

Integral:

Neglected Crises Practical Ways Your Church Can Help

God is already at work everywhere. Why not join Him? Act faithfully even when the world is not watching.

PRAY

Action 1 – Pray for overlooked conflicts and crises

- Include a weekly prayer for countries or crises not in the news. This can be from the pulpit or in your monthly news bulletin or encouraged as a prayer point in bible study groups.
- *"Continue steadfastly in prayer... being watchful in it with thanksgiving."* — Colossians 4:2

Action 2 – Pray for justice in global systems

- Pray for leaders, donors, and institutions to act with fairness and compassion. Consider those in power in your own country as well as those in power in countries where crises are overlooked.
- *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy."* — Proverbs 31:8-9

Action 3 – Pray against compassion fatigue

- Ask God to renew empathy and endurance in us, in our friends, families and also in our congregations. That we might not weary in doing good and that we might place our Hope in the Lord.
- *"Let us not become weary in doing good."* — Galatians 6:9

LEARN

Action 1 – Learn about underreported and forgotten crises intentionally

- Dedicate time monthly to research one neglected crisis to develop even more informed compassion. Make this into a personal commitment or encourage your family or bible study to do it alongside you.
- *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* — Hosea 4:6



Integral:

Action 2 – Understand root causes (history, climate, inequality)

- Reflect on how systems, history, and global decisions impact suffering. With further research, you can learn more about why a crisis happened, how vulnerable people are more affected, and what could possibly be done to correct it.
- *"Seek justice, correct oppression."* — Isaiah 1:17

Action 3 – Listen to local and global voices

- Engage with stories from affected communities, not just headlines. Many organisations will feature stories of real people affected by crises around the world, seek them out! Every person carries equal worth and dignity and hearing directly from those most affected has the power to see them the way God does.
- *"Be quick to listen, slow to speak."* — James 1:19

GIVE

Action 1 – Give towards greatest need, not visibility

- Support funds directed to underfunded crises. Ask your preferred charity which crisis or project is underfunded or has the greatest need or keeping a current neglected crisis in mind, do some research on how to support work in that country.
- *"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord."* — Proverbs 19:17

Action 2 – Commit to regular, not reactive giving

- Set ongoing giving, not only when crises trend. Disasters most often have a long trail to recovery with many disasters leaving countries without adequate infrastructure to rapidly recover. Consider committing a monthly or bi-monthly gift for the 12 months after a disaster occurs.
- *"On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money."* — 1 Corinthians 16:2



Integral:

Action 3 – Encourage collective church giving

- Could your church allocate a portion of their missions budget to overlooked regions or disasters? Perhaps there are some collective fundraising activities that church members and congregations could participate in together such as fun runs or bake sales!
- *"Share with the Lord's people who are in need."* — Romans 12:13

SHARE

Action 1 – Share stories of neglected crises

- Use church platforms, social media, and conversations to share the real, human stories affected by neglected crises. Shining a light on those most affected will help to keep them front of mind.
- *"Let your light shine before others."* — Matthew 5:16

Action 2 – Advocate for equitable attention and response

- Encourage awareness beyond media trends. Create petitions or easy to follow steps for church or community members on how to speak to local Government Representatives about increasing foreign aid budgets and humanitarian diplomacy. Use your voting power to enact powerful change in the systems of power in your own country.
- *"Do not forget to do good and to share with others."* — Hebrews 13:16

Action 3 – Mobilise others to pray, learn, and give

- Equip small groups or ministries to take action with reading plans, prayer guides and advocacy materials. Use a key time in your annual church calendar to call church members to act on behalf of those who cannot.
- *"Encourage one another and build each other up."* — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

