



World Cup 2026: The Convergence

Nations • Pentecost • Harvest

A Prayer Briefing by Karina Philip | Karina Speaks! | June 2026

Biblical Context — The Day of Pentecost

*God has always had the nations in view. **The gathering of nations is not incidental to God's redemptive plan** – it is part of God's plan. The moment that frames our prayer today:*

The Day of Pentecost — Acts 2:1-11

A historical gathering of nations took place in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Jews and converts from “every nation under heaven” — including Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia and Rome — were present. The Holy Spirit was poured out, enabling the disciples to speak in the native languages of all the gathered crowds. The obedience of the 120 in the Upper Room and the nations converged, and the Church was born.

“Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven... Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs — we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” — Acts 2:5, 9–11 (NIV)

The Bible tells us that 3,000 people came to believe in Christ (Acts 2:41) after Peter preached under the power and anointing of Holy Spirit!

Today's Parallels

The Holy Spirit fell on a genuinely intercontinental gathering at Pentecost — nations from Asia, Africa, and Europe were all present in one place.

I can't help but see the parallel. The 2026 FIFA World Cup is the largest in history: 48 nations, 104 matches, 16 host cities across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. **For 39 days — June 11 through July 19 — the nations of the earth are coming to us.** This influx of people poses many challenges but also so many opportunities.

We are also in a “hinge of history” moment. In just the last month, America was rededicated to the Lord with public reading of Scripture from our highest government officials. The 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation will occur while the World Cup is going on. Our *chronos* (calendar) time is about to converge with the *kairos* (appointed) time of the Lord. May we recognize it!

How can the Lord use *our* obedience to converge with the nations coming to us?

We are not praying for revival for revival's sake. This prayer burden does not come from a warped sense of America's inherent "goodness." This is about the Lord's desire that none would perish, but that everyone would repent and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:9)

If you look at the history of revivals, they spilled into the streets and spread to the nations. **Azusa Street spread to approximately 50 nations** — the UK, South Africa, China, India — and a missions movement was born. ***In this season of the World Cup, let's ask the Lord to do it again!***

Why Does It Even Matter?

*Scripture frames where the gathering of nations begins and where it ends. **Our God loves the nations. He plans to spend all eternity surrounded by them!***

The Messianic Age of Peace — *Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1*

Prophets Isaiah and Micah describe a future era where nations willingly stream to Jerusalem to learn God's ways — leading to such transformed hearts that swords become plowshares and war is learned no more. The gathering of nations is not incidental to God's redemptive plan; it is its culmination.

"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it." — Isaiah 2:2 (NIV)

"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it." — Micah 4:1 (NIV)

The Ultimate Heavenly Multitude — *Revelation 7:9*

The Apostle John envisions the ultimate culmination of history: a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. **Every earthly gathering of nations is a foreshadow of this moment. The World Cup is not the point, but it may be a door.**

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." — Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

World Cup 2026 — U.S. Host Cities & Match Dates

Matches are being held across 16 cities in three nations. Here is where the nations will gather across the United States:

City	Stadium	Match Dates	Est. Visitors
New York / New Jersey	MetLife Stadium	June 13, 16, 22, 25, 27 • July 5 • Final: July 19 ★	1,000,000+
Dallas (Arlington)	AT&T Stadium	June 14, 17, 22, 25 • July 3, 6 • Semifinal: July 14	3,800,000
Houston	NRG Stadium	June 14, 17, 20, 23, 26 • June 29 • July 4	500,000
Los Angeles (Inglewood)	SoFi Stadium	June 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 • June 28 • July 2, 4	179,000
Miami (Miami Gardens)	Hard Rock Stadium	June 13, 16, 20, 23, 26 • July 3, 6	Est. ~400,000
Atlanta	Mercedes-Benz Stadium	June 15, 18, 21, 24, 27 • July 1, 7 • Semifinal: July 15	Est. ~300,000
Boston (Foxborough)	Gillette Stadium	June 13, 16, 19, 23, 26 • June 29 • Quarterfinal: July 9	Est. ~350,000
Philadelphia	Lincoln Financial Field	June 14, 17, 21, 24, 27 • June 29 • July 5	Est. ~300,000
Kansas City	Arrowhead Stadium	June 16, 25 • July 3 • Quarterfinal: July 11	650,000+
San Francisco Bay Area	Levi's Stadium	June 12, 15, 19, 22, 25 • July 1, 5	Est. ~250,000
Seattle	Lumen Field	June 14, 18, 21, 24, 26 • July 1, 7	750,000

★ *The World Cup Final on July 19 at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ — expected audience of 2 billion worldwide.*

★ *Matches are also being played in Canada (Toronto • BMO Field; Vancouver • BC Place) and Mexico (Mexico City • Estadio Azteca; Guadalajara • Estadio Akron; Monterrey • Estadio BBVA). The tournament opens June 11 in Mexico City.*

Visitor estimates sourced from host committee projections, PwC, Micronomics, and Oxford Economics (businessstats.com/fifa-world-cup-2026-tourism-impact; spectrumlocalnews.com). Figures marked "Est." are approximations where official host committee figures were not available.

