

Monday 1 August 2011

Salvation focus: Train conductors and ticket officers

Train accidents and incidents on trains often reach the daily news. Conductors/ticket officers face these dangers every day, but they also have numerous opportunities to be a pillar of the light and love of Christ to those using public transport. Please pray for their salvation, that they will be touched by Christians regularly travelling with them. Also pray for those with a Christian witness, to realise their strategic position to influence and pray for people they encounter every day.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 1

Ramadan starts today. This time we felt led to focus in prayer on some countries in the world with high Muslim populations, specifically praying for the evangelisation and discipling of these nations. There will also be a proclamation from Scripture over all Muslims every day.

Muslim population by continent is as follows: Africa 400 million, Middle East 250 million, Asia 800 million, Europe (Incl. Russia) 38 million, Americas 5 million, a total of 1.5 billion. Father, let this Ramadan be a time that the love of Jesus Christ will pierce the hearts, minds, lives and communities of every Muslim worldwide.

Sudan has a population of 39 million. About 70% are Sunni Muslims. Jesus Christ, Faithful Witness, let the audio version of the Bible find its way into many rural areas in Sudan.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ (John 14.6).

Tuesday 2 August 2011

Revival focus: Let us pray for the salvation of the lost. So often we can be so overwhelmed by the social and practical needs of people in the here and now, that it blots out the fact that they are human beings with an even more important "eternal destiny". Pray that the gospel of forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God will be preached amongst them in a loving non-judgmental way. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son... (John 3:16).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 2

The Main World Religions are as follows: Muslims of all types, 1.5 billion; Buddhists, 376 million; Chinese Traditional Religions, 400 million; Animists / African Tribal / Other, 450 million; Hindus, 900 million; Secular / Atheist, 1.1 billion and Christians of all denominations, 1.6 to 2 billion. Father of the nations, we ask that You will send labourers into these harvests this year like never before and grant them favour to preach the gospel.

Syria has a population of 19 million. About 90% are Sunni Muslims. Righteous God, we ask for more literature, audio and video material on Christ to pierce the remote areas of Syria.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev.19:16).

Wednesday 3 August 2011

Focus on establishing 24/7 houses of prayer

Pray for the prayer network in Indonesia to also expand into South-east Asia. Pray that their vision for night-and-day prayer and missions will become wider and spread to neighbouring cities and countries. Ask for groups of believers to start praying for the economy of South Africa. Pray that they will persevere in prayer for the purposes of God to prevail concerning every aspect of the well-being of our economy.

Focus on the economy, business sector and labour

Many workers, or their family members, suffer from HIV/AIDS. Praise God for the many businesses that provide HIV/AIDS counselling and Anti-Retrovirals for their staff. As a result of these interventions many can now work for a longer period. Pray for wise counsel from business leaders, government etc. to provide assistance with HIV/AIDS, education and support that will comfort, encourage and strengthen workers in their efforts to work, to find medical care, and for family members to find jobs as well.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 3

Saudi Arabia has a population of 28 million. About 100% are Sunni Muslims. King of kings, open up doors for importing Bibles in Arabic in a form that will reach illiterate women and children.

Somalia has a population of 9.3 million; Muslim 99.67% and Christian 0.33%. The work of missions, always dangerous and hedged with restrictions, was forced to cease in 1972 when their institutions were nationalised by the new Marxist regime. Pray for workers to the Somalis to be called, committed and ready when these defiant closed doors open.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the only living Son of God Almighty (Mark 1:1).

Thursday 4 August 2011

Revival focus: Poverty and the social needs of people are very complex problems.

It is one thing to feed and clothe people, but a complete different matter to pull them out of the pit of poverty and degradation and help them to live with dignity and develop the ability to care for themselves. It is very easy to say that the poor and needy are lazy and not intelligent and that they do not really want to work. This might be true of a small percentage, but it is not the whole truth. Pray for Christians, politicians, social workers and churches for a deeper understanding of the complexity of the situation of the poor and needy so that the best measures can be taken to effectively help them.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 4

United Arab Emirates has a population of 4.7 million; Muslim 67.65% and Christian 8.55%. Domestic labourers, in particular, have unique access to their Gulf Arab employers and the opportunity to witness, despite the fact that they frequently have to endure difficult conditions. Pray that their humble witness might lead many to Jesus.

Tajikistan has a population of 7 million; Muslim 93.93% and Christian 1.04%. The whole Bible exists in Tajik; work on a much-needed simplified translation is underway with

the Gospels already available. Pray for funds to complete, print and distribute this translation. Also pray for an increase in Christian radio and television broadcasts.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ, the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins (Matt.9:6).

Praying for Muslims during the month of Ramadan: 1-30 August 2011

This call to prayer for Muslims originally came during a meeting of several Christian leaders in the Middle East in 1992. Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, is also the month that millions of Christians all over the world call on God to reveal Himself to Muslims and that they will see and acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God. The Muslims find the concept of God having a Son slanderous. It is through signs, wonders and direct revelations (dreams and visions) of Jesus Himself that great numbers of Muslims are currently being converted. There are millions of converts from Islam annually. A mighty movement of the Holy Spirit among the Kabyle Berbers is reported in Algeria.

