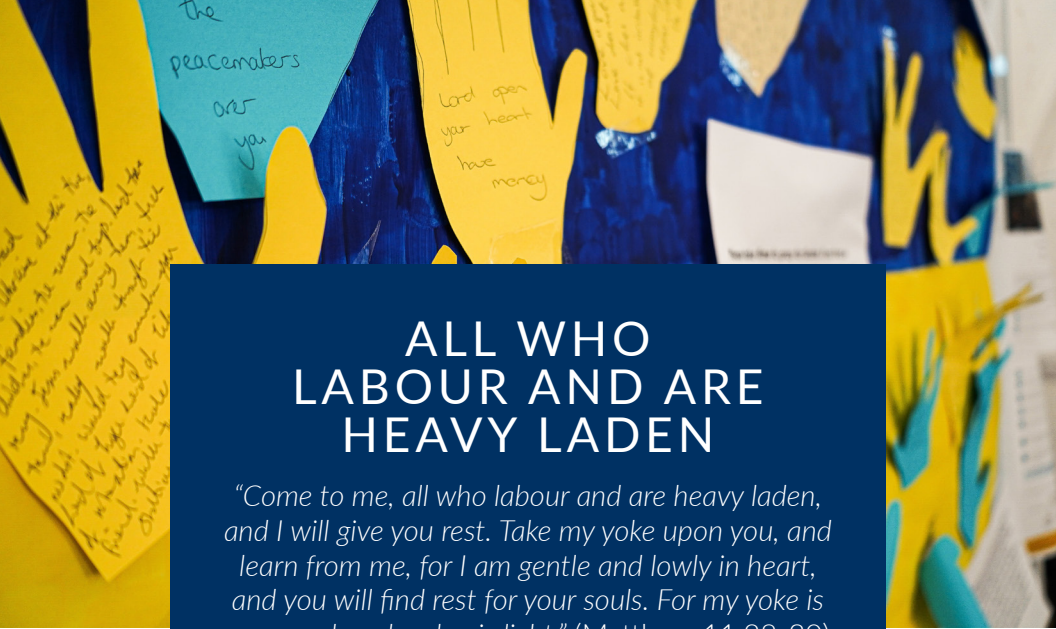




# I Will Give You Rest



TWR CANADA PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR  
APRIL 30 - JULY 1, 2023



## ALL WHO LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN

*"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30)

Life can be exhausting. Most of us probably wish we were the type to be perfectly cheerful and energized at all times, and maybe some Christians do find that that is their natural disposition, but for many of us, that kind of attitude can be hard to have.

Whether it is hardship and suffering, busyness and chaos, or even good and happy things that just take a lot of energy and effort, our bodies, minds, and even our hearts can grow tired and feel exhausted.

It can all begin to feel like too much and we quickly realize that we can't carry everything at once. But that's okay. The weight of the world isn't a

weight that we are supposed to be carrying. God made the world and us. He sustains and carries it all. For all of us who are weak and burdened, God has called us to come to him and to rest. Yes, he will strengthen us when we need strength, but he also knows our weaknesses and carries us when we cannot carry ourselves. He will not grow tired. He will not become weak. He will not be annoyed with us when our limits become clear to see. No, he will give rest to our souls.

If you have been labouring a long time, if you are heavy laden, come to him now. He will give you rest.

### Europe and CAMENA

While Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa are diverse in culture and language, one commonality is the need to hear the gospel. Radio programming, training conferences and missionaries are all part of our ministry in this region of the world.