Full schedule: <https://www.fifa.com/en/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026>

Nations Coming to Us: The Gospel Dimension

Among the 48 qualified nations are countries where the Gospel is actively suppressed — where Christians face imprisonment, displacement, or death for their faith. **For many of these fans and players, this tournament may be the first time they set foot in a place where the Good News can reach them freely, without government surveillance.**

World Watch List 2026: Qualified Nations in the Top 50

Country	WWL 2026 Rank	Notes on Gospel Suppression
Iran	Top 10	One of the most dangerous countries to be a Christian. Conversion from Islam is a capital offense. Underground church movement active.
Iraq	Top 20	Centuries-old Christian communities largely displaced. Ongoing pressure from Islamic extremism and state regulation.
Morocco	Top 25	All Protestant churches closed. 75%+ of Moroccan Christians have lost connection to fellowship.
Algeria	Top 20	All Protestant churches forced to close. Christians driven underground.
Tunisia	Top 30	Significant social and legal pressure on converts from Islam. Open witness nearly impossible.
Egypt	Top 20	Coptic Christians face targeted violence and systemic discrimination.
Nigeria	Top 10	3,490 Christians killed for their faith in the last reporting period — 72% of all Christian martyrdom deaths globally.
Türkiye	Top 30	Churches face closure orders; converts experience family and community violence.
Uzbekistan	Top 30	State surveillance of Christian activity; unregistered churches raided; materials confiscated.
Jordan	Top 30	Converts from Islam face intense family and community pressure.
Saudi Arabia	Extreme restriction	No legal church presence. Conversion from Islam punishable by death.
Qatar	Very restricted	Public Christian witness forbidden. Expatriate Christians meet only in private.
Senegal	Socially restricted	Converts from Islam face intense family and community rejection.

Source: *Open Doors World Watch List 2026* — opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/

For a full list of participating teams: <https://www.fifa.com/en/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026/teams>

How to Pray

For Our Nation & the Host Cities

- *We plead the blood of Jesus over our nation. We pray for the protection of each region hosting World Cup games. **We ask the Lord of Angel Armies to dispatch legions of angels into each region of the United States.***
- *We pray for human trafficking, drug trafficking and every form of wickedness and abuse to be disrupted, exposed and put to an end.*
- *We declare SHALOM over our nation and the order of God over every municipality, state, region and over systems of commerce, transportation, etc.*
- *We pray for all terroristic plots to be thwarted and come to nothing in Jesus' name.*
- *We call forth the watchmen in every region of **America**. Arise and shine — this is your time! We break off distraction, discouragement, sickness, and any assignment from the enemy to cause you to miss the hour of the Lord's visitation!*

For the Nations

- *We pray for the hearts of national teams, support staff, and match attendees to **be prepared in advance to receive the Good News**. All it takes is one person encountering Jesus to change a team, a family, a nation.*
- *We pray for hotel and restaurant workers, airport and venue staff to boldly proclaim the Gospel.*
- ***Pray Matthew 9:36–38:** “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.””*

Declarations

These are not exhaustive, just a starting point.

- We declare that we depend on you, Holy Spirit.
- We declare that our *chronos* time is aligning with God's *kairos* time.
- We declare that our obedience is converging with the nations coming to our doorstep.
- We declare that it is harvest time and the nations will be saved!
- We declare FREEDOM, true freedom in Christ over America and over every visitor.
- We declare that revival fire is breaking out in America and will be carried back to all the nations of the earth.
- We declare that the Church is taking her place in this hour. Let the evangelists arise also!
- We declare that laborers will arise to collect this massive harvest.
- We declare we will not miss the hour of our visitation!

Take Your Position

The 39 days of the World Cup are not just a sporting season. They are a *watch*. From June 11 to July 19, the nations will be at our door. Here is how to steward this moment:

PRAY *Return to this guide on match days.*

Don't just watch the matches — intercede through them. When Morocco takes the field, pray for the underground church. When Iran plays, plead the blood over every Iranian believer. When Nigeria competes, pray for the thousands of families who lost someone to violence for their faith. **If you feel burdened for a specific nation in the tournament, adopt them in intercession!** Use the host cities table as a prayer calendar: find your city, find the dates, and show up in the spirit before the nations physically show up.

GO *If you're in a host city, the mission field is coming to you.*

Fan Zones, public transit hubs, hotels, restaurants, and city squares will be filled with visitors from nations where the Gospel has never freely reached. You don't need a plane ticket or a visa. You need availability. Ask the Lord: "Who are You sending across my path?" Carry the peace of God into every public space. Be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

SEND *Multiply this prayer cover.*

Share this briefing with your church, your intercessors, your small group, your network. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, and the first workers we need are those who will pray. Every believer who picks up this guide and prays is a laborer in the field. Send it freely.

PARTNER *Find your on-the-ground assignment.*

Organizations are already mobilizing across host cities and more: evangelism teams, prayer houses, outreach networks, and justice ministries. For a curated list of organizations to connect with and partner alongside during the World Cup, see [Jay Flew's East Coast Prayer Briefing](#) for specific organizations and practical on-ramps.

*The obedience of the 120 converged with the nations at Pentecost and the world was never the same. We are the 120 for this moment. **Pray. Go. Send. Partner. Don't miss the hour of the Lord's visitation.***

"The nations are not coming to a stadium. They are coming to us."

Open Doors WWL 2026: 315 million+ Christians face very high or extreme persecution in the top 50 countries alone.

388 million face high-level persecution globally.

Source: [opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/](https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/)

karinaspeaks.com | [@karinaspeaksofficial](https://twitter.com/karinaspeaksofficial)