest countries, schools were closed for almost two years! Pray for these students to return to school and resume their education.
- Many lives have been lost to COVID. Pray for the COVID widows and orphans left without a husband, father, and provider. In Bolivia alone, 500 pastors (that we know of) lost their lives to the virus, leaving their grieving families with no income and a burdensome debt of medical bills. This tragedy also left 500+ churches without a pastor.
- As new virus variants emerge, new waves sweep through the nations, causing more lockdowns and economic devastation for those already downtrodden and alone. Pray the virus will end and that God will protect the poor from further outbreaks.



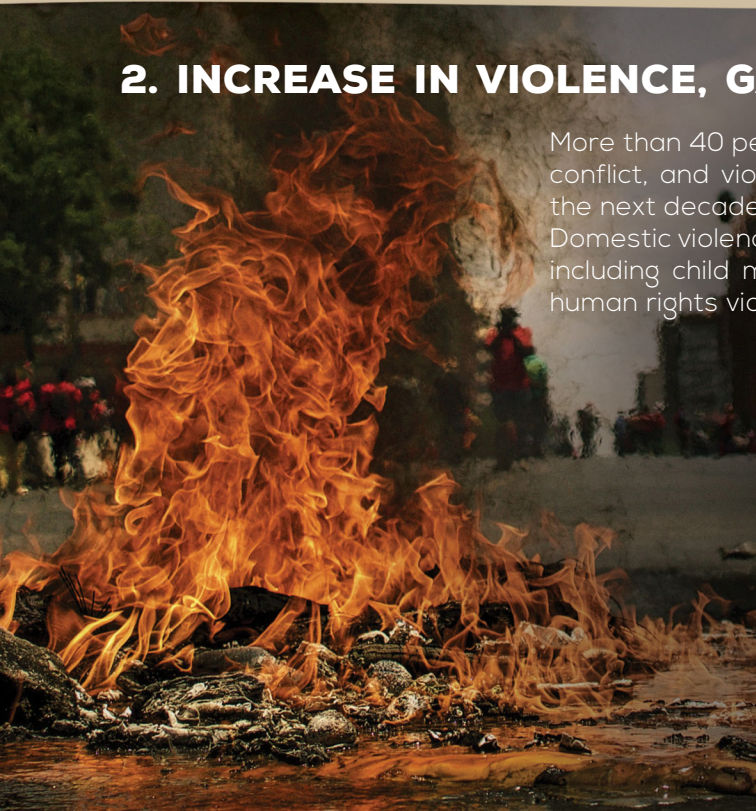
2. INCREASE IN VIOLENCE, GANG ACTIVITY, & POLITICAL UNREST

More than 40 percent of the global poor live in economies affected by fragility, conflict, and violence, and that number is expected to rise to 67 percent in the next decade.² Kidnappings, murder, armed robbery, and worse occur daily. Domestic violence, child abuse, reports of violence against women and children, including child marriages, teen pregnancy, physical abuse, and other violent human rights violations, rose steadily during the confinement of the pandemic.

- Pray for peace where there is violence and unrest. Pray for revival across the nations.
- Pray for wise, God-fearing leaders to take office. And for gangs, tyrants, and other abusers to be silenced and stopped.
- Pray for protection from crime, violence, terror, and other forms of social and domestic threats occurring in cities, communities, and homes.

1. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updated-estimates-impact-covid-19-global-poverty-turning-corner-pandemic-2021>

2. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview#1>



3. URGENT IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Nearly 800 million people lack access to clean, safe water or enough food. Every 5 seconds, a child under 15 dies—most often from a preventable cause.³

- Pray for the provision of nutritious, sustainable food sources.
- Pray for affordable, clean water solutions that prevent waterborne illnesses.
- Pray for access to affordable, quality medical care and more education about hygiene, sanitation, and other preventable health issues.
- Pray for those who have been affected by tragedy and natural disasters. Pray especially for those who have lost everything—the refugee, the orphan, the widow, and the homeless.



4. SUSTAINABILITY

An estimated 79% of those who live in poverty reside in rural areas. For many, crops and animals are the primary source of food and income. But devastating droughts and floods, and the absence of seeds and training, hinder success and keep the underprivileged in a vicious cycle of poverty.

- Pray for Bright Hope's sustainability programs to bring lasting change to the extreme poor.
- Pray for the workers. Ask the Lord to prosper the work of their hands and multiply the harvests.
- Pray for long-term solutions to issues like flooding, drought, poor soil, limited water access, and lack of training and resources.



5. SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Often, the extreme poor don't have a Bible or another way to study God's Word. And for those who attend church, many are pastored by men with little to no Bible training or access to spiritual resources.

- Pray that everyone, poor or rich, has access to God's Word and hears the Good News of the Gospel.
- Pray that God would soften hearts to the Gospel and transform many lives.
- Pray that churches would be strong and grow in breadth and depth as many come to faith in Christ and are discipled.

3. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-under-15-dies-every-five-seconds-around-world-un-report>



6. BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

According to the World Bank, roughly 680 million people live in extreme poverty (living on less than \$1.90 a day). In addition, millions are stuck in a cycle of generational poverty passed down from parents to children. It's a destructive cycle of hopelessness, desperation, and need.

- Pray for those stuck in the cycle of poverty to find physical and spiritual Hope and strength to persevere.
- Pray for access to resources and opportunities that will help them break free from the grip of poverty.
- Pray for those considered the poorest of the poor—women, infants, and the elderly. Pray for their health, for daily provision, and a better life on earth.



7. REAL-TIME NEEDS

Each month Bright Hope updates our online prayer wall with prayer requests from our partners in some of the poorest communities across the globe. Pray for actual people, programs, and communities where God is at work transforming the lives of the poor. Get updated on the most current prayer needs by visiting www.Brighthope.org/prayer-wall. Here are a few recent requests from the prayer wall:

From Kenya - Please pray for the child of Elizabeth L., a farmer at the Natoot farm. Her daughter Jecintah has been complaining of chest pains and headaches. May God Almighty restore her normal health so she can return to school.

From Bolivia - Pray for the health of the Riberalta rural community against influenza or the flu. It has hit us hard for about three weeks.

From Zambia - Pray for the Bright Hope staff in Zambia. Peter T., Mark, and Peter K. have all gone through a tough month of illness, which has impacted the work. Peter T. and Mark are back on track, but please keep Peter K. in your prayers. He was diagnosed with an enlarged heart due to high blood pressure. We took him to Lusaka for treatment – pray that he responds positively to the medications.

From Uganda - Please pray for our farmers in Oyam. An outbreak of swine fever has already claimed some of their pigs. The wave has hit the country for some time, and although other areas have recovered, it persists in Oyam.

From Haiti - Please pray that Haiti receives security, peace, and relief from the worsening economic crisis. In addition to the kidnapping problems and inflated cost of living in Haiti, a new earthquake this week hit Nippes and Ouest. The quake caused two deaths, several injuries, and material damage. Pray for those who are currently going through difficult times in these regions.

Thank you for praying for the extreme poor!

Interested in other ways you can pray for the poor?

Please join our prayer team and receive new prayer requests and praise reports by text or email each month.

JOIN AT [HTTPS://WWW.BRIGHTHOPE.ORG/PRAYER-TEAM-SIGNUP/](https://www.brighthope.org/prayer-team-signup/)

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