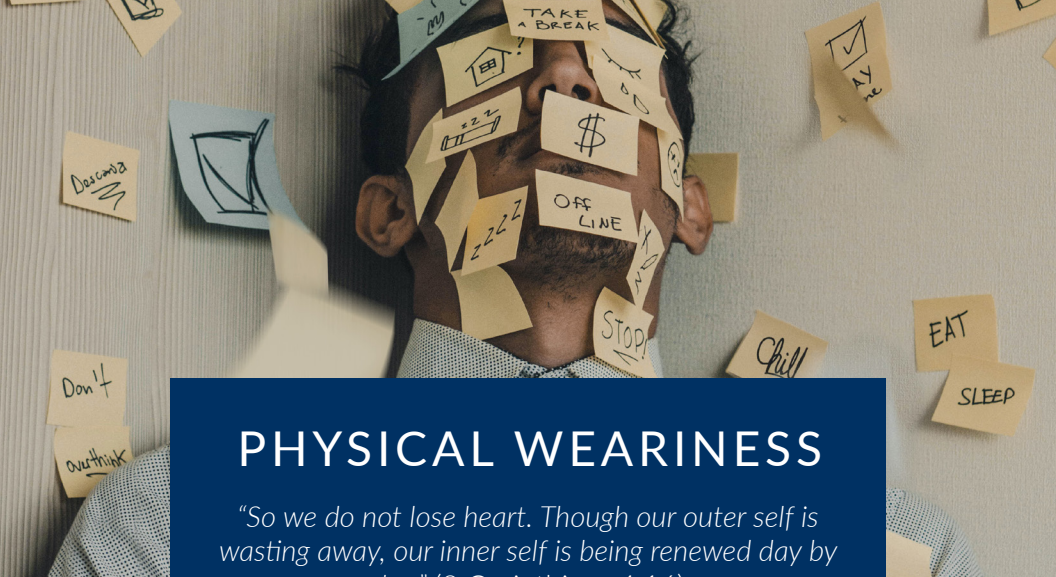
#### April

30. Pray that those who are suffering as the war continues will find peace through the good news of salvation.

#### May

1. Pray for the Ukraine team's strength and perseverance in this challenging time. To be a light for others, they need encouragement themselves.
2. Pray for TWR Ukraine's production of the new project *How Are You, Out There?* As the team conducts interviews across the country, pray for God's love to unite and rebuild communities.
3. Praise God that many who listen to *Voice of Truth* in North Macedonia have begun to see themselves in the light of God's Word.
4. We are creating a series of biblical songs and videos for Roma children in Serbia. Pray that these songs and videos would speak into the lives of children.
5. Across the Middle East and North Africa, our partner, Together Network, trains believers to lead small groups and disciple others using *Discipleship Essentials*. Pray for those who have received this training and are discipling believers across the region.
6. Across Central Asia, we are distributing media players with several SD cards of biblical content. This is especially helpful for those living in remote areas without a church. Pray for those who receive a player.





## PHYSICAL WEARINESS

*“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)*

Are you tired today? Are your joints sore? Do your feet ache? Are you struggling to keep your eyes open? Does your body not function the way it used to? Has it never functioned the way that others' bodies have? Do you feel the physical effects of living in a fallen world?

Since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, nothing in this world has been quite the way it should be, and our bodies are no exception to this. Even the most athletic and physically fit among us may experience injuries and pain and exhaustion. Our bodies and minds grow old and deteriorate and they aren't meant to last forever. We can live a healthy life and get lots of exercise, but we can't stop ourselves from

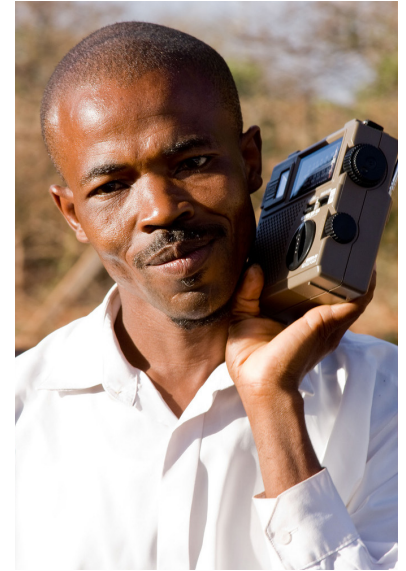
getting cancer, breaking bones, growing old, and ultimately dying.

