

How to use the Prayer Guide

The quarterly Jericho Walls Prayer Guide provides information to assist intercessors and other believers to pray effectively for revival and the salvation of the unsaved peoples of the world. The Prayer Guide will help you to pray with focus and in unity with people all over the world, regardless of whether you pray on your own, with a friend, or as part of a prayer group. About 200 000 praying people make use of the pre-researched prayer information presented as daily prayer pointers. Prayer topics range from issues in South Africa to issues affecting other countries or people groups in the world.

The Prayer Guide is distributed across several different time zones. By making use of it, you form part of a prayer army in God's Kingdom – 24 hours a day! The prayer points are presented in different formats. Some prayer requests will state statistics and request you to pray for certain issues. Often the prayer information is presented as prayers written in the first person, as if spoken to the Lord in prayer. Prayers are often taken from Scripture. The Prayer Guide will also keep you up-to-date with the latest prayer events, national and international prayer initiatives, and other events that give one a broader picture of what is happening in the prayer movement. Training opportunities such as prayer seminars, prayer schools, etc., are often included. As we receive feedback from the Body of Christ, we also provide you with news of some of the breakthroughs that have resulted from the persistent prayer of Christians.

You are most welcome to submit prayer information for publication. The Prayer Guide is published quarterly. Your information should therefore reach us 4 months prior to the first month of the publication of the issue in which you would like your prayer information to appear.

Lastly:

- Use this information to pray during your own personal prayer times.
- Encourage other people to use the Prayer Guide.
- Consider starting a small prayer group and then make use of some of these prayer points as prayer guidelines.
- You are free to make use of any of the prayer topics mentioned in this publication in your own church prayer bulletin and prayer meetings.

Disclaimer

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accuracy of any information or services which may appear on any linked websites, as these are provided for information purposes only.

But GOD...

In one of his books Charles Dickens writes that it was “the best of times and the worst of times”. We can say the same of the times we live in. Apart from the many negative things that happen, a lot of positive things also take place. It is important not to ignore the negative, but to respond positively by looking for solutions and showing people the way to Him who is the Solution!

Why do people not pray?

This is a question many pastors, prayer coordinators, missionaries and intercessors ask. It is a relevant question. If we know why people do not pray, it would help us to find answers to this question.

There are many reasons why people do not pray. These are a few: (Test your own heart for any signs of prayerlessness and let the Holy Spirit show you why there is prayerlessness in your heart.) Some people do not pray because they do not know God and do not have a personal relationship with Him. People do not know Jesus as Saviour and some, who do know Him as Saviour, do not know Him as Friend and Lord. It is only through studying the Word, spending time with God and asking the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us that we get to know Him the way He really is. Others do not know the power of God. We are not familiar with God’s great deeds. We are often unaware of His great deeds and have little comprehension of what He can do as we are overwhelmed by the poverty and destruction around us. We do not pray, because we don’t really expect much from the Lord. We no longer ask Him to help us because we are not sure what to expect from Him. We think God thinks the way we do. We do not know what He is prepared to do and what we are allowed to ask Him to do. The problem among other things, is that we do not know Scripture. Therefore we do not ask Him to do great things because we do not realise that He can “accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope” (Eph.3:20-21). Take time to read about the great acts of God again, in Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles and also in Acts.

Some of us do not pray because we think we can do things ourselves. We think we do not need God. We think for example, that medical science can fix everything. We believe that we can work out our own happiness with our own skills, insight and wisdom. Some people do not understand the way God thinks about them. They are so devastated by rejection and humiliation, that they no longer know they are the crown of God’s creation. They cannot see God’s unconditional love for them; that He is not seeking for ways to punish them, but that He wants to help and care for them. People often think they are not good enough and do not deserve to be helped. We have to understand that none of us deserve anything because all that we receive is grace from God.

Others pray earnestly, and exactly the opposite of what they asked for happens! People lose their jobs; become ill; family members and friends die and it seems like prayer did not help at all. They get hurt, become disappointed, blame God and feel

as if He has failed them. They think, He could have helped, and become bitter. Unbelief slips in and a heart filled with unbelief cannot and does not want to pray. Fellow Christians' cheap advice or condemnation causes great damage. Some people lose their trust in God and eventually turn their backs on God.

So many people are afraid of God's holiness and have a wrong and unhealthy fear of God. They often think God watches them like a policeman, just waiting to catch them out and punish them when they do something wrong. They see God as an unreasonable father who expects them to do things they are not able to do. They cannot see God's goodness, His grace and mercy. They do not understand that in His amazing love, God the Father sent His Son to this world to show us His love. Many think God is unwilling to help and that in some way they have to overcome His unwillingness to help. They pray and pray and if they do not receive an answer immediately or clear, they give up and see it as a sign that they cannot really expect God to help them.

Let us remember that all Christians experience hard times as well as hard times concerning our prayer life. The answer always stays the same: Go back to God and keep on talking to Him. When you do not understand or do not receive any answers to your prayer, focus on God. Choose to believe God. God will answer you in His time and will guide you as He knows best.

Prayer focuses: June-September 2011

Our prayer theme throughout this year is revival.

