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How Churches Around the World Pray for Churches Around the World: How we pray in Argentina for churches around the world?

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Calvin Symposium on Worship 2017

B4: How Churches Around the World Pray for Churches Around the World

How we pray in Argentina for churches around the world?

1. Reading the reality from a perspective of faith.

- a. Reading the newspapers. *“Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible”* (Karl Barth). In this way, enlightened by the Word of God, we can pray in a committed way for the reality of those who suffer in the world. And make that prayer also a prophetic prayer, calling injustices by name.
- b. Liberation Theology, born in Latin America, also provides a spirituality of liberation with strong emphasis in concrete ways to pray from the dark night of structural Injustice. ¹ So, we also pray for justice in the world, even if the structural injustice does not appear on the headlines of concentrated media.
- c. Accra confession (Accra, Ghana, 2004), give us also a good impulse to pray and work in solidarity with churches around the world. *“We believe that God calls us to hear the cries of the poor and the groaning of creation and to follow the public mission of Jesus Christ who came so that all may have life and have it in fullness (Jn 10.10). Jesus brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; he frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind (Lk 4.18); he supports and protects the downtrodden, the stranger, the orphans and the widows.”* (Accra # 27²)
- d. Statements from our Synod of Reformed Churches in Argentina, reflecting on different issues around economic injustice, structural violence, etc., inviting local congregations to pray and to act for one other possible world.

2. Following the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle edited by the World Council of Churches³. Each week for other countries.

¹ Cf. Gustavo Gutiérrez, *Beber de su propio pozo*, Lima, 1983. Only an example of a lot of books around this issue. I also recommend the reading of the books of Juan Luis Segundo, theologian and poet from Presbyterian background.

² https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/hunger/pdf/accra-confession.pdf

³ <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle>

3. **Partnership between churches.** As Reformed Churches in Argentina we have signed different partnerships with churches around the world. Important part of that kind of relationship is the commitment to pray one for another.
4. **Singing global songs.** This is may be the most simple and at the same time the most beautiful way to have other churches from all around the globe in prayer: singing songs from different countries. Examples: Siyahamba (South Africa), Kwake Yesu (Kenya), Soñamos (Colombia), Pelas dores (Brasil), Du bist heilig (Germany)...
5. **Creating and strengthening** –in liturgy, for example - **a spirit of solidarity,** able to search out for the needs of other people.

*Rev. Gerardo Oberman
Argentina*