This physical decline can be a scary thing to think about but fear doesn't need to overwhelm us. Jesus says that he will give rest for our souls (Matt. 11:29). Or, in other words, *“Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day”* (2 Cor. 4:16). If your faith is in our risen Lord, then your very soul has been resurrected from the dead and is being renewed every day. Your body may very well waste away but take heart! Your inner self has new life and one day you will have a new body that will not waste away but will have eternal life with Christ!

## Radio Broadcasting

Radio broadcasting allows listeners from hard-to-reach places to urban centres, and everywhere in between, to access the gospel. From FM stations in countries like Burundi to high-powered radio from Bonaire, Eswatini and more, radio broadcasting shares the hope of the gospel around the world.

7. The Burundian programs *Good News for All* and *Jesus is the Answer* continue to be well-loved across the country. Pray that these programs would draw people to Christ.
8. Praise God for the Quebec FM station! Pray for those listening in Brownsburg, Quebec, and online at [radioespoir.ca](http://radioespoir.ca).
9. *Against the Current* is a program for young adults in Uruguay, encouraging them to live a life of obedience to God rather than following the culture. Pray that this program would encourage listeners.
10. Our two Cuban programs, *Messages of Faith and Hope* and *Our Home*, are broadcast from the Bonaire transmitter. Pray for those listening across Cuba.
11. In West Africa, the Discipleship Essentials radio program is changing lives! Pray for all those tuning in and growing in faith.
12. In Pakistan, radio broadcasts are a highly effective way to share the hope of the gospel. Pray for those listening to the programs that air daily in the Punjabi and Urdu languages.
13. Pray for the broadcasts of *Women of Hope* in French in West Africa and Bambara in Mali. Pray that the women who listen would learn of the God who loves them.




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## SPIRITUAL WEARINESS

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?” (Psalm 22:1)*

Christians aren't immune to seasons of spiritual weariness. At times we lack the motivation to read God's Word or to pray to him. Sometimes we struggle to engage and find joy in worship or biblical discussion and fellowship. Sometimes our minds come under attacks of depression and grief weighs heavy on our hearts.

Whether we are in a dry season, a sorrowful season, or anywhere else, we need God's Word, presence, and people. God knows our hearts and our very deepest needs, and he isn't unsympathetic toward us in those things. He

is compassionate, kind, and patient.

Even in these moments or long seasons of weariness, God has not forsaken his children. He still hears us and loves us. It is okay to feel this weariness, but it is so important that when we are in the middle of it, we still come to Jesus. Even if that looks like exhausted, angry, heartbroken crying, he says "Come to me." He will give us rest and he will lead us out of that place.

Come to him today, trusting that he will give you rest.

## Technology

From radio transmitters to media players to SD cards to apps, media plays a crucial role in distributing programming and resources for evangelism and discipleship, in the ways best suited for the recipient.

14. Praise God for technology, such as radio transmitters, media players, SD cards and apps, which allow us to share the hope of the gospel with the world.
15. Pray for all those around the world who maintain transmitter sites. They keep the technology working so that the gospel can be heard.
16. Praise God for TWR Canada's Android and iOS apps. Pray for those who access content through these apps.
17. Pray for the SD card distributions which happen around the world, including in creative-access countries. Pray for the safety of those distributing and receiving these SD cards in these locations.
18. Pray for those across Canada who have received a TWR Canada media player as a gift from a friend or neighbour and are hearing the gospel preached in their heart language.
19. In partnership with ShareWord Global and Thru the Bible, we are distributing 1,000 media players across Chile and Peru in 2023. Pray that these media players would help pastors grow in their understanding of God's Word and shepherd their churches well.
20. As we work with different partners, including missionaries sent out from Canadian churches, pray for wisdom in knowing what technology is best for reaching the group receiving the content.



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## RELATIONAL WEARINESS

*"I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons." (Psalm 69:8)*

In this psalm, David writes of how he is despised and forsaken because of his dedication to God. Even his own family has alienated him.