It was intended that the 30 days of prayer should be during the month of Ramadan for at least two reasons: (1) *It creates a way for Christians to identify themselves with Muslims during a fixed period of the year* and (2) *To call upon God's sovereign intervention in the lives of Muslims during a time of the year when they are particularly religious.* Please note that praying during the month of Ramadan does not mean that we conform ourselves to the Muslim practices of fasting and prayer. As believers in Jesus Christ, we disagree with Islamic ideas, theology and practice in several areas, but it is important to emphasise God's love for Muslims.

We encourage all believers in the Messiah to cultivate a spirit of humility, love, respect and service towards Muslims. The purpose of this prayer guide is to inspire and provide readers with information to pray for the Muslim world. However, it is far from being completely informative, therefore we have included special references to Muslims and Islam in our "What's online" article. We encourage you to seek further information and so gain a greater understanding of the Islamic world and God's activities among Muslims.

Friday 5 August 2011

Focus on families: Marriages

Pray for couples who have been married for more than 20 years. Ask for renewed tenderness and patience with one another to be restored within these relationships. Pray that they will set good examples for their children and youngsters who want to get married. Ask that especially men will turn their hearts to their families and be leaders and encouragers of their households.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 5

Niger has a population of 13 million. About 90% are Sunni Muslims. Mighty God, please open border posts for bringing Bibles and audio material into Niger, for effective distribution of these, and for many hearts to be transformed.

Nigeria has a population of 154 million. About 50% are Sunni Muslims. Jesus, reveal Yourself to the population of Nigeria as the one and only truth.

Proclaim over all Muslims: In the beginning was the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Word (Jesus Christ) was with God, and the Word (Jesus Christ) was God. He (Jesus Christ) was with God in the beginning. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:1-4).

Saturday 6 August 2011

Focus on health: High infant mortalities

According to the United Nations report on child mortality, there are 12 countries in the world, of which SA is one, with a high incidence of child deaths, either at birth or before they are one year old. About 8,000 newborn babies died during the first half of 2010 alone and the number of stillborn babies amounts to 20,000 each year. (Website: <http://www.sabcnews.com/portal/site/SABCNews/menuitem.5c4f8fe7ee929f602ea12ea1674daeb9/?vgnextoid=b77d3d7f2940d210VgnVCM10000077d4ea9bRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default> &channelPath=South Africa >> Health). Please pray for further medical breakthroughs in the prevention of infant mortalities this year.

8 PROPOSALS FOR YOUR BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER GROUP

Worship the Lord prior to your times of prayer and intercession (James 4:7). Then use the following guidelines to pray for yourself and Muslims in your town, region or country:

1. **Where there is pride, ask for humility.** Lord, remove every root of pride from my heart regarding my attitude concerning Muslims. Liberate Muslims in my area from religious pride. Bring us all to humility before You. (Prov.8:13, 16:18, 29:23).
2. **Where there is religiousness ask for a personal relationship.** Lord, help me not to be superficially religious, but to actually live and walk with You. Help Muslims in my area to come to know You and not simply accomplish certain religious activities. (John 17:3).
3. **Where there is legalism ask for freedom.** Lord, help me to walk in the freedom of Your Spirit. Help me to be someone who brings the Spirit's real liberty to Muslims. (Matt.7:3-5).
4. **Where there is suspicion ask for trust.** Lord, may we as believers be people who create trust to enable Muslims to believe and turn to the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:14).
5. **Where there is bitterness ask for meekness.** Lord, remove all bitterness from my heart concerning Muslims. Help Muslims to deal with any bitterness in their own hearts and to abandon it. (Eph.4:31, Heb.12:15).
6. **Where there is fear/intimidation ask for love.** Lord, help us overcome fear. Your love eliminates fear. Help me to live that way. Muslims often live in fear of others, fear of evil spirits and fear of death. (1 John 4:18, 2 Tim.1:7).
7. **Where there is lust ask for purity.** We and all Muslims need to escape the corruption which exists in the world because of lust. Muslims, as all other people, are also exposed to pornography and lust. Knowing that we are also tempted, we must pray for ourselves and for them. (2 Pet.1:4, 1 John 2:16).
8. **Where there is violence ask for peace.** Many Muslims do not agree with the violence they see in some aspects of Islam. Many reject it and refuse to live in that manner. Pray for them to know the way of peace. May God help us as believers not to be a source of violence and hatred toward Muslims. (Matt.5:9; Luke1:78 and 10:5-6; Rom.3:17). (Source: www.30-days.net).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 6

Qatar has a population of 1.5 million; Muslim 88.39% and Christian 5.91%. No anti-proselyte laws can prevent the airwaves and Internet from influencing Qatar. Pray that gospel radio (FEBA, IBRA and others), TV (Al Hayat, SAT-7 and others) and Christian websites might penetrate the homes and hearts of those living in Qatar. The programs of Father Zakaria make a great impact in Qatar and throughout the Arab world. Many Arabic language sites, chat rooms and programs seem to have a powerful effect.

Russia has a population of 140 million; Christian 66.90% and Muslim 12.50%. Pray that the Russian peoples' hearts will be hungry for, and open to promptings of the Holy Spirit and the gospel of Christ; also for an increase in their vision for outreach.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Faithful prayer is changing the Muslim world

God is at work using many different means to make Himself known among Muslims. Some estimate that 3-4 million Muslims have come to faith in the Messiah in the last 20-30 years. This is more than any time during the entire past 1,400 years (Mohammed lived from AD 570 to AD 632)! The number of ministries involving Internet, radio, satellite television and other media efforts focussing on Muslims, has exploded. The amount of literature, CDs, DVDs, Bibles and downloadable resources that are available for Muslims has increased significantly. The number of actual missionaries working in the Muslim world has grown significantly. Efforts to establish believing communities in all ethnic groups are becoming a reality. Muslims today are exposed to other cultures and religious beliefs more at the present time than at any point during the last 1,400 years.

