# DPERATION: PEACE FOR

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"Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31v9

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#### **FACTS ABOUT** NIGERIA:

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country.

It is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups.

Population: 214,028,302 (July 2020 est.)

41.7% of population are children.

Official Language -English (over 500 additional indigenous languages)

> Over 62% of the population live in extreme poverty.

(From the CIA World Factbook)

### PRAYING **TOGETHER FOR:**

The children in Nigeria to love Jesus

**Bibles and teachers for** the children

Safety and strength for persecuted Christians

The government to care for the people

> Food and clothing for the poor children

Orphaned and kidnapped children

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3v16

> "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1v37



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**WELCLIKE** to Prayer Pioneers! Operation Peace for Nigeria is our first mission. We are grateful you are one of the original Pioneers and trust that the Lord will meet with us and answer our prayers! Jesus made a way for us to come to God anytime and anywhere. We can pray for people near to us or thousands of miles away. The Lord Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18v20) As we pray together, let us draw near to God through Jesus, learn more about Him and help other young people in Nigeria and around the world!

This Prayer Pioneers journal is full of special Bible verses to show us the goodness of God and how He loves for us to pray. It also has facts about Nigeria to help us know what to pray about. At the end, there are pages to write your prayer requests and praises too!

God willing, we plan to put updates on our website each week to share more about what is happening. If you have any questions, ask your parents to get in touch: <u>www.prayerpioneers.org</u>.

PS - If you are a Prayer Pioneer from the US ■ or Canada, ▶ you might notice we use British ₩ spelling etc., just like Nigerians!

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25v40 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" Revelation 5v9

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



Notes/Sketches/News:





"Open thy mouth, judge righteously plead the cause of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31v9

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"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13vs20-21

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9v6). In Jesus, we can have peace with God. But in this world, there is suffering and trouble and death. Why? Because we have all chosen to sin. Just like Romans 3 says, we go away from God to paths of destruction and misery. We do not know the way of peace. But Jesus is also the Good Shepherd. He wants to bring us back to God and give us to peace with God.

The way we are going, sinning and turning away from God, leads to judgment. Romans 3v23 says that all we earn for our sin is death. But Jesus the Good Shepherd came and gave His life in our place. He took our sins in His own body and suffered our death on the cross of Calvary. Jesus defeated all the things in our hearts and in this world that are against us: our sin, death, hell, the devil and the grave. After He died, He was buried and rose again three days later in great victory over all our enemies! He made peace with God for us sinners by the precious blood He shed on the cross.

If you do not yet know Jesus, if you are still an enemy, do you know what Jesus says to you? In Isaiah 27v5, He gives you a wonderful hope: "...let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me." Jesus promised that He would not cast out anyone that comes to Him (John 6v37). No matter what you have done or what kind of person you are, He is able to save you! "Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?" (Isaiah 50v2) "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7v25) Jesus can deliver you from your sin and anyone else who comes to Him. He loves you and gives you this amazing invitation: "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11v28) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Mighty God and Saviour. Let Him take away your sins and make peace with God today.

"Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Revelation 11v17

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

"Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Psalm 24vs1, 8

### PRAISES 8 prayer Requests





## FACTS

- Nigeria has the largest population in Africa.
- Nigeria is the 7th largest country in the world.
- Abuja is the country's capital. There are 36 states.
- Nigeria gained independence from the UK on 1 October 1960.
- Nigerians come from hundreds of different tribes, with various languages and dialects.
- The three largest tribes are Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. Each tribe has a unique history.
- Around 50% of the country's population is Muslim and the other 50% claim Christianity.



Wong, Kerry & Radovich, Emma & Owolabi, Onikepe & Campbell, Oona & Brady, Oliver & Lynch, Caroline & Benova, Lenka. (2018). Why not? Understanding the spatial clustering of private facility-based delivery and financial reasons for homebirths in Nigeria. BMC Health Services Research. 18. 10.1186/s12913-018-3225-4.



- President:
- Muhammadu Buhari
- Senate
- · House of
- Representatives
- Judicial courts
- State governments
- Local governments

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Timothy 1vs1-2 "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1v7

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32v27

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



Notes/Sketches/News:



It was 1841. News of the discoveries of the missionary explorer, David Livingstone had spread throughout the world. The interior of Africa was opening and who would bring the gospel to the millions living there with no church or Bible? One small group of Christians in Jamaica heard of the need in Calabar, Nigeria and determined to go. Their ancestors had been sent to Jamaica as slaves from Africa. Missionaries from Scotland brought the gospel to the slaves who believed and were saved. They were so thankful to the Lord Jesus for dying for them. When they gained freedom from slavery in 1833, they decided to go back to Africa with the good news of Jesus.

