



*Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (Revised Edition)*

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*This revised edition of the much-beloved book for children and families comes as a needed and welcomed resource for those who have long used its predecessor, Operation World. This edition includes new entries for more countries and people groups, with updated information and prayer points. Young people and adults alike can discover and pray for the peoples of the world.*

## Praying for the World as a Family

Did you know there are about two hundred thirty different countries in our world? The people who live in them belong to many thousands of smaller groups, who speak different languages and have different customs. Sometimes they have come from other places and settled in a new country that they now call home.

We call these PEOPLE GROUPS, and there may be as many as sixteen thousand people groups making up the world's population. One example of a PEOPLE GROUP you may have heard of is the Kurds. They don't have their own country (see page 86). But they have their own languages and customs, which are very different from those of the other peoples around them.

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book will tell you something about some COUNTRIES and PEOPLE GROUPS. In some of these places, little is known about God's love shown to us in Jesus. The book will help you to pray that this good news will become more widely known there.

There are ninety-two entries in this book – fifty-two COUNTRIES, thirty-four PEOPLE GROUPS, and a handful of special topics and regions. These sections are arranged in alphabetical order to make them easy to find.

You can read these sections alone or with your family or friends. You could even start a "Pray for the World" prayer club. That's what the children did who helped put the first version of this book together.

At the end of each section are prayers for you to use for the COUNTRY or PEOPLE GROUP you've been reading about – some to thank God, some to ask God. You can pray them all at once, or maybe one each on different days of the week. Remember, all the stories and information, maps and flags, pictures and prayers are there for a bigger reason – to help you change the world by prayer. But perhaps you are wondering how that can happen?

### CHANGING THE WORLD

During winter a lot of snow falls in the mountains of Switzerland. When spring comes there is often a danger of avalanches. Sometimes avalanches have been started by a skier just shouting a few words. It only needs a small amount of snow to be disturbed by that shout, and thousands of tons of snow will soon be thundering down the mountainside.

In the same way, a few words spoken to God our Father in Jesus' name can set off an "avalanche" of God's power in any part of the world. Even when we think our prayers are small and weak, God can use them if we trust in him – because he is so powerful.



# BOOK EXCERPT

A missionary named Jill Johnstone met many children all over the world during her lifetime. Many of them didn't know Jesus – so she started a prayer club for kids who did know Jesus. She wrote the first edition of this book. It was called *You Can Change the World* because she knew God would use the prayers of children like them – and like you – to change the world. And she was right!

## CHANGED BY PRAYER

Jill started by writing about the country of Albania. The children in the prayer club were sad because, at that time, the Albanians were not allowed to worship God, to pray to him, or to have any books about him. The kids in the club prayed hard for change in Albania, and soon the men who ruled Albania were removed from power. Today people in Albania are free to follow Jesus. The children's prayers, and those of other Christians around the world, changed Albania, so much so that Jill had to rewrite that chapter!

Since that first book came out, God has answered other prayers like this. Jill prepared a new set of COUNTRIES and PEOPLE GROUPS that she knew needed our prayers. She also knew she didn't have long to live, so she asked her friend and colleague Daphne Spraggett to finish a second book, using this material. It was titled *You Too Can Change the World*. Later, Daphne also wrote the first edition of *Window on the World*.

Some of the countries in this book have been changed, or are being changed, because families prayed and went on praying – sometimes for years and years. Albania, China, Mongolia, Russia, and Vietnam are just a few of them. Will your prayers help change other countries too? Follow the news about other countries, look at books or magazines for information about places and people in this book, and you will see answers to your prayers. The answers may not come right away, but we should never give up praying for the good things we know God wants to happen.

## TO HELP YOU PRAY

Whether you want to pray for the things in this book, or for your family or friends, here are some important things to remember. If you find the Bible verses hard to understand, ask an older Christian to help you.

- Prayer is simply talking with God. As we do this, we get to know him better, to understand his ways, to love him, and become his friends. When we pray, we are working together with God – and he wants to change the world.
- We don't have to shut our eyes and put our hands together for God to hear us, although sometimes this can help us to concentrate better. We can pray at any time and in any place – when we're walking, or sitting on the bus, or when we wake up in the middle of the night.
- God knows everything – but we certainly don't. When we pray to him about



# BOOK EXCERPT

something that troubles us, we are sharing with him in what he wants to do in that situation. Jesus talked to his special followers about this. Read what he said in John 15:14-15.

- Evil spiritual powers are trying to prevent God’s will from being done in the world. This is why sometimes we must keep on praying for a long time until our prayers are answered. Daniel discovered this for himself; read about it in Daniel 10:10-14. So don’t give up!
- God wants us to pray with a clean, pure heart (Psalm 24:3-4). Our prayers might be hindered by these kinds of problems:
  - Our own selfishness (James 4:3).
  - Not being willing to say sorry to God, or to others, for things we have done wrong (Psalm 66:18; Matthew 5:23-24).
  - Ignoring the needs of someone we could help (Proverbs 21:13).

Finally, remember that the best way to learn more about prayer is to pray. We hope this book helps you to do that more and more, and that you will enjoy using it as much as Jill, Daphne, and now Jason and Molly have enjoyed working on the different versions of it across the last twenty-five years. Let’s change the world together through our prayers!

— *Taken from the introduction*