Sunday 7 August 2011

Personal revival: Are we worshipping the Father, and Son and Holy Spirit?

Many Christians often worship one or two of the Persons of the Trinity. Some denominations have a strong focus on the work of the Holy Spirit, causing the Father and Son to remain in the background. Others focus on Jesus, and the Father and Holy Spirit remain in the background. Some only focus on the Father. Yet others worship God and make little difference between the three Persons of the Trinity. When we over- or underemphasise any of these three, our image of God is distorted and this leads to incorrect teaching. In the end it influences our prayer lives, our relationship with God and our testimony in this world. Let us return to Scripture and worship the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *(Taken from "100 Vrae oor Gebed" by Bennie Mostert).*

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 7

Pakistan has a population of 173 million. About 97% are Sunni/Shi'a Muslims. Jesus Christ, Living Word, release more Bibles in Pakistan.

The Philippines has a population of 93.6 million; Christian 92.25% and Muslim 5.65%. Spiritual vitality does not always equate to Biblical truth. The Philippines is awash with sects and cults that blend Christian ideas with all kinds of false teachings. Please pray for a clear preaching of the gospel according to Scripture, and for many to let go of mixed practices.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the True Light that gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:9-12).

Monday 8 August 2011

Salvation focus: Pilots

Lift up in prayer pilots in the navy, air force, public transport and of small aircraft. Pray for each individual today to have a special encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ; that they will know that He is real and personally interested in each one of them as an individual. Pray for openness of heart to surrender their lives to Christ and to begin testifying to other pilots about it. Pray for Jesus to become the love of their lives and for their careers to take second place.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 8

North Korea has a population of almost 24 million; non-religious 69% and Christian 1.5%. The church in North Korea was the birthplace of Korean revival. Most Christians fled to the south during the Korean War or were martyred and their churches destroyed. Up to 100,000 Christians are interned in labour camps. Possessing the Bible, saying "God" or "Jesus" and meeting as believers, are all offences punishable by death. Pray for North Korean believers, that they persevere in what is probably the most difficult country in which to be a Christian.

Oman has a population of 2.9 million; Muslim 88.72%, Hindu 6.80% and Christian 2.76%. The overwhelming Muslim majority remains a big challenge. Proselytising of Muslims is illegal, and the few Omanis who have come to faith, face huge pressure to return to Islam. There are no known churches among the semi-nomadic Mahra or Jibbali of Dhofar, the Baluch of the eastern coasts, the rural population or the Swahili speakers. Pray for a powerful outpouring of God's spirit upon Oman so that many will come to know Christ.

Proclaim over all Muslims: To those who are called ... Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Cor.1:24-25).

Tuesday 9 August 2011

Focus on women: National Women's Day

Please pray for Women's Day celebrations today, that glory will not go to humans, but to God for His divine influence on women's lives. Ask that women will put their trust in God, even for practical breakthroughs concerning gender issues. (For more information on how to become part of the celebrations today, contact: National Women's Day Africa Christian Action, P.O. Box 23632, Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884. Website: www.christianaction.org.za or e-mail: info@christianaction.org.za).

Focus on salvation of Jewish people

The 9th day of the Hebrew month Av is today and marks many catastrophic events for Israel. The first and second Temples were destroyed on this day, the Spanish Inquisition

started and Hitler made known his “final solution” to remove all Jews from Europe. Pray today that many Jewish people will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Healer and Lover of their souls. (Christian Friends of Israel. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfijerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 9

The United Kingdom has a population of 62 million; Christian 59.66% and Muslim 3.20%. Christianity is increasingly marginalized. Christian morality and belief in the uniqueness of Jesus are labelled “intolerant”. Please pray for revival to again visit this nation soon, like in centuries before.

Turkmenistan has a population of 5.1 million; Muslim 96.16% and Christian 1.83%. The Turkmen NT was published in 1994, but requires editing and revision. Work on completing the OT continues. Ask for this work to be completed soon; pray also for its importation, distribution and impact on readers.

Proclaim over all Muslims: The bread of God is He (Jesus Christ) who came down from heaven and gave life to the world (John 6:33).

SOME IDEAS MUSLIMS HAVE ABOUT JESUS

- Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus is only a prophet, he is not divine (not the Son of God, not God in the flesh).
- Muslims believe that Jesus spoke even as an infant, saying that he was a prophet.
- According to Islam, Jesus was actually a good Muslim and he taught an earlier form of Islam to the Jewish people. One can find a Muslim account of the life of Jesus in the so-called “Gospel of Barnabas”. This document probably became known in its present form in the 14th - 16th centuries AD. It might even have been written at that time.
- Jesus will come again one day, he will marry, and he will have children. He will correct the wrong beliefs which Christians have about him. He will die; he will be buried in Medina and be judged like all men at the Last Judgment.
- Jesus is not the Judge of mankind.

Wednesday 10 August 2011

Focus on establishing 24/7 houses of prayer

Pray for the leadership of every church to have a greater awareness of the urgency of night-and-day prayer. Ask for a breakthrough in the hearts of the church leaders to personally partake in and promote night-and-day prayer in their congregation or church.

