Chibok girls
prayer resource

Let’s spread #hopeforgirls
- 2015 edition -
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As we start a new year, over 200 Chibok school girls in Nigeria remain missing from their families. In 2014, they spent over 260 days without love and family; 260 days without freedom of choice. You can read more about the background of the abductions on page 6

Sometimes when we’re faced with a huge injustice like this, we can be paralysed by fear, or the idea that we can’t do anything. We can. We can educate others. We can mobilise others to act against it. And by educating and mobilising others, we’re helping to transform the world that we live in and restore it for God’s glory. We can pray.

In 2015, let’s live expectantly. God loves each one of these girls and He can do immeasurably more than we can ever imagine (Ephesians Ch.3:20).

1. Pray for the girls, the community and for Nigeria.

Below are some updated prayer points from Open Doors. Please pray for:

The young women
Pray for strength, courage and protection. Pray that their faith would be deepened as they lean on God as their rock. Also pray for those who have escaped – many have suffered severe trauma. Pray they would know God as the ultimate healer and restorer. Read more here: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-29762252.

Their families
Pray that God will sustain hope in their hearts, and a support network for them. Some of the parents have died since the kidnappings – pray for families who are suffering double grief.

Nigerian elections & government
Prayer that the elections on 14 February 2015 would not be violent and that God would raise up the right leaders to bring peace to Nigeria.

The village of Chibok
Pray for God’s protection as Boko Haram continues to terrorise it. In November 2014, the terrorist group briefly seized the village. An Open Doors worker commented: ‘The continued insecurity has left Chibok all but destroyed. It was almost deserted. A few animals roamed the streets. Most people have left. There is no functioning school and no functioning hospital. Many churches have been burned. Food is scarce and it is becoming very hard to make ends meet. Circumstances are not much better in surrounding villages.’ Please pray for all who live there.

Boko Haram
As hard as it is, pray for the members of Boko Haram and for a softening of their hearts. Pray that they will be merciful and release the girls voluntarily. Pray the Boko Haram ranks will see that the suffering they are causing for civilians and forcing northern Nigeria to its knees is not bringing any relief to the people they claim to fight for. Also pray that the Lord will comfort all His children who have lost loved ones in Boko Haram related violence.
Our church family in Nigeria
Christians all over northern Nigeria confess that life is very hard for them (they face Islamisation and social pressure), but they are determined to remain steadfast in their faith, continue to trust God and bring honour to Christ in the midst of their suffering. What Paul called the church to do in Romans Ch.12:12, these believers are seeking to implement in their lives: ‘Rejoice in hope, remain patient in their tribulation and be constant in prayer’.

Girls’ Brigade Nigeria
Pray for GB in Nigeria as they equip and empower girls to experience the life to the full that Jesus gives. GB Nigeria asks us to: ‘Pray for the same return of all the young women who have been held hostage for over 250 days.’

Open Doors is the world’s largest outreach to persecuted Christians in the most high-risk places. Get up-to-date prayer points for Nigeria: https://www.opendoors.org/

2. Creative prayer activity with your GB group
Empower your GB group to pray for these young women by using this creative prayer activity by Open Doors, a charity which supports and advocates for the persecuted church across the world. These creative prayer activities would be perfect to do with your whole group at the beginning and end of the night - use the background notes to help them understand the situation. Feel free to do one or choose a few.

Prayer paper chain
i. Print out the paper chain girl template on page 4.
ii. Write a name on each of the girls, using the list provided on page 5.
iii. Colour in each paper girl and pray as you do it, remembering that God has the name of each girl engraved in the palms of His hand.
iv. Cut along dashed lines (above the heads and at the feet).
v. Fold along fold lines (accordion style) so that the girls can stand up.
Try and make a chain of at least 180 girls! Hang them on a wall for all to see or fold them so they can stand on a desk or table.

Pray for freedom
Read Luke Ch.5:18-19, and write it or print it in large letters for people to meditate on - use these verses to help you pray for the freedom of the girls.