June: The Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) on June 12 and the 10 Days of prayer in **June**. We also focus in prayer on children and young people at risk.

July: During July there is a strong focus on establishing 24/7 prayer watches, the social needs of people and the responsibility of the church towards such people. We also ask the Lord to give us peace in our country and will focus in prayer on sensitive issues concerning the economy, agriculture, labour unrest, etc.

August: During August we join millions of Christians worldwide to pray for the 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, asking God the Father to reveal His Son to them as Redeemer, through His Holy Spirit. Ramadan, when Muslims pray and fast for 30 days will be from 1-30 August this year.

September: We continue to pray for God's blessings and breakthroughs in the economy, private business sector and specifically the labour force of South Africa.

Let us ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit of prayer and supplication upon hundreds of thousands of Christians in this country, that He will make them willing to pray and teach them how to pray. May Christians get to know God in a way they have never known Him before.

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network
Eph.3:20

24 June – 1 July 2011: Biblical Worldview Summit

The Biblical Worldview Summit equips participants with Biblical principles and discernment regarding theories on how to respond to humanism and the theory of

evolution, as well as how to apply the Lordship of Jesus Christ to all areas of life. Attend the Biblical Worldview Summit in Cape Town from 24 June - 1 July 2011. For more details contact: The Summit, P.O. Box 74, Newlands, 7725. Tel.: 021 689 4480 or fax: 021 685 5884. Website: <http://www.frontline.org.za> or e-mail: admin@frontline.org.za

7-9 September 2011: Africa by Radio (AbR) Continental Convention

Africa's meeting of Christian broadcasters and media practitioners from across the continent, has been heralded a great success by delegates. In September 2009 more than a hundred participants and day visitors, representing many countries and organisations, and individuals from Sub-Saharan Africa and abroad, gathered in Johannesburg to learn and hear how God is using media to transform communities and society. The next Africa by Radio (AbR) Continental Convention will be held in Accra, Ghana from 7-9 September 2011. Further information will follow. Africa by Radio (AbR). P.O. Box 22032, Fish Hoek. Tel/fax.: 021 785 3200. Website: <http://www.africabyradio.org/> or e-mail: info@africabyradio.org

3-7 October 2011: 24/7 Watchman's School of Prayer (WSOP)

Join us for the 10th Watchman's School of Prayer at the Rocklands Conference Centre in Simon's Town. Join us for 5 days in which we seek God for spiritual breakthroughs in our communities and cities. You will receive structures on how to experience personal revival and have a deeper prayer life. Practical training on how to establish 24/7 prayer in your local church/community will be provided. Together we will explore the mysteries and joys of knowing God and becoming who He has designed us to be! We will seek the Lord in prayer and worship, learn from one another's experience, and trust Him to establish and strengthen the foundation of night-and-day prayer in every church and community. We can accommodate 150 people and registration is R1200 per person (including all meals and accommodation for the whole week). Please register by paying your deposit of R600 as soon as possible to reserve your place. Contact Lizette van Rooyen at tel.: 021 919 7988 or fax: 021 919 3954. Website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: cape@jwipn.com

What, where and when: International

Prayer Focus for International Students in the USA takes place from 7-13 August; 5-11 August 2012 and 4-10 August 2013. Most international students arrive for orientation at university and Bible School campuses in mid-August. The first prayer focus will be on nearly 70,000 international students who are believed to be enrolled at American colleges for the new academic year. The second prayer focus will be on the 75-80% of these students who never experience hospitality in a Christian home or visit a Christian church during their stay in the United States. Website: <http://www.bray-missionaries.org/20091018PrayerWeekDates.asp>

What are the 5 Pillars of Islam?

The Islamic religion is practised according to five main "pillars" which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims. Some Muslims add a sixth pillar, Jihad: The struggle to propagate the faith of Islam throughout the world, either by force or arms. Reciting the Creed (shahada): "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet."

Prayer (salat) - Five times each day.

Almsgiving (zakat) - Both obligatory and voluntary giving to the poor.

Fasting (saum) - Especially during the “holy” month of Ramadan.

Pilgrimage (hajj) - At least once in a lifetime to Mecca, known as the Hajj.

In this issue we focus specifically on information resources on Ramadan and Islam.

Christian Sites about Islam

www.answering-islam.org / www.guranandinjil.org / www.carlmedearis.com /

Testimonies

www.morehandreams.tv / www.muslimjourneytohope.com

People Groups / Mission

www.joshuaproject.net / www.missionfrontiers.org / www.lausanne.org

Other Sites promoting prayer for Muslim nations

<http://www.iraqprayer.org> (Prayer for Iraq), www.cryoutnow.org / www.pray-ap.info (Prayer for Middle East), www.memritv.org (News from the Middle East), www.barnabasfund.org (Persecuted believers), www.oxfordislamicstudies.com, (About Islam), <http://www.30-days.net> (Muslims and Islam).

How to share the gospel

www.DaretoBeaDaniel.com

The Billy Graham Youth Ministry has launched a new web resource for Christian students who want to learn how to share their faith. It offers greater interactivity, allowing students to “befriend” each other, as on Facebook.

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