Focus on Black Day in India

In 1950 laws were approved that discriminate against Christians, Muslims and Dalits. Since then, August 10 is known as Black Day [day of mourning]. Those “who profess a religion different from Hinduism” are not considered members of groups who are entitled to certain rights. In the destructive caste system, Dalits were deprived of everything. They constitute over 16% of India’s population and two thirds of Indian Christians. (Website: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/August-10:-day-of-mourning-against-discrimination-of-Christians-and-Muslim-Dalits-19140.html>). Pray for India today, asking for millions of Indians to know the saving grace and power of Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray for Hindus in government and leadership positions to have personal encounters to meet the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 10

Morocco has a population of 34 million. About 99% are Sunni Muslims. Good Shepherd, let the JESUS Film be distributed in new dialects and may the seed that is sown germinate and grow to full maturity.

Mozambique has a population of 23.4 million; Christian 46.48% and Muslim 18.60%. Spiritual responsiveness is one result of the suffering and deprivation endured. Congregations of indigenous Christians have mushroomed all across the country. Pray for the growing church to be established as a nation in the foundational truths of Scripture.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Having been perfected, He (Jesus Christ) became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Heb.5:9).

Thursday 11 August 2011

Revival focus: Continue to pray for breakthroughs in meeting the needs of the poor in South Africa. It is unavoidable that the government, the church and other welfare organisations need to support and provide for the needs of the poor and needy. Ask that the Holy Spirit will awaken the hearts and consciences of people so that they will become involved in the lives of those unable to provide for themselves. Also pray that when help is offered, it will not be done with pride and in a degrading way. Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless. You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil (James 1:27, CEV).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 11

Maldives has a population of 313,920; Muslim 99.04% and Christian 0.17%. The Maldivians are still among the least evangelised on earth. Neither mission work nor Christian literature has ever been allowed. Please pray for this situation to change this year, for the doors to suddenly open to this nation, for Bibles to enter the country without detection. He is the God who breaks the gates of bronze.

Mauritania has a population of 3.3 million; Muslim 99.75% and Christian 0.25%. Mauritania is one of the world's neediest countries. One-third of the children face chronic malnourishment and many families struggle to afford basic necessities. Widespread divorce also causes social difficulties. Please pray for the Father to reveal His Father's heart to each and every Mauritanian. Ask for open doors for Christian workers to enter the country again.

Proclaim over all Muslims: There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as ransom for all (1 Tim.2:5-6).

HOW TO MINISTER TO A MUSLIM

It is possible to help Muslims discover the living Messiah. Those speaking to Muslims about the Lord need to take into account the context of Muslim culture and religion. In that sense our discussions with Muslims will be different from similar discussions with other people. The message is the same; the means of making it known are different.

Dependent prayer. We cannot place enough emphasis on our total dependence on the intervention of the Holy Spirit.

Have a specific goal. God wants to use us to make the Messiah known to Muslims through the gospel. Our goal should be to make the message understandable and accessible to our Muslim friends. We can maintain a relationship with them that honours God, whether they accept the message or not.

Be open to personal and human contact. We must love Muslims sincerely, manifesting our love through kindness and respect in our relationship with them. As with all true friendships, we need to take time to understand, appreciate and help our Muslim friends. We should also have the desire to learn from them and develop a real sincere friendship which is mutually enjoyable.

Be patient. While we can speak freely about our faith from the beginning of our relationship with a Muslim, we should keep in mind that most Muslims will need to hear the message many times before they will even begin to consider believing in the Messiah. Do not be discouraged by objections. Remember that it is the kindness of God which leads us to repentance (Rom.2:4).

Explain the gospel in a very simple manner. Use words and terms which will be understandable to Muslims. Explain your understanding of the meaning of terms such as sin, prayer, God, Messiah and faith. These terms often convey a different meaning to Muslims.

Give your friend a New Testament or a Bible. Encourage a regular reading of the Gospels in particular.

Emphasise God's perfect holiness. God calls for righteousness. We are born as sinners and all are slaves of sin. Neither education nor moral teaching can change the sinful nature of a human being. Man needs to be born again.

Speak of God's interventions in our lives. Tell of His faithfulness, His love, His justice. Muslims do not understand God as one who makes and keeps promises. Your testimony of a real and active God-fearing faith is very important.

Answer objections with kindness. Do not allow yourself to get carried away and become involved in passionate discussions. We are called to make friends for Jesus, not to win arguments. Do not be naïve if your Muslim friends express a belief in Jesus Christ and the Bible: In one sense Muslims do believe in Jesus and the Bible; however, their faith is very different from what the Bible teaches us. They do not believe that it is possible to be in a real relationship with God as we believe. Jesus said that eternal life is to know God (John 17:3). Knowing God does not mean knowing only certain things about Him, but knowing Him personally.

Where there is isolation, introduce them to a believing community. Muslims seeking the Messiah will need friends, a community of believers. Muslims will sometimes be more interested in seeing our believing communities than hearing our best words about the Saviour. As they are introduced into our communities, may God help us to be friends to them. We all need others. Loving others is right. (1 John 3:14-15). Muslims who come to faith in the Messiah need others.

There is much deception in Islam. Only God, who is truth, can anchor people in reality. At some time or another we have all been, or still are deceived. We need clarification and liberation. Only God can give Muslims, and us, real eyes to see and ears to hear. (Source: www.30-days.net).