Heart prayers
Read Romans Ch.8:35-39. Cut out paper hearts and write prayers on them, asking God to let the abducted girls know that nothing can separate them from His love. You could stick them on the map of Nigeria as well.

Because I Am a Girl prayer
On a large piece of paper, draw around a woman or girl you know to create an outline. Write prayers for the abducted girls and Bible verses inside the outline.
‘I’ve called you by name’ prayer
Print out the list of the names of the abducted girls, cut out each one and put them in a bowl. Pull out one name and pray for the safe release of that girl. Keep it in your purse or wallet, stick it on a mirror or keep it on your desk to remind you to pray for her.

Light in the darkness prayer
Light candles to represent the girls as you pray for them. You could use 18 candles each representing 10 girls if space is limited.

THANK YOU FOR SPREADING #HOPEFORGIRLS

Over the last few months, the GB family across the world has mobilised in prayer and activism by spreading #hopeforgirls. Thank you!

- On 11 September 2014 (150 days since the abduction), more than 120,000 people were reached on social media with a message of hope about kidnapped Nigerian school girls.
- GB groups across the world have prayed for each of the missing schoolgirls and said ‘we’ve not forgotten you.’
- GB leaders and supporters have sent many messages of hope and support to the parents of the schoolgirls via Open Doors.

These messages of encouragement have been invaluable as one Chibok mother called Hauwa shares: ‘All this while I have been thinking about my life and asking God about my situation. I thought I was alone in this battle. I thought everyone hated me. I concluded that my life has come to an end, because there is no one who cares for me and my situation. However, now I know that people around the world are praying for me and my situation. I am at peace now. I imagine the love of Christ flowing through my veins, giving me hope in my hopelessness. All these prayers sent to me from these wonderful people are changing my life. Jesus, I give you the praise.’

Pray for Chibok girls
Chibok girls background

In 2014, over 200 Chibok girls spent 260 days without love, family and freedom of choice.

What happened to the Chibok school girls?

In the middle of the night on 14-15 April 2014, a group of militants from Boko Haram forced their way into a Christian boarding school and kidnapped nearly 250 young women, aged 16 – 18. Although the area was increasingly unsafe and the school had been officially closed for a month, these young women were called back to undertake their senior certificate exam in physics. Currently there are around 200 girls still missing (though there may be more). Some young women managed to escape, others were killed. We believe that at least six young women were members of Girls’ Brigade – Abigail, Grace, Deborah, Awa, Esther and Deborah.

Tales of horror, abuse and forced marriage have emerged from the young women who have escaped. The BBC have captured the story of three young women with illustrations. You can view it here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-29762252. Please use it to pray for all those who are involved.

Who is Boko Haram?

Nigeria ranks number one on Open Door’s World Watch Top Ten Violence list. The country is split into two; the Muslim north and the Christian south and there has been increasingly high levels of violence and persecution against Christians. Boko Haram, a radical Islamic terrorist group, has been terrorizing north eastern Nigeria - a region that’s half Muslim and half Christian - for almost five years with the goal of establishing an Islamic state. They’re ideologically opposed to Western culture, as well as the education of girls, and thus co-ordinated the kidnapping. Boko Haram has demanded ransoms and release of terrorist prisoners in exchange for the girls. There is a serious concern that these girls will be sold into forced marriage, slavery or even killed.

What is being done to help then?

Although the kidnappings went unreported for two weeks, a successful #bringbackourgirls online campaign went viral. But now it has been over 250 days and the media has gone silent. Who is giving these voiceless girls a voice? Although it’s a complicated political situation, it’s also unclear what the Nigerian government is doing to help the victims, which is why activists in the African country have been holding daily protests and taking to social media.

Why does GB care?

Girls’ Brigade cares for girls because God cares for girls. We believe in hope for the Chibok girls. We believe that God calls us to build the hope-filled Gospel alternative by modelling His transformative and restorative heart. In 2015, let’s be expectant. God loves each one of these girls and He can do immeasurably more than we can ever imagine (Ephesians Ch.3:20).