Our circumstances most likely (though don't necessarily) differ from David's. We might not be facing relational weariness and difficulty specifically because of our faith, but that doesn't mean that all our relationships will be easy or simple.

Maybe your faith is the complicating factor. Maybe it's anxiety, a dying social battery, past hurt and rejection, a full schedule, hostility, burnout, or just general awkwardness, but no matter what challenges there are, relationships are hard and sometimes exhausting.

Maybe you have been hurt by others or have hurt someone

yourself. Sometimes, it feels easy to question whether it is even worth it to put in the effort that relationships require. We often feel helpless when it comes to beginning or repairing relationships but there is help to be found.

Christ has repaired our relationship with him and he is able to give us wisdom in how we navigate our relationships here and to give us rest and peace even in the middle of really complicated relationships. That might not look like the complete repairing of all our relationships in this life. It might look like finding a gracious way to end an unhealthy relationship or like digging to find hope and peace and healing from a very painful relationship, but whatever the case may be, let us trust Christ to give us rest.

## Ministry in Asia

Across Asia, the message of hope is being shared through radio home groups, radio broadcasts and follow-up ministries. God is changing lives!

- 21. In India and Bangladesh, radio home group leaders are trained using Discipleship Essentials. Praise God that those who have been trained report being better able to disciple their group members.



- 22. We are partnering with TWR Motion to create a series of animated Bible stories for Thai Buddhists. Pray for the team as they strategize how best to depict the truth of the gospel to this people group.
- 23. Please pray for SOTA students across China as they implement what they are learning into their ministries. Pray that what they learn would assist them in leading and discipling.
- 24. Through our partnership with Media Impact International and their India Follow-up Centre, we are speaking hope to those in India who engage with our ministry partners on social media. Praise God we have already distributed over 30,000 digital Bibles and other Christian materials!
- 25. Japan is the second-largest unreached people group in the world. Pray for a new initiative to share the gospel to this nation through a series of audio dramas based on stories from the Gospels.
- 26. Praise God for multiplying his kingdom through over 8,700 small groups using Discipleship Essentials in the Philippines!
- 27. Pray that the Sri Lankan listeners of *God's Unique Book* would be comforted and encouraged by the love of Christ as they listen each week.

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## CIRCUMSTANTIAL WEARINESS

*"I am weary with crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God." (Psalm 69:3)*

The Bible doesn't contain any promises that we won't ever be hurt or that life will be free of suffering or that we will always get exactly what we want when we want it, but there is the promise that God will never leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

We may cry and cry and cry some more. Our throats may ache from calling out and hearing no answer. Our eyes may grow dim, blinded by tears and still not seeing the reason why. We may wait for a long time before we understand what all the suffering was for. Even then, God will not forsake us. Even then, Jesus says, "Come to me" and "I will give you rest."

Whether it is sickness, loss, or even feeling burnt out from being overloaded with good things, Jesus knows and understands our circumstances and the ways that we think and feel about them. But when we are weak, he is strong. When we feel hopeless, he is our undying hope. When we are sorrowful, he is our compassionate comforter who will ultimately strengthen us with his joy.

One day we will no longer have any reason for sadness. We will no longer need to wait, for we will see Christ face to face. But in the meantime, while we wait, we can come to Jesus and he will give us rest for our souls.

## Persian Ministry

For more than 40 years, we have been reaching the Persian-speaking world with the hope of the gospel. Through web radio, social media, training conferences and more, we continue to see believers strengthened in their faith and new disciples being made.

28. Praise God for the recent conferences that have brought together seekers and believers in the Persian-speaking world for Christian love and fellowship!
29. Pray for our Persian ministry leader, Tony, as he encourages and mentors Persian believers.
30. Pray for those interacting on our Persian social media channels. Many young Persians are tired of religion and are asking about Jesus and Christianity. Pray that they would find the answers they seek.
31. Pray for the ongoing development of youth and short programs and for those who will listen to these programs.



