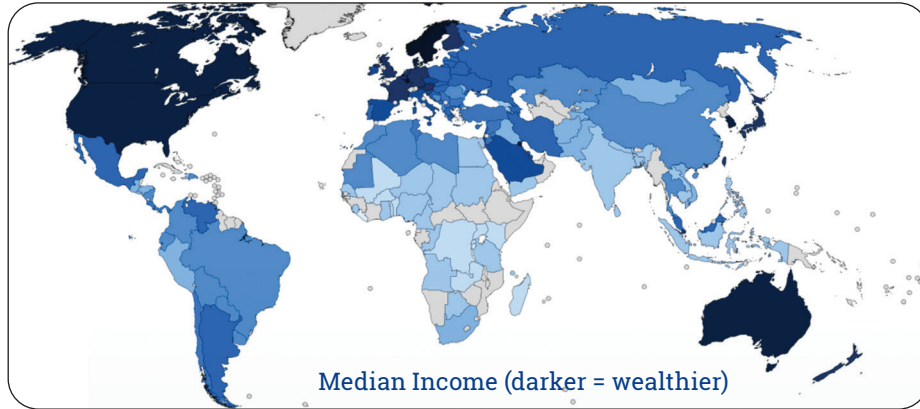


PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

Wealth and poverty



https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Median_income

The charity Oxfam claimed in 2019 that the richest 24 people in the world owned as much wealth as the 3.8 billion poorest. In Kenya, a boy from a rich family has one chance in three of studying beyond secondary school; a girl from a poor family has a one-in-250 chance. In the UK, the poorest 10% of the people have a higher effective tax rate than the richest 10%.

The Cape Town Commitment—a statement of the evangelical church's priorities that came out of a global meeting of leaders in 2010—says this: *love for the poor demands that we not only love mercy and deeds of compassion, but also that we do justice through exposing and opposing all that oppresses and exploits the poor.*

This is a call for individual Christians to be generous with 'their' personal resources. But it is also a call to political acts, so that benefits are spread fairly to all.

Deciding which political acts are most appropriate is a place for Christians and others to disagree and experiment - with grace. Some

call for cash transfers to the poor, or a universal basic income for all, or more redistributive taxes. Others might focus on fixing market failure and encouraging job creation, so that no-one is shut out from serving the common good and being rewarded for it. Most might agree on access for all to decent health care, education and housing. Regardless of policy choices and where they fall on the denominational spectrum, Christians have a Biblical responsibility toward the poor. Historically, the Church has been at its best when caring for the poor, and addressing the causes of poverty in society.

- Pray for our eyes to be opened to social wrong-doing as well to personal sin.
- Pray for us Christians all over the world to 'do justice' in all our dealings.
- Pray that Christians will be involved in the needs of society, working for the common good.



The USA (336 million people) is the richest and most powerful nation. Still, among the 74 million children living in the United States, 11 million live in poverty. America's values have for decades popularized ideals of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and conscience, and generous hospitality to immigrants. America's actions have consequences around the world, and the nation exerts a dominant global influence in economics, culture, technology and military power. No country has greater capacity to spread good, harm, or both.

America's proud democratic heritage is being eroded by a deeply divided political system. Much good remains undone and many evils lie unchallenged while America's political tribes engage in a costly fight to a standstill. America lags behind other rich countries in tackling murder, in high incarceration rates, in health outcomes, in justice for the poor. Racial inequality is a persistent stain on the Land of the Free.

Biblical values underpin much that is good about the nation. Many churches and groups are seriously seeking God and seeking to change America with the good news of Jesus. This influence spills into all the world: America has helped resource the global Church and supported missions on a grand scale for more than a century.



Pray for peacemakers to bridge America's political and cultural divisions. Pray for the American people to face national challenges together.



In the face of endless distractions, pray that America's Christians will seek afresh the face

THE NATIONS



VENEZUELA

This once-wealthy South American nation of 29 million people is suffering economic collapse thanks partly to a fall in the oil price but mostly to the actions of its authoritarian regime. The near-complete meltdown of the functions of government has led to desperate human need for millions. In search of the American dream, record numbers of migrants have also reached the U.S.-Mexico border, with 262,633 Venezuelans having crossed just in 2023, up from 189,520 in 2022.



Pray for Venezuela to be rescued from these days of severe crisis. Pray that Venezuelans will find strength and hope in Christ for themselves and their nation.

Praying for the World is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit www.lausanne.org/pray to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.



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