Prayer Points from Nigeria

This year, the BWA particularly calls on all Baptists around the world for a common day of prayer during Human Rights Day for the people of Nigeria, in light of the increasing episodes of violence in northern and central Nigeria, where more than 1,400 people have been killed in attacks by the extremist group Boko Haram since 2010. This environment of violence and fear inhibits individual freedom of expression and the safety to speak out against these injustices. For those of you who will be praying, we have made available these points for prayer that Nigerian Baptist leaders have highlighted as the major issues that their region faces.

Extremism and sectarian/religious violence:

A number of militant and extremist groups are strongly and actively working against the unity of the country. The best known of these groups is BOKO HARAM, which loosely means "Western Education is Forbidden". More than 12,000 people have died in sectarian violence since 1999. (Galatians 5:13)

Pray for:
1. An end to this cycle of violence in which a large number of Nigerians are trapped.
2. The cessation of harassment and killing in the name of religion, which disproportionally affects Christians in the Northern part of the country.
3. The unity of this country.
4. God's intervention, for peace, reconciliation, and harmony.
5. That spiritual maturity and love prevails.

Human Trafficking/Prostitution:

Human trafficking and prostitution have become a reprehensibly lucrative business in Nigeria. There are also young children being forced into prostitution. (Ps. 127:3-5)

Pray for:
1. A change in the hardness of hearts against the gospel and the total disregard for the value of women/children.
2. For the victims of rape, forced prostitution and child labor.

Bribery and Corruption:

Although the Government officially condemns bribery and corruption and sets up different bodies to deal with offenders, a large number of Government officials are still involved in corruption (Exo.23:2-3).

Pray for:
1. Grace to be exemplary in leadership and the boldness to deal with offenders notwithstanding who is involved.
2. Pray for grace for our leaders to embrace honesty and to rule with the fear of God.
3. Pray against the spirit of greed and selfishness in our leaders

Education:

The education standard in Nigeria has deteriorated. (Prov. 22:6)

Pray for sensitivity on the part of those in power in the area of:
1. Training/empowerment of teachers.
2. Policy making bodies, for competency and wisdom in their decisions, including those affecting
teachers’ salary, and availability of teaching materials,

**Family Violence against Women/Children:**

Many women in our society are still assaulted and denied of their rights. *(Galatians 3:28-29)*

Pray for the end of:
1. Battering of women, including among Christian couples.
2. Disunity within families.
3. Violence against children
4. Pray that the love of God in Christ permeates every home

**Maternal and Infant Mortality:**

Nigeria is far from reaching its goal to reduce maternal/ infant mortality because of the multitude of factors that can affect this process. *(Psalms 127:3)*

Please pray for:
1. Increased efforts to improve women education.
2. Major improvements in infrastructural and health facilities in both the northern and rural areas.
3. Extension of Immunization programmes to remote parts of the country, including programs for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
4. Pray that enlightenment programmes on health issues relating to infant and children be embarked upon both in the rural and urban areas.

**Poverty:**

Though Nigeria is blessed with enough natural resources, yet the level of poverty is in immense among the people. *(Lev. 26: 4).*

Pray for the situations involving:
1. Scarcity of food and other resources
2. Hunger and starvation
3. Joblessness
4. Pray for favorable weather and abundance of rain in due season
5. Agricultural productivity
6. Greater entrepreneurship efforts.

**Unemployment:**

Unemployment is one of the major challenges of this country. There are several University graduates who have nothing to do for a living. Little wonder some have taken into different kinds of crime. *(Habakkuk 3:17)*

Pray for the three tiers of Government to:
1. Be more sensitive to the needs of the masses especially the youth.
2. Create more job opportunities
3. Revitalize some Government companies
4. Empower and equip youth for self employment
Legal:
Our legal institutions are known for their weaknesses. The Law Court is no longer the last hope of the poor. *(Lev. 19:15)*

Pray against:
1. Perversion of justice
2. Bribery and corruption in the judiciary system
3. Misrepresentation in the system
4. Pray for good sense in the legal system

Instability/ Sense of insecurity:
One of the major challenges of the present age in Nigeria is a sense of insecurity among the population due to the great number of robberies, assassinations, and sectarian violence. *(Ps 127:1)*

Therefore, Pray for:
1. God’s intervention and guidance
2. Revival in the land
3. Law enforcement agencies
4. Transformation of these circumstances toward greater stability and security for all Nigerians
5. Change of heart of the wicked.

Electoral Fraud:
People in key political positions still benefit from deceit and fraud, and do not care about the welfare of the electorates. *(Prov. 13:11)*

Let's pray against:
1. Self-centeredness among politicians
2. Cheating and fraudulence at all levels
3. Loss of vision of the common good
4. Pray for leaders who can have the interest of the masses in their hearts.

Lack of Infrastructure:
Nigeria still faces great problems in its communication, transport systems, which have great impact on the integration and development of the country. *(Prov. 27:23-24)*

Let’s pray for:
1. Greater investments to change that situation
2. Responsible, sensitive leaders