[For more information on what to avoid when ministering to a Muslim, turn to 19 August].

Friday 12 August 2011

Kairos Prison Ministry in South Africa

The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry in South Africa is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition to become productive citizens after being released. Kindly pray for the more than 5,500 prisoners who have been led to Christ over the past 11 years, the future prisoners that God has earmarked to encounter His grace and mercy, and for a steady supply of Christian volunteers from all denominations to be God's hands and feet. (Website: www.kairosministry.co.za or e-mail: andrepot@ybo.co.za).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 12

Malawi has a population of 15.6 million; Christian 76% and Muslim 16.90%. The increasing activity of Islam is an alarming issue in Malawi. Over 80% of the Yao are Muslim, and make up the largest block of Muslims in Malawi. The Qu'ran has been translated into Chichewa. Pray for a greater awareness and the training of Christians to equip them for meeting this challenge, boldly preaching the gospel. Pray that Malawian Christians will form prayer groups praying night and day for their country and its people.

Malaysia has a population of 28 million. About 60.4% are Sunni Muslims. Father of all nations, let more tracts and audio material become available in distant places in Malaysia.

Proclaim over all Muslims: The kindness and the love of God our Saviour towards man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-8).

Saturday 13 August 2011

Focus on Hindus: Raksha Bandhan

The Hindu festival Raksha Bandhan celebrates brotherhood and love when it is full moon in the month of Sravana in the lunar calendar. The word Raksha means protection, whilst Bandhan is the verb to tie. Traditionally, during the festival sisters tie a rakhi, a bracelet made of interwoven red and gold threads, around their brothers' wrists to celebrate their relationship. (Website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/holydays/raksha.shtml>). Please cry out to the Lord to reveal His will to every Hindu person today, through Christ as their heavenly brother (Matt.12:50).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 13

Libya has a population of 6.5 million; Muslim 97.02% and Christian 2.64%. Radio and satellite television provide two of the very few ways to evangelise Libyans. The widespread use of satellite dishes (in the majority of households) enables SAT-7 and other Christian satellite-television broadcasts to enter homes. Pray for creative and effective programs with the means to disciple responsive listeners, and pray for protection for those who respond. Pray for political change in this country to cause thousands to seek the real God.

Macedonia has a population of 2 million; Christian 65.50% and Muslim 31.00%. The ethnic minorities are numerous, and all are in need of a spiritual ministry. Please pray for an increase in open witness about Christ, for many opportunities to teach and distribute the Bible.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Rev.1:5-7).

What Muslims believe about Jesus

- Muslims think of Jesus as a great prophet who preached an earlier form of Islam.
- Based on the Qur'anic texts, they believe that Jesus is God's Messiah, but they usually have no idea that this actually means Jesus is God's anointed King and Saviour for all humanity.
- Muslims generally believe that they can earn God's approval through religious activities (prayers, fasting, and giving money).
- Muslims do not think they can know God. They think they can only know about Him. (Source: www.30-days.net).

Sunday 14 August 2011

Personal revival: Are we worshipping the Father, and Son and Holy Spirit? (*Cont. Aug 7*)

It is common for people to worship God as the Father, losing sight of the fact that the Father is also God. Our relationship with the Father often focuses on intimacy, caring, being part of a family, protection and security. Yet when we think of God, it has a different connotation than the concept "Father". The image of God brings to mind something more than the concept of a Father. To us the word "God" indicates that He is almighty and unchanging. We also become aware of His judgment, wrath and

punishment of sin. Furthermore, the word impresses on us God's holiness and the fact that He is a Judge. The same happens with regard to the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus. In Jesus we have a Friend, the One who died for our sins, reconciling us with God. But Jesus is also Lord, and the Father appointed Him as Judge over the world. It is Jesus who chased people out of the temple with a whip. How do you think about God? Ask God to reveal Himself to you Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *(Taken from "100 Vrae oor Gebed" by Bennie Mostert).*

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 14

Kyrgyzstan has a population of 5.5 million; Muslim 88.73% and Christian 5.27%. Christian support ministries are varied. There are many possibilities in literature and electronic media, but the greatest potential for positive impact might be medical, community development and business ministries. Pray specifically for Bible translation and publishing and distribution of Christian literature.

Lebanon has a population of 4.2 million; Muslim 58.96% and Christian 31.97%. Pray for the healing of deep pain in communities, families and individuals. Over 80% of the population were displaced at one time or another during the wars. Ask for an outpouring of God's Spirit of forgiveness upon all who have lost loved ones, homes and jobs.

Proclaim over all Muslims: And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of] the whole world (1 John 2:2, Amp).

Monday 15 August 2011

Focus on prayer: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray for each person working at the different offices of Jericho Walls Prayer Network across the country. Pray for those working on the websites, database, with the finances, those writing material and conducting seminars, those answering letters, e-mails and telephone calls, those participating in prayer journeys, etc. Pray that God will protect them and take care of them (body, soul and spirit). Pray that they will have a very close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray that the printing and distribution process of the next issue of Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide will be running smoothly this month, as it will be posted during the next 12 days. (Jericho Walls International Prayer Network. Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 086 594 0565. Website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 15

Kosovo has a population of 7.7 million and is included under the Republic of Serbia; Christian 80.37% and Muslim 16.10%. Young people are the most responsive, having seen the destruction wrought by their parents' generation. Pray for outreach and demonstrating Christ's restoring love to children, teenagers, students and also addicts. Kuwait has a population of 3 million; Muslim 81.64% and Christian 13.79%. The vast bulk of Christians in Kuwait are foreigners.

