

**“Together we ask, listen, discern,
plan, serve, and ask again...”**

We of the Global Research Team have long believed that research and prayer go hand in hand. When we know about something, we want to pray. When we pray about something, we want to know more. Curiosity and intercession can be two sides of the same coin.

At the October 2022 US-MC leadership conference the OC Family agreed that we wanted to grow our corporate culture of prayer. We want all of our workers and teams to have a deep commitment to, and regular engagement in, corporate and individual prayer.

OC’s Global Research team believes we can contribute to this effort. In 2017 our teammate Chris Maynard began work to systematically promote prayer based on geographical and cultural affinity data. He calls it Prayer Deployment. This is his rationale:

Why Prayer Deployment?

God is stirring His people across the world to pray. Not for a hundred years or more has there been such a desire. More and more we recognize that we cannot fulfil His purposes on Earth by our own strength. Our own strategies and tactics are not enough – we need His sovereign wisdom. Our own passion and compassion are not enough – we need His steadfast love for the world. Our own energy and enthusiasm are not enough – we need His almighty power.

- We are praying for our own nation. We are praying for the world.
- We are praying for church leaders. We are praying for the lost.
- We are praying for governments. We are praying for children.
- We are praying for conversion. We are praying for transformation.
- We are praying for cities and for the remotest least-reached peoples.
- We are praying for revival in the Church and for movements among Muslims.
- We are praying for our friends. We are praying for our enemies.
- We are praying to the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into His harvest fields.

- Together we pray “on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

In the fifth century BC the Jews responded to Nehemiah’s challenge to rebuild the walls. “Let us rise up and build” they said. (See Nehemiah 2:18) So, in our day many are saying, “Let us get down on our knees and pray.”

Mission Agencies are making prayer a priority. Prayer Movements are making mission a priority.

We have prayer meetings, prayer mountains and fasting prayer, prayer circles, prayer calendars and listening prayer, prayer chains, prayer retreats and houses of prayer.

We have concerts of prayer, seasons of prayer and 24/7 prayer.

Thank God that He is leading us in so many ways to pray. Whatever ways we use to pray, the Nehemiah Option offers us the possibility of intensifying our prayers. Using this framework, we can have both a more intense focus ... and a broader coverage.

How can this be?

Not everyone can do everything – even in prayer. In Nehemiah chapter 3 we read of 42 work parties working on 42 sections of Jerusalem’s wall. For the next 52 days they worked on one section and got to know it well. Every group had a part of the wall and every part of the wall had a group.

In the same way “The Nehemiah Option” gives to you and the churches of your country some specific countries to pray for. This is your “section of the wall” to help rebuild. You can get to know those countries well and get to know how to pray for them. Some of them are very close to you and some may be far away, but all of them need your prayers.



You can remember these special countries in prayer even when the world's attention is diverted to the latest crisis in some different part. And when the latest crisis comes to one of them, you will be trained by practice to know how to pray. Indeed, you will have already laid the foundation for action.

Intelligent and effective prayer for the whole world seems an impossible task. And it is impossible – for each of us. But it is not impossible for the Church. The Nehemiah Option takes into account all the potential resources of the global Church, as well as the needs of the whole world. In doing so, it brings meaningful engagement within reach of every local church. If I cannot meaningfully pray for 200 different countries of the world, I can pray for 6.

The time is here when, together as God's Global Church, we can address all that He has commanded us. Let the whole Church take the whole gospel to the whole world, and let us do so first of all in fervent and united prayer.

Here is a link to see the full prototype:

<https://www.ocresearch.info/sites/default/files/Prayer%20Deployment%20Prototype%20-%202023-08%200.pdf>

We invite you to take a look at it and see how God might stir your heart with its possibilities. Might you like to help Chris develop it further? Please send you comments, suggestions, and enquiries to Chris.Maynard@transforminginformation.com. Chris Maynard is an OC-UK missionary. He is fourth from the right (back row) in our team photo. He would love to hear from you.

[Questions or Comments?](#)

Research LINK is produced by the Global Research Team of One Challenge and distributed among workers within the OC Global Alliance. [Click here to subscribe](#). Share your comments or questions with us at Research@oci.org. For additional information about OC Research visit www.OCresearch.info.
