



Current Issues in Prayer

April 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.



Getting started:

I take a moment to reflect on those countries afflicted by war and focus my thoughts on the people who work in these countries providing medical care to the victims of war. I place these people before the Lord and ask him to protect them and to give them the strength and the courage to continue their mission.



Short story:

Mr. David Nott, a British vascular surgeon, has been volunteering in war zones including Bosnia, Libya and Sudan for over 20 years. He had seen a lot of atrocities including children with perforated bodies, pregnant women shot in the womb, men with ears chopped off and others burnt by incendiaries. In October 1993, David was operating on an injured man in Aleppo in Syria when the doors of the operating theatre flung open. David and his team were intruded by men dressed in black and armed with AK47s. They had barged in to see the patient who happened to be their colleague. Out of fear, David trembled with jelly legs but somehow managed to keep steady hands and concentrate on mending the patient's pulmonary artery.



Later in an interview, David said "I knew they would kill me had they discovered I was Christian. I prayed God to help me. The Syrian doctor assisting me meekly ordered the men to 'leave the senior surgeon finish his job'". Luckily, a loud noise outside distracted the men who left in a hurry.



Time to reflect:

Think about the atrocities and risks that people working in war zones face on a daily basis.

Am I willing to offer the same efforts and commitment in my daily work as these dedicated people?



Let us pray:

Dear God, protect these people who risk their lives for others. Help me follow their example and fulfill my mission by being a man or woman for others.



Inspiration:

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi



Hands on:

During this month, while at work, with family or with friends, I keep in mind people who work in war zones. I do my best to follow their example and try to selflessly serve the people I meet in my daily life.