Kuwait's material wealth has answered few problems. Islamist activity is increasing. Materialism still holds powerful sway, since many have no greater vision of how to put

their wealth to good use. Pray that Kuwaiti leaders and people might embrace the Saviour.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Christ, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Christ shall never die (John 11:25-26).

Tuesday 16 August 2011

Focus on revival: The school of suffering

The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? (John 18:11, KJV).

This was a greater thing to say and do than to calm the seas or raise the dead. Prophets and apostles could work wondrous miracles, but they could not always do and suffer the will of God. To do and suffer God's will is still the highest form of faith. To have the bright aspirations of a young life forever blasted; to bear a daily burden never congenial and to see no relief; to be pinched by poverty when you only desire a competency for the good and comfort of loved ones; to be fettered by some incurable physical disability; to be stripped bare of loved ones until you stand alone to meet the shocks of life - to be able to say in such a school of discipline, "The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it?" This is faith at its highest and spiritual success at the crowning point. Great faith is exhibited not so much in ability to do as to suffer. (*Dr. Charles Parkhurst. Streams in the Desert, 23/01/2010*).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 16

Kazakhstan has a population of 15 million. About 70.2% are Sunni Muslims. Gentle Saviour, reveal Yourself afresh to Christians in Kazakhstan so that they cannot but go, preach and testify of Christ to other Kazakhs.

Kenya has a population of about 41 million; Christian 82.61% and Muslim 8.32%. Corruption is rampant and systemic - this in a country whose population is 82% "Christian"! Please pray for God's Spirit to convict Christians to live holy lives, setting examples to others to also follow Christ.

Proclaim over all Muslims: If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ... Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (1 John 2:1-3).

Wednesday 17 August 2011

Focus on establishing 24/7 houses of prayer

Lord, pour out Your Spirit of prayer and supplication on Your church worldwide. Grant that houses of prayer will be established all over the world. We ask that believers will faithfully pray the promises from Your Word night and day so that Your kingdom may come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt.6:10).

Pray that Christians will have an increasing desire to spend more time in prayer; not only in intercession, but also in simple worship and adoration of God. Specifically pray for the persecuted Christians of the world, that they will remain standing and have a personal encounter with the Lord daily.

Focus on the economy, business sector and labour

As benefits improve, more workers become aware of retirement opportunities and want to provide for their retirement through a company share/trust ownership scheme, and even through housing schemes. Though these may sound good, the relationship between management and the labour force is often one of mistrust and a “we vs. them” mentality. Please pray for significant breakthroughs in building relationships of trust and mutual respect between the different cultural and management roles and responsibilities within companies. Ask for breakthroughs in these areas in South Africa which will serve as an example to other countries. Pray for Christians not to worry about provision for their old age, but to trust Him who promised to care for his children throughout their entire lifetime.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 17

Iraq has a population of 31 million. About 97% are Shi'a Muslims. Word of God, Jesus Christ, let new radio programs proclaiming the gospel be received in remote areas in Iraq suddenly.

Israel has a population of 7 million; Muslim 16.70% and Christian 2.04%. There are over 120 Hebrew-speaking congregations. Russian-speaking congregations are the next-largest number (as many as 50), followed by eight Amharic-speaking (Ethiopian) congregations and a smattering of fellowships in various European languages. Israeli-born Messianic Jews number around 1,000. Pray for a greater boldness in witness and perseverance of faith despite difficulties and opposition. Pray for the children and young people of Israel to seek the Lord until they find Him.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Moses truly said to the fathers, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like Me from your Brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people” (Acts 3:22-26).

Some people ask, “Why pray for Muslims?”

Answer: ... Because He shed His blood for them.

[For 8 more guidelines on how to pray for Muslims in your prayer/Bible study group, turn to 5 and 7 August 2011].

Thursday 18 August 2011

Focus on revival: Isaiah 58

Take time to prayerfully read through Isaiah 58. Copy down from this passage those things that God says He hates/dislikes. Then write down the commands that He gives us. Read the passage again and thirdly write down all the promises God gives people that will do what He says. Do not be in a hurry. Ask the Lord if there is anything that you need to confess or need to become involved in to rectify areas of social injustice that cause suffering for the poor and needy. Neglect of this situation by the church and the government brings God's judgment on a nation, its leaders, the church and the people.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 18

Indonesia has a population of 229 million. About 86.1% are Sunni Muslims. Lord of the Harvest, please send more Christian workers to Indonesia.

Iran has a population of 71 million. About 98% are Shi'a Muslims. Father God, open doors for the gospel to small children and the illiterate.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God —and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." (1 Cor.1:30-31).

WHAT TO AVOID WHEN MINISTERING TO A MUSLIM

(Continued from 12 Aug)

- Do not attack the person of Mohammed, but do not accept him as a prophet either. We are called to help people discover Jesus, not to criticise others.
- Do not criticise the Qur'an.
- Avoid politically-sensitive subjects like the Palestinian problem and praising Israel.
- Insisting on calling Jesus "the Son of God" may initially cause problems. Some Muslims believe that Jesus was born as a result of a sexual relationship between God and Mary. You can in a very simple way say that it is not how the Bible puts it.
- Do not enter into discussions about pork and wine: We, as Christians, are sent to proclaim Jesus, not to establish dietary laws. It is good to insist that drunkenness is wrong. Do not serve alcohol to Muslims. (Source: www.30-days.net).

