

30-Days of Prayer for the People of Chad, Central Africa

Day 1: Pray for the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children.

In 2003, UNAIDS estimated that 96,000 children in Chad had been orphaned by AIDS. Orphans living on the streets are especially vulnerable to forced participation in violence and armed conflict. In countries at war, separation from both family and community protection greatly increases a child's risk of exposure to psychosocial trauma and impaired cognitive and emotional development. These risks are compounded by pre-existing threats faced by children in Chad, to sexual and gender-based violence, labor exploitation, malnutrition and disease.

Day 2: Pray that God opens the heart of Chadians to the Gospel of Peace.

50% of Chadians are Muslims. Islamization was gradual in Chad and adapted itself to the local context. Pray that Christians may exemplify the Gospel message in a way that makes it Good News to all who hear it. Pray that young Muslims do not respond to fundamentalist appeals.

Day 3: Pray that adequate schools and school supplies are provided to students in Chad.

Persistent conflict in this country has interfered with the government's ability to sustain a functional school system. This precipitated the spontaneous organization of parent associations. These associations currently fund the majority of school expenses and 60% of all teachers' salary. The quality of the education received in Chad is one of the poorest in Africa. Only 47% of children who complete the primary cycle retain enough information to remain literate as adults (compared to an average of 72% for other African countries). Pray that adequate resources may be mobilized to improve the educational system.

Day 4: Pray for the honest management of God's resources.

God made the earth and gave us dominion over it to serve Him for His pleasure and to His glory. Pray that God will convict his children to manage His resources in a way that brings glory to His name.

Day 5: Pray for the edification of Christians in Chad.

25% of Chadians are Christians. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we should pray that all parts of the body of Christ may be united and strengthened. Pray that American Christians may reach out to Chadian Christians and vice versa.

Day 6: Pray for responsible leadership in Chad.

Gross mismanagement of state revenues and unilateral constitutional changes by the current president of Chad have led to a split inside the government. Members of the president's own government and army have left him and are vowing to overthrow him. In this battle for power, the innocent are the first casualties; children are being caught in a cross-fire of violence.

Day 7: Pray for the safety of missionaries in the field.

Missionaries in Chad are working as teachers, humanitarian workers, and nurses reaching out in love to those God has called. Many brave a rugged climate and sporadic violence for the Lord.

Day 8: Pray for Christ to reveal Himself as the conqueror of the spirit and ancestral world.

25% of Chadians adhere to traditional African religion or "Animism". Ancestors play an important role and the belief in numerous spirits is thought to span the gap between the supernatural and natural world. Libations are often used to appease the spirits. Pray that Christ may bridge the gap between man and God.

Day 9: Pray for all those who are fighting for freedom and justice.

Pray that God may strengthen those fighting for peace and justice; that their voice may be heard over the sound of gunfire. Freedom of expression is tenuous in Chad. Pray that journalists and human rights organizations are allowed to do their job without the fear of incarceration or retaliation.

Day 10: Pray for the growth and strength of the Chadian church.

Pray that the church may be strengthened and a place of rest for those burdened by sin.

Day 11: *Pray for reconciliation and unity amongst all Chadians.*

Massacres perpetrated by despotic rulers, enslavement of southerners by northerner and continued oppression of Christians have left many feeling embittered. Division, war and tribalism have polarized the 200 some ethnic groups and fostered a culture of mistrust amongst Chadians. Only as one people will Chadians be able to rise out of poverty. Pray that Chadians may see commonality in their suffering and unity in their goal for survival. Healing is needed to bring Chadians together and dialogue over the history that has torn them apart. Pray that Christians, having experienced Christ's forgiving Grace, may reach out in love and compassion to their oppressors.

Day 12: *Pray for an end to the influx of weapons into the country.*

Money that could otherwise be invested in the development of the country is being used to build up the government's arsenal to the detriment of the population. Weapons are flowing freely into the country and the sale of heavy artillery is happening unabated.

Day 13: *Pray for the Chadian family.*

Forced marriages are common in Chad. These are often a way for poor families to earn money by receiving a dowry for the future bride. In Islam, men are allowed up to 4 wives and young women are often preferred over same-age partners.

Day 14: *Pray for the international community to join behind the "ONE campaign" and help lobby congress to increase aid to developing countries.*

Allocating an additional 1% of the US budget towards improving basic needs such as health, education, and nutrition in developing countries would transform the future of an entire generation of African children. Current funding to fight global poverty and disease is about \$19 billion total, with about \$4 billion of that going to Africa. \$19 billion sounds like a lot of money, but it represents only 0.75% of the federal budget. To put this in focus, Americans spend \$42 billion on diet and health books each year, almost three times what America gave in development assistance to the world's poorest people in 2003.

Day 15: *Pray for God to decrease the child mortality rate*

In 2004, the mortality rate for children under 5 was at 20% and many children are dying of preventable illnesses.

