

CHANGES

Joshua 1:1-9

We are given new opportunities each day,
But we spend our time looking back,
thinking of what we had,
never daring to look forward
and to know the possibilities.

Lord, let us face the future
knowing that the way may not be easy
but that the goal remains secure.

Walk with us
when we take our first steps
on that journey of faith.

Walk with others
as they join us on our way,
That in our company
we may learn to help and support,
to trust and be encouraged.

May we travel together
without fear or difference.

And in that journey
let us not become trained by tradition,
with courage to change,
and face the challenge of the new day.



Pray for the young people who find themselves cast out on the streets, with few friends and less hope - that they not be denied a future in God's world

Pray for all children who are denied freedom and education; who are enslaved by the world's demands

MARGINS *Matthew 25:34-40*

Lord, dare we look in the margins?
Dare we look beyond our dreams?
and see

your world and your face,
Testing our will and
dragging us from complacency,

Teasing us on and
making us question our step.

Can we have that strength, Lord?
for it takes courage
to go beyond.

To risk our comfort
and all that gives us peace.

For in that moving we know
that we will receive a greater peace,

One that is bound in your love
and reflected in every action
we take to help those
who live in the margins.



Pray that Churches and young people will respond to the challenges of today; to make possible all that is part of Christ's love and to witness to His presence in everything they do

This leaflet can be used in a number of ways - at Bible Study, Church Service or at Camp. It may also be used in personal devotions. A number of specific concerns are listed under prayer points and these can be combined with topics in praying for others.

In many countries around the world, members of our world family are responding to the needs of young people who live on the margins of society - who live on city streets - who are orphaned and left little hope of skills and education. In so doing, they respond to the calling of Jesus and witness his identification with the poor and the outcast



MARGINS OF HOPE

FROM HIGH

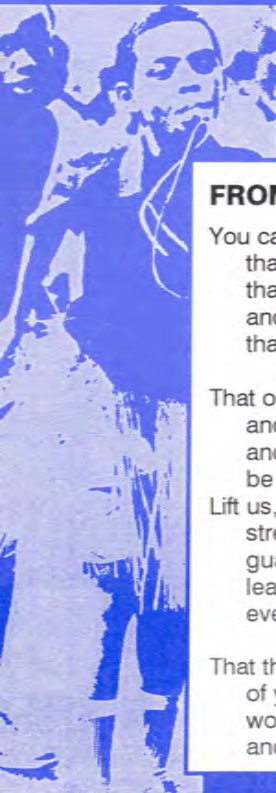
Genesis 21:14-20

You came from high
that you might live amongst us,
that you might know our pain
and our confusion,
that you might feel our hearts
and share in our sorrow.

That one day, we will be lifted up
and see your face,
and know that we can find your grace,
be saved in your creation.

Lift us, guide us,
stretch us, bend us,
guard us, teach us,
lead us, feed us,
ever onward to your glory and
to your Kingdom.

That the child may become a man
of your own choosing,
worthy of your love
and honouring your eternal word.



Pray for courage of our members in reaching out to young people in the margins of our communities for the sake of Christ and His gospel



In the 1997 Prayer Leaflet we think of all young people who are forced to the margins of society, who are not recognised or listened to. We also remember all who face changes in the year ahead.

DAWNING *Proverbs 4:18-27*

In the dawning of each day, Lord,
my heart is warmed to your presence.
I arise to a new awakening
in spirit and in joy.
For You are Lord and creator of all.
Yet I know
that the dawning for many,
is clouded by fear and violence,
is shrouded in doubt,
is defeated by bitterness.
And for those who see not the dawn,
whose night prevails and lingers on,
your creation is not yet fulfilled.
So, Lord, we pray for the light -
not just any light,
but the light of your first creation,
of that first day
and of your Son eternal.

**Pray for the volunteers who
give their time generously for
sake of their love of Jesus**

DREAMS *Acts 2:17-21*

"I want to be a fireman,"
- if only I had a fire to keep we warm this night.
"I want to be a pilot,"
- if only I could fly from this life of misery.
"I want to be a doctor."
- if only I know what causes me pain.
I want to be so much, Lord,
- if only people knew my dreams.

I want to be recognised,
- if only someone loved me.
I want to be heard,
- if only someone would stop and listen.
I want to be good,
- if only I could believe that being good is fun.
I want to be part of You, Lord,
- if only I had the courage to say.

Lord allow us to make dreams possible,
let us value others,
listen to their voice,
take time to care.
Let not the pursuit of our own dreams
so consume us,
that it consumes our love for you
and all that is in your hands.



**Pray for young people in
Sierra Leone whose
hopes have again been
shattered by political
unrest and pray for their
families who suffer each
day and live in fear of life**



**Pray for
Christians in
India and
Bangladesh
who are often
victimised and
left on the
margins**



CALMLY *Psalms 37:7-17*

The world is full of noise,
people rushing,
people shouting.
I like it so much that I get scared
by quietness,
by still nights and peace.
I always want to move on,
to use my energy
to play - and sometimes win.
And in that pressure Lord
I find it difficult to pray
I see the world always in my own time
I lose the vision
of past and future.
For I am part of your larger plan
and you have given me a job to do.
This I know,
For you made me Lord, from your being
with a purpose,
to love and serve
Calmly in your sight,
with patience and understanding.

JESUS IS LORD *Romans 15:13-17*

Lord, our trust is in You,
and we know that you
can make us what we are not yet.
That in your love, we can become
a new person.
Where joy and love is part of our daily life,
where bitterness is set aside
no fear
no desire to dominate
or control.
So we give ourselves to you,
accepting all that you have for us,
and the life that you have given
Rejoicing in the life to be
through your Son, Jesus,
who in his love
gave all that we might come
and see that he is Lord.



**Pray for peaceful
elections; that
leaders may
serve rather than
dictate; to care
and not abuse
power for
personal gain**



**Pray for peace and
development in Zaire
(Congo) that young
people may build a
better future**



**Pray for new direction
and initiative in the
Pacific area where
distance and
communications can
shatter plans and
disrupt hope**

ACTION

James 2:17-24

What can I do? - I ask again,
What can I really do? - to ease the pain,
What can I do? - I feel so small,
When the problems are far, so vast, so tall.
Truly - I can lead my own life
and forget another exists.
I can pursue my own dreams
and deny the dreams of others.
I can pass them all by -
but what then, is my worth to you, Lord?
Yet I have another choice, I know
to follow,
and in my actions show
that I am worthy of You.
It may not be much,
It may not seem great,
It may not be noticed by those who wait,
but by you, Lord, it is,
and in you there lies a greater plan.
So in my own actions, let your world become
more peaceful, more beautiful
- even more fun,
Not for myself alone,
but for others too
A world created one - for you.



**Pray for the people of
Hong Kong who face
changes and a new future.
Let rights and freedom be
upheld in your love**

TURNING *2 Samuel 22:22-31*

Do we turn away Lord?
Do we hide in our own security?
ignoring and passing by
Always because we have a reason
always because we have little time
And in that passing
we neglect our calling
and your creation is damaged
So, Lord, we pray for a turning
a turning of our minds
a turning of our hearts
a turning to face You, Lord
In all the pain, in all the suffering
in the eyes that cry for help
and the voices that shout for freedom
Always let our turning
be to You.