[For specific guidelines on how to have a conversation with a Muslim, turn to 10, 14, 21 and 26 August 2011].

Friday 19 August 2011

Focus on establishing 24/7 houses of prayer

Continue to pray for God to pour out His Spirit of prayer and supplication on every house of prayer across the world (Zech.12:10). Ask for strength for each intercessor, perseverance and unity among leadership, favour with believers and non-believers in the surrounding communities and the necessary funds and premises for each house of prayer to do the task God called them for.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 19

Guinea has a population of 10 million; Muslim 88.33% and Christian 4.47%. Leadership training for pastors and laymen is a great need. Please pray for leadership to be trained in the truth of the Word, for church growth and evangelisation.

India has a population of 1.2 billion, making it the most ethnically diverse nation on earth, with over 2,500 distinct people groups. About 14.2% are Muslims. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send, favour and sustain labourers to work this vast group of people. Pray that employees would understand that God's house must be a house of prayer.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Cor.5:7-8).

Saturday 20 August 2011

Revival focus: Ask God to call thousands of people, especially young people, to give their lives to live and serve amongst the poor and needy. Tens of thousands of Christians of all ages have done precisely that. Pray that churches and individual Christians will support these missionaries financially, spiritually and emotionally. They are working under difficult circumstances and need much prayer and support. Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world (Mark 16:15, CEV). Pray for every Christian to understand that he/she is a missionary – and that he/she should give a powerful testimony where they live and work. Let us persevere in prayer for a powerful revival in the church country-wide.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 20

Ethiopia has a population of almost 85 million; Christian 61% and Muslim 34%. The Bible is increasingly distributed and read; demand exceeds supply by far. Pray for new translation projects that are established in several of the many languages, to be completed soon and that thousands will become converted by reading the Word of God.

Gambia has a population of 1.7 million; Muslim 89.49% and Christian 4.48%. Pray for breakthroughs for the gospel in the unreached peoples in the Gambia: a) *Mandinka*. Ninety-five percent of all Mandinkas is Muslim, believing in a mixture of Islam and traditional customs. b) *Fulani*. Their unique culture requires a different expression of church from the sedentary majority. c) *Jola*. Pray for more Jolas to come to Christ. Ask for effectiveness in the medical field and translation and church planting ministries in their areas. d) *Wolof, Serahule, and Serer* – all more prevalent in neighbouring Senegal and most not evangelised. Hardly any outreach or missions plans are in place for them.

Proclaim over all Muslims: If you call on the Father, who without partiality, judges according to each one's work ... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet.1:17-21).

WHAT MUSLIMS BELIEVE ABOUT THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- Islam denies the necessity of Jesus dying for our sins. Many Muslims believe that the God of Abraham can simply forgive sins without an atoning sacrifice.
- Islam denies the fact of Jesus' death on the cross. Some groups inside Islam teach that Jesus went directly to heaven without dying. He was, according to them, never crucified. Muslims often believe that Judas, the traitor, had his face miraculously transformed into the face of Jesus and died in the place of Jesus as a judgment from God.
- Islam denies the effectiveness of Jesus' death to remove our sin and guilt.
- Islam denies Jesus' resurrection and his victory over death.
- Islam denies that Jesus has become the Messianic King, Who is to reign over the whole world.

Sunday 21 August 2011

Personal revival: Unavoidable realities (Part 1)

There are unavoidable realities in life. If we do not admit, recognise and make peace with this, it will hamper our spiritual growth and our hearts will be constantly filled with restlessness and discontent.

Life is hard. We often feel if we could just overcome this one obstacle or challenge, everything will be fine. Without being fatalistic, we have to accept that life is awash with challenges, fights, troubles, unrighteousness, sickness, death and calamities.

Life is not about me. For Christians life is not about themselves. We live for God and God placed us on earth to be a blessing to others. We first have to love God but also our neighbour. If we do not draw a line through self in all its forms, we will be discontented all our life and always feel someone owes us something. Our blessing is in sacrifice and giving away.

I am not in control of my own life. Most people find this principle rather difficult. We want to decide about our own future. All motivational speakers assure us that we can do anything; anything is possible if we put our minds to it. "I am the captain of my soul"; I must take charge of my life and simply make it work. This is partially true. The full truth is that God is a sovereign God and completely in control. He works according to His own plan. This means I am not in control of my life; God is. I have a responsibility to live according to His will. If I do this, I can count on God's help, guidance and support, but ultimately He remains in control. (*Taken from "100 Vrae oor Gebed" by Bennie Mostert*).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 21

Egypt has a population of 77 million. About 90% are Sunni Muslims. Father, You called Your Son out of Egypt. Call by name those You have chosen in Egypt.

Eritrea has a population of 5.2 million; Muslim 50.26% and Christian 47.31%. Pray for the less reached, specifically for breakthroughs in effectively preaching the gospel to: The Tigre, mostly Muslim; The Jabarti – a Muslim minority among the Tigrinya; The Afar and related Saho peoples, largely nomadic with few Christians. Also the Beja and Nara peoples of the northwest with no known witness and the Arab Rashiada, who migrated from Saudi Arabia in the 19th Century.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is IMMANUEL, which is translated, "God with us." (Matt.1:23).