## June

1. Pray for those across the Persian-speaking world who receive SD cards, Bibles and other resources. Pray that they would grow in faith.
2. TWR Canada's Persian web radio station shares the hope and truth of the gospel with the Persian-speaking world. Praise God for the changed lives we have seen and pray for many more to come to faith.
3. Because women in the Persian-speaking world need their husbands' permission to travel to conferences, it can be especially difficult for them when their husbands don't believe in Christ. Pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of these men and for women to receive the hope and encouragement they need.



## COME TO ME

*“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”*  
(John 6:37)

Jesus wants us to come to him. He has promised that he will not cast out those that the Father gives to him. He will not despise the sinner who comes to him seeking rest. Jesus will welcome that sinner home and set him or her free from every sin. Jesus makes people new and no one is too far gone.

If you are at the end of your rope, if you are heavy laden with guilt and regret, if you have laboured long and hard but just can't seem to do enough good, if you aren't even convinced that Jesus will want you, be assured that Jesus says, "Come to me." He will give you

rest. He will take you in. He will not cast you out.

Jesus isn't saying "Come to me" because he isn't aware of your sin or because he doesn't care about your sin, but because he loves you and has taken your sin upon himself so that you don't need to carry it anymore. He loves you! And he will not cast you out if you come to him because he really wants a relationship with you!

Regardless of what your past or present looks like, trust that Jesus will not cast you out if you come to him today.

## Digital Ministry

Our digital ministry allows anyone, anywhere, at any time to gain access to a wide range of resources in their heart language.

4. In partnership with the team in Europe, we have released an app for Macedonian speakers containing programming such as *Voice of Truth*, *InTouch* and *Life of Jesus*. Pray for those accessing this content on the app.
5. Pray for those accessing content on TWR Canada's Android and iOS apps, including the *Speak Hope* and *Discipleship Essentials* apps. Pray that these apps would be a beneficial resource to many around the world as they grow in their faith.
6. Many TWR radio stations around the world also stream their broadcasts online. Pray for those listening in this way from all around the globe.
7. The vast majority of Bengali-speaking youth in India have regular access to the internet, and 80 per cent of their internet use involves watching videos. Pray that those watching TWR India's videos discover hope in Christ.
8. Through our partnership with the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, we are distributing their weekly audio program, *Encounter the Truth* on TWR360. Pray that many will use this tool to grow in faith.
9. Praise God that *Discipleship Essentials* is now available online in Hausa and Indonesian! Pray for all those who will access these materials.
10. With digital technology, we have the opportunity to reach people at any time all around the world. Pray for those who discover these digital resources and that they would come to know God through them.



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# I WILL GIVE YOU REST

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:3)*

We have eternal life and an eternal home with and thanks to Jesus. Although in this world we do have trouble and sadness and weariness, a day is coming when all that will be done away with. Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place for us, an eternal home where we will have eternal rest and freedom from all the struggles that we face on earth.

Jesus says that he will give us rest and this is true both in this life and in the next. In this life, he gives us the peace, grace and strength that we need while living in a fallen world. The rest we receive here and now comes like a breath of fresh air. We won't always experience it perfectly because this world isn't perfect, but it is

there. Jesus gives it and renews it and helps us to find it when we need it.

In the next life, there will be perfect rest. Our work, our worship, our relationships, our circumstances, our bodies and hearts and minds will all be free from the pain of a sinful world because everything will be made new.

Let us come to Jesus, trusting that he will give us rest in this life and that a day is coming when our rest will be made perfect in our eternal home.

When we are faced with suffering, let us hope in the love of God knowing that that hope will never put us to shame.

## Missionaries

Our missionaries serve in a variety of countries, including here in Canada! Using their God-given skills and passion, they are the on-the-ground workers in the field.