Day 16: *Pray for more laborers to be drawn to Chad.*

Christians are needed to build-up the national church to reach out and model Christ's self-sacrificial love to all.

Day 17: *Pray for free and fair elections in Chad.*

Chad's last two presidential elections faced massive boycotts and numerous accusations of irregularities. Constitutional changes have ensured the current president's place in power and discarded the democratic process. Pray that Chadians may have their voices heard through the voting poles.

Day 18: *Pray for the right to chose Christ without persecution.*

While legally a secular country, Chad is dominated economically, politically, and socially by Islam. Pray that those that accept Christ as their personal Savior are allowed to do so without the chastisement of his or her community.

Day 19: *Pray for Chadians in the Diaspora.*

Chadians living outside of their homeland are often eager to help their family and friends back home. Some fleeing from persecution may have found refuge in the US. Others may have come here for opportunity and a better education. Pray that Chadians overseas are able to mobilize the resources needed to impact the development of their country and utilize the skills gained in this country to benefit their homeland.

Day 20: *Pray for gender equality in access to education.*

Inequity in the distribution of resources by the State towards education shows that boys get 2 times the amount of resources than girls. Males are more likely to be in school than females. If they do go to school, girls are more likely to drop out at the primary level as opposed to their male counterparts who tend to drop out in middle school. In 2000, 66% of females over the age of 15 were illiterate compared to 48% of men. Pray that government and parents alike may value the education of all children equally.

Day 21: *Pray for the end to violence.*

According to UNICEF (2006), some 90,000 Chadians have been displaced from their homes as a result of attacks perpetrated by Sudanese rebels, Chadian militia groups or Government forces. Most have sought refuge with nearby family and neighbors. Acute insecurity and lack of adequate water and food, continues to be a major concern. There is

a tremendous stress associated with being homeless, especially as resources are scarce. Pray for a Peace Forum that will bring all participants in this conflict to a dialogue that would bring an end to the violence.

Day 22: Pray for economic prosperity.

In 2000, the country faced a 70% rate of unemployment or underemployment. In Chad, the average annual income is \$250. Pray that business opportunities may be opened to Chadians.

Day 23: Pray for miraculous works to point the finger at Christ.

Pray that miracles may occur and that signs and wonders will manifest themselves and point to the all powerful Christ our Lord.

Day 24: Pray for rain and a bountiful harvest.

Drought and desertification are one of the major ecological barriers to development in Chad. Because of low rainfall, crops produce poorly and are often not sufficient to meet the dietary needs of the population causing rampant malnutrition in children. Pray for the work of ecologists to help restore vegetation in Chad and slow the progression of the desert.

Day 25: Pray for the health and wellbeing of the Chadian women.

Female genitalia mutilation or FGM is extremely common and a custom adhered to by most ethnic groups in Chad. It is a procedure that is done at an early age under poor sanitary conditions but is valued by women as marking their cleanliness. Female children that have not undergone the procedure are ostracized by the community. Pray that the attitude of parents towards this custom may change.

Day 26: Pray that revenues drawn from natural resources be used towards poverty reduction initiatives.

Chad became an oil producing nation in 2003. Because of corruption and greed, this new found wealth has not been invested into effective poverty reduction programs. Pray that this opportunity translate into meaningful initiatives to strengthen the educational system, improve the infrastructure and develop a health system.

Day 27: Pray for an end to the forcible utilization of children as soldiers in armed conflicts.

Child soldiers are being used by government forces as well as rebel groups. Children are being kidnapped and forcibly enlisted. Denied a childhood and often subjected to horrific violence, child combatants are used in all aspects of warfare: on the front lines, as mine detectors, spies and look outs. Chadian law prohibits any child under the age of 18 to be enrolled in the army. Pray that Chadian and international statutes governing the use of children in armed conflict be obeyed.

Day 28: Pray for healing of the sick

In Chad, there is one doctor for every 36,000 inhabitants. Only half of Chad's children are fully immunized against major vaccine-preventable diseases. The HIV/AIDS rate is expected to increase from a 5% prevalence rate in 2003 to 10% in 2015. Acute respiratory infections, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases are the most common killers. Pray that doctors may be mobilized to volunteer their services in village health clinics and that medication and vaccines can be obtained to dispense through out the country.

Day 29: Pray that Human rights be respected

According to the Peace Fund (2006), the national army continues to commit human rights abuses. Rampant corruption, nepotism and inefficiency have corroded the State's ability to function effectively and protect the nation. The police continue to use excessive force and prison conditions remain harsh. Pray for the protection of the weak, the orphaned and the widows, that their rights may be protected.

Day 30: Pray for peace

War has decimated the country for decades and the use of force has become a common problem-solving tool used by political dissidents. Pray that civil society is strengthened and that their message of peaceful conflict-resolution and non-violent activism take root in the hearts of Chadians. Pray for peace-makers.