When the church in Scotland first heard of the Jamaican mission, they though the former slaves could not succeed in Africa. But the Jamaicans believed God wanted them to go anyway. Who do you think God used to support the mission? The children in the Sabbath (Sunday) Schools in Scotland! They trusted God would help and they prayed for the new missionaries. The children even bought two boats to take the missionaries into Nigeria! God can use anyone who has faith to do His work—even you!



John used to cause problems in West Africa. Lots of problems! This was many years ago when slavery and the slave trade were legal. John's father was a British sailor. As soon as John was old enough, John became a sailor too. He would sail from England to the coast of West Africa and then to America. But how did he cause trouble? Well, it was *why* he did all that sailing. John would sail from England to Africa *to steal people* and take them in a wooden ship across the Atlantic ocean to America. Once in America, the people would be sold as slaves, never to be allowed home to their tribe or family again.

John didn't know God or believe God. His mother had taught him from the Bible, but she died when he was six years old. After his mother died, John just wanted to live for himself. He was famous for swearing, bullying and being unkind.

One day, out on his boat during a storm, John thought he was going to die. He remembered God and prayed for the Lord to save him. God heard John's prayer and brought him through the storm. John read his Bible again and found that Jesus could also save him from all of his sins! Jesus paid for his sin on the cross so that John, who was a slave to sin, could be free! John believed and God began to work a wonderful change in his life. Eventually, John stopped selling slaves, began to work against the slave trade and became a preacher of the gospel!

Maybe you already knew about John Newton. Can you sing this famous hymn he wrote about God setting him free?

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once was lost, but now am found Was blind, but now I see.

Every time you hear about problems in Nigeria, West Africa, remember what God can do with even the most difficult people and trust Him!

### LET'S BELIEVE TOGETHER WHAT GOD CAN DO IN NIGERIA!

"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." Psalm 62v8

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



"O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136v3

### PRAISES 8 prayer Requests



"As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle *that was* against me: for there were many with me." Psalm 55vs16-18







God used King David to write Psalm 55. David trusted the goodness and faithfulness of God, so he took all of his problems to God in prayer. David had specific times to pray. Choose one of the times of day that David used to cry out to God and ask God to help you remember to pray each day at that time. Highlight the time with your favourite colour!







# eoko haram

CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA ARE SUFFERING GREAT PERSECUTION TODAY.

"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Luke 6vs27-28

Boko Haram is a Muslim terrorist organisation fighting to turn all of Nigeria into an Islamic state. They work with other terrorist groups to try to bring all of Africa under Islamic Iaw. Boko Haram is against anything Western or Christian. They do not have peace because they do not know Jesus, the God of peace. The Nigerian government and other national and international armies are fighting to contain Boko Haram's rebellion to the northeastern parts of Nigeria. Please pray for the people and soldiers in the northeast to turn to Jesus.

## FULANI HERDSMEN

Nigeria is made up of hundreds of tribes of different sizes, languages and cultures. One tribe, the Fulani, have a very interesting lifestyle. They are nomads: they don't have a permanent home. Instead, they travel from place-to-place with their cattle searching for food. Most of the Fulani are Muslim and do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. In recent years, Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria have been attacking Christian farmers and villages. They fight against Christians to take their land. The president of Nigeria is a Fulani Muslim and the government has not yet helped stop the attacks or protect the farmers. Will you pray for the Fulani and the suffering Christians? "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54v17

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS





### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS



Notes/Sketches/News:

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54v13



- According to the CIA World Factbook, there are almost 90 million children in Nigeria!
- Many children in Nigeria do not have Bibles or Bible teachers.
- A major problem for children is hunger and malnourishment.
- In 2016, the International Labour Organization estimated that 15 million Nigerian children younger than 14 are having to work. Some are used as slave labour and are forced to work with no pay.
- Street Children, a UK charity, estimates that 1.3 million children have had to leave their homes because of the conflict in Nigeria.
- Thousands of children live on the streets, especially in large cities, with no one to care for them.
- Boko Haram and other soldiers in Nigeria often take children and make them work or fight for the army. Some children escape, but then are rejected by their families or imprisoned by the government.
- In 2017, UNICEF reported that 43% of girls in Nigeria are married before they turn 18.

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3v16



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1v9





Notes/Sketches/News:



"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10v13

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45v22







Notes/Sketches/News:

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"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1v29

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" 1 Corinthians 15vs3-4





Notes/Sketches/News:

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"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29v11



### PRAISES 8 PRAYER REQUESTS

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1v15







Notes/Sketches/News:



"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3vs5-6

### PRAISES 8. PRAYER REQUESTS

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50v15







Notes/Sketches/News:

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