11. Pray for the Dunlop family in South Africa. Nathan is working on several audio and video production projects for TWR globally, and Megan continues her role of social and relational facilitator in the office. Praise God their three children are so actively involved in church activities!
12. Pray for TWR Canada's missionary to China, who is back in Canada to renew her visa. Pray that process would go smoothly and the visa would be approved quickly.
13. Pray for the Clarke family as they serve in Eswatini. Pray for the political situation in the country and that God would continue to use TWR's programming to speak hope.
14. Pray for Julia Schindeler as she works with diaspora communities in Toronto and looks at new ways of partnership for TWR Canada with these people groups.
15. Pray for Jeremy Mullin as he supports the IT needs of TWR Canada.
16. Pray for Stephen and Teresa Murray in South Africa in their second year on the field, as they continue to settle in and build relationships with their coworkers and community.
17. Pray that God would stir up new missionaries from Canada to go out and support the work of TWR around the world.




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## I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY

“...a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.” (Isaiah 42:3)

Jesus is gentle and kind and humble. When he calls us to come to him, he does so kindly and gently, not heaping more guilt upon us, but lifting the burden of guilt off of us.

Yes, when we come to him we will see his holiness contrasted with our sinfulness but he does not intend to break or destroy us but to raise us from the dead! Even his justice is kindness! He does not ignore justice but takes on its harshness so that we may experience the benefits of justice. He faithfully brings justice by taking our punishment and giving us grace!

He is gentle and lowly, not because he doesn't have the right to stand far off and avoid touching us, but because he loves us and is glorified in showing kindness to us.

He is the God who heals. He is the God who raises the dead and runs to the prodigal son while he is still far away (Luke 15:20-24).

Today, come to Jesus trusting that he is kind and gentle and lowly, and that he will not break or destroy you but will heal and restore you and give you rest.

### Ministry to Children

Our ministry to children includes *Bible Stories Alive*, a series of stories chronicling the lives of people in the Bible, such as Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, in a way that brings the stories to life and makes the listener feel like they are there.

- 18. Please pray for the translation and production of the *Bible Stories Alive* programs in Arabic, Spanish, Persian, Swahili, Somali, Hindi, Gujarati and Mandarin.



- 19. TWR Cambodia's children's program *Happy Children's Garden* shares practical daily living advice alongside Bible stories. Pray for the children who listen in groups and grow in faith together.
- 20. Praise God for the infrastructure to share *Bible Stories Alive*, including on four FM stations in Kenya, on TWR360, and on the Speak Hope and Bible Stories Alive Android and iOS apps.
- 21. Pray for the distribution of the Mandarin stories on tablets and online through TWR Canada's Chinese ministry. Pray that the children and families who read and listen to these stories would grow in their faith together.
- 22. Pray for Dr. Griffiths and his team at Bible Stories Alive as they edit the English stories for translation into other languages.
- 23. Pray for those listening to *Bible Stories Alive* broadcast in Spanish across the TWR Latin America FM network.
- 24. Please pray that God would instill in children all over the world a curiosity to know him and develop a strong foundation rooted in his truth and goodness.

