



Prayers for CHINA



First Edition, September 2008

The power of prayer and worship have been central to the resilience and growth of the Chinese churches. Use the sections below to join in prayers written by Chinese Christians and other members of the Christian faith.

Please use these prayers in your churches and prayer groups to bring people together in praise and prayer with Chinese Christians.

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Opening prayers

(i) Help each one of us, gracious God,
to live in such magnanimity and restraint
that the Head of the church
may never have to say of us:
This is my body, broken by you.

(ii) God, creator of heaven and earth and giver of human life,
we thank you for the witness to your truth, your goodness and
your beauty which the long history of China has borne. We
thank you for the Church in China which is bearing witness to
Christ in ways beyond national boundaries. Help us to accept
the idea that all local churches are part of your church universal
and are witnessing on its behalf and with its blessing. To the
glory of Jesus Christ in whom all riches abide. Amen.

(iii) We reverently worship
the mysterious Person, God the Father;
the responding Person, God the Son;
the witnessing Person, the Spirit of Holiness.
We worship the Holy Trinity
Three Persons in one.

(From the Nestorian Church)

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Cycle', WCC Publications

Prayer by Dr. F. Y. Zia

I pray that the true God may protect me tonight
Keep me safe from turmoil and trouble.
I pray also for my family and friends,
For all people all over the world –
I pray the cloud of your compassion
May cover them and grant them peace.



Ambassadors of the Heavenly Kingdom

Ambassadors of the Heavenly Kingdom are called
To save lost souls
And face the sufferings of a long journey.

We wear the wind and dust as our clothes
We walk without staves
We have no gold or silver in our purses
We learn from the birds in the sky
We rely on God for all our needs.

We appear to be poor but we make others rich.
We appear to have nothing,
But we have more than others in every respect.
We command the new life of Christ
We advocate the true Gospel of the Cross.
Wherever we go we leave beautiful footprints,
Wherever we go we open the door of grace.

We should lead sinners back to the lord,
Lead the Prodigal Son to see God the Father.
We do our work with the strength of the Spirit,
Not with our tongues, teeth and lips.
We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the live of others,
Not relying on paper, pens and essays.
We will follow the instructions of the Lord to call the common people,
We will respect the Lord's wish to save people from damnation.
Not until the flags of love are planted all over the world
Should we think that we have done our duty.



A hymn written at the height of the Cultural Revolution

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If I am to suffer, it is for the Lord
My heart will be full of joy, full of joy
I urge the Holy Spirit to hold me on a tight rein
I beg the Holy Spirit to purify my words, deeds and thoughts
Thus I prepare to meet the Lord should I die.

My sufferings were not too long or hard
But they bring unparalleled great glory
If my honour is compared to the humiliations
Contempt, curses and death are of no consequence.

We were fortunate to have prophets like beacons in the dark
The harder the circumstances, the brighter my soul
I beg the Lord for strength to survive a while longer
The one who comes will redress injustice for the innocent.

I should follow the Lord with firm belief
I should bear fruit every day
I should rid myself of sinful thoughts
I should ignore the influence of other people and circumstances
Only seek the favour of the Lord
To take me to paradise when I die

Fellow Christians are separated by thousands of miles and mountain ranges
Separated in body, but we meet in spirit
When the last trumpet is sounded, in an instant
Saints from all times and all places will meet together and never part.



Open Our Eyes Lord

Open our eyes Lord, so we may see the pain and the joy that new changes bring to others.
Open our hearts Lord, to new friends and new opportunities of sharing. Give us hearts that are willing to be changed and willing to be challenged.

Open our ears Lord, so we can hear not only those who are crying out for help but also those who sit alone and afraid in silence

Open our arms Lord, so that we may hold those who need to be held. Amen

Communities Overseas

Help us Lord, to welcome newcomers into our community.

Let us rejoice in the gift of diversity.

Lord, you created us all in your own image, so we are united through you.

Challenge and inspire us to embrace different cultures and diversity so that we may come closer to you.

Amen.

Children's Prayer

Lord Jesus, we (Chinese) need you.

We open the door of our lives and receive you as our Saviour and Lord.

Thank you for the forgiveness of our sins.

Take control of the throne of our lives.

Make us the kind of people you want us to be.



Prayers for China

Schools

We pray for students in China who stay away from home during the term – may they have friends and teachers to support them.

We pray for children who are facing increasing pressures in their studies – may your spirit guide them and refresh them.

We pray for those who are taught about atheism but nothing about you - may their eyes be opened to your ways.

We pray also for those who for whatever reason, financial or other, are not able to go to school – may their options not be too limited.

In Jesus name, Amen

Theological Training

Lord, we thank you for the work of the various seminaries and bible school's across China. The number of Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, is growing fast in the cities and in the countryside. We pray for those with teaching roles and ask for your wisdom as they prepare their curriculums and their classes. We pray too for the students, that they may have increased access to books and resources and that these can enable them to better serve their local communities. We pray for their own spiritual growth during their studies and for their witness in their work. We pray also for lay workers and evangelists who serve the local churches. May they too receive the teaching they need so that through their work many more will come to know your name. Amen

Amity Teachers

Lord, we thank you for the Amity teachers programme and ask you to bless and sustain the teachers in their work. Help them to see the potential of each of their students so they can inspire them in their studies. Give them opportunities to draw alongside Chinese colleagues and to make friends in the towns where they serve. We pray for creativity in what they teach, and for time also to rest and enjoy their surroundings. We pray for their witness as Christians in the workplace and beyond. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



Change and Transformation

Dear Lord,

who remains the same yesterday, today and tomorrow,
we thank you for the peace and stability you give us as all around us changes.

We give you thanks for the many changes taking place in China today and for the new opportunities that so many now have. For travel and new jobs, for new homes and wide choices we give you thanks. We pray also for your protection, especially for those who are vulnerable and do not share in the new found prosperity so many are now enjoying.

We pray for migrant workers – for safety in their jobs and for fairness in their pay. We pray too for families who are separated as different members of the family seek employment in various places, often 1000s of miles apart. We pray for those who are facing redundancy – particularly those who used to work in the state sector and now face losing their apartments and healthcare as a result of their job loss. For those who feel alone and afraid in a large city, or for those who feel trapped in their rural setting we ask that your presence may be felt.

As China faces enormous changes and transformation we ask that you guide the leaders into making the right decisions and help us too to engage with Chinese society.

We pray for the many Chinese who are studying overseas. Many of them seek you in their new surroundings. Help us be responsive to their needs. We pray for opportunities to draw alongside them and make friendships which will enrich us all.

These things we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Closing Prayer

Walk carefully as you go from here
God is there before you.
Walk humbly as you go from here
the churches await your coming.
Walk softly as you go from here
for the Spirit is abroad in all the earth
And the voice of the Spirit speaks in every place.