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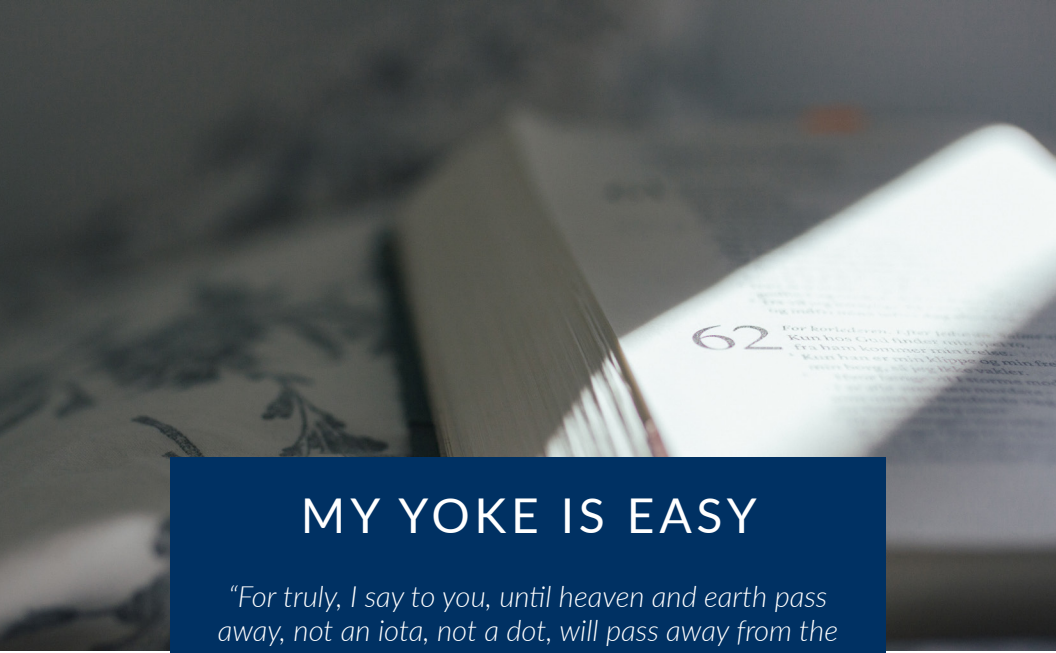
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## MY YOKE IS EASY

*“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass away from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:18)*

If you have ever read the book of Leviticus, Numbers or Deuteronomy, or really any book of the Bible that contains commandments directed to us, you will very quickly realize that that is not an easy yoke to bear. It is not a light burden. It is an impossible weight that we have already failed to carry on numerous occasions. The Law is very detailed and heavy and yet Jesus said that not a single detail will pass away until it is all accomplished.

That is just one of the reasons why Jesus’ words on the cross are so important. Jesus said, *“It is finished”* (John 19:30). Jesus fulfilled the Law. Jesus accomplished what we could

not. Jesus died the death we deserved. Jesus rose again to save us.

Jesus bore the weight of the Law. He accomplished every iota. The cross, along with the Law, our transgressions, and the wrath of God was laid on his shoulders. So what is left for us to carry? What is laid on our shoulders? An easy yoke.

Jesus took the heavy burden of our sin so that we could receive the yoke of grace.

Let us not reject this yoke but joyfully accept it, coming to Jesus and resting in the perfect work that he has done!

## Canada

TWR Canada provides resources for the Canadian Church, as well as tools to help share the hope of Jesus in the heart languages of our neighbours.

- 25. Praise God for the increase in responses from younger viewers in Quebec! Pray for the team at Aujourd’hui l’Espoir as they share the gospel with a younger audience.
- 26. Pray for Aujourd’hui l’Espoir’s Hope Line. Pray that the team who answers the calls would encourage callers, answer their questions and engage them in spiritually uplifting discussions.
- 27. Please pray for the ongoing production of CultureCross. This resource is designed to help Canadians share the gospel with those of a different culture.

- 28. TWR Canada provides media players for believers to use as an evangelism tool in reaching new Canadians with the gospel. Pray for those who will receive a player in their heart language.



- 29. To supplement the topical episodes of the TV show *La Parole Vivante*, we are creating a series based on the Thru the Bible series of Genesis. Please pray for the production of this series and for all who will view it.
- 30. As we look to expand the reach of the Quebec FM station through repeater stations across the province, please pray for the process of applying for licenses through CRTC and for quick approval to begin broadcasting more broadly.

## July

- 1. Happy Canada Day! Praise God for the ways he is at work across our nation. Pray our country will see their need for Jesus and find hope in salvation through him.

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## About Us:

Using media, we partner with churches around the world to share the message of salvation among the nations.



**Media  
Content**



**Training  
Believers**



**Digital  
& Media  
Technology**



**Missionaries  
and  
Mobilization**

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