Monday 22 August 2011

Salvation focus: Airport security

Drugs and other illegal goods enter and exit through the gates of our country's airports every day. Please pray for the salvation of every person in airport security. Ask that they will have supernatural input or tip-offs and be successful in their efforts to expose those carrying illegal goods. Pray for the fear of the Lord to fall upon individuals passing through our airports so that such crimes will come to a stop completely.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 22

China has a population of 1.3 billion; non-religious 44.36%, Christian 7.92% and Muslim 1.87%. China remains officially atheist and Communist Party members number well over 70 million. Christians are engaging in social causes and impacting the lives of millions. Ask for these projects to reach into the heart of China and for many souls to be touched and saved.

Djibouti has a population of 879,053; Muslim 97.03% and Christian 1.75%. The few Somali and Afar believers are often isolated and suffer lots of pressure from relatives. Their families can cut off family ties, beat or even kill them for deserting Islam. Pray that

they might stand firm in their commitment to follow Jesus. Small groups of local believers are gathering for fellowship. Pray for effective use of the Scriptures in these meetings and for the Holy Spirit to work in each life.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (Heb.9:13-15).

Tuesday 23 August 2011

Focus on revival: Our Helper in Prayer

Seeing then that we have a great high Priest...Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Heb.4:14,16). Our great Helper in prayer is the Lord Jesus Christ, our Advocate with the Father, our Great High Priest. His ministry these centuries has been intercession and prayer. It is He who takes our imperfect petitions from our hands, cleanses them from their defects, corrects their faults, and then claims their answer from His Father on His own account and through His all-atoning merits and righteousness. Are you fading in prayer? Your blessed Advocate has already claimed your answer, and you would grieve and disappoint Him if you were to give up the conflict in the very moment when victory is on its way to meet you. He has gone into the inner chamber for you, and already holds up your name upon the palms of His hands. (*Streams in the Desert, 24 January 2010*).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 23

Brunei has a population of 407,045; Muslim 65.31% and Christian 11.39%. The Sultan is alleged to be the world's second wealthiest royal person, and reluctant to diversify the economy and liberalise government structures, believing that external influences might destabilise the country. Pray for conversions in the large royal family; the Sultan has shown evidence of becoming increasingly spiritual. Pray that in following him, the Sultan's subjects might seek after spiritual truth and in doing so find Jesus.

Burkina Faso has a population of 13 million. About 50% are Sunni Muslims. Jesus, lift up Your Banner over Burkina Faso, let Your Name go before those whom You send to preach the gospel and heal the sick in Burkina Faso.

Proclaim over all Muslims: The gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord (2 Cor.4:3-5).

Wednesday 24 August 2011

Focus on establishing 24/7 houses of prayer

Pray for the 24/7 Prayer Movement among the youth in England, under the leadership of Pete Greig. Ask that God would grant them grace and favour, especially with young people from England and neighbouring European countries, so that many more would begin to cry out to God in prayer. Ask for Christians not to feel sorry for themselves, but to become strong prayer warriors that lay hold of the Kingdom of God, so that many others will come to Christ.

Focus on the economy, business sector and labour

Once labour unrest starts in any form, it is usually built on ideas that reflect the truth for one of the parties, without rendering acknowledgement to the challenges the other party faces that would compromise the liability of a business. In order to break down the mistrust, ask for a renewed outpouring of God's wisdom for management and workers to be willing to create and engage in more open forms of communication on at least a few tangibles that are seen in a positive way by the employees.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 24

Benin has a population of 9,211,741; Christian 39.89% and Muslim 23.50%. Animism is a powerful force in Benin. Although Christianity is poised to numerically overtake ethnic religions in the near future, far too many Christians have a compromised faith that sees them in church on Sunday and consulting the witchdoctor during the week. Pray for a revival that purifies the church and sees Christians honouring only God. Also pray for many witchdoctors to experience the power of Jesus and turn to Him.

Bosnia-Herzegovina has a population of 3.7 million; Muslim 54.16% and Christian 40.98%. Pray the Father of Heaven to favour the viewing and response to the JESUS Film which is available in Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian and Romani. Ask for more Christian radio stations to broadcast the gospel and many to listen on a regular basis and to believe.

Proclaim over all Muslims: No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, the closest to Him, He has declared Him. [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]. (John 1:18, Amp).

Thursday 25 August 2011

Focus on revival: Becoming one

There is no fear that when revival comes, other churches will steal away our church members. Revival draws people together in an unprecedented way and renews the basics of the Christian faith according to Scripture in a powerful way. Pray that we will taste tangible sublime glory in our time and that we will be one, like Jesus and the Father, in what we believe, pursue and do in His kingdom.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 25

Bahrain has a population of 807,131; Muslim 83.23% and Christian 9.81%. Internet: High-speed connection is widely available, giving access to all kinds of Christian resources. Chat rooms are especially popular, since seekers can inquire about Jesus anonymously. Ask that they will come across websites explaining love and life in Christ Jesus.

Bangladesh has a population of 162 million. About 89% are Sunni Muslims. Almighty God, favour legislation for freedom to preach the gospel in Bangladesh.

Proclaim over all Muslims: I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus ... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom

no man has seen or can see, to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen (1 Tim.6:13-16).

SPECIFIC CONVERSATION GUIDELINES (Continued from 19 Aug)

Initially focus on areas of agreement. During your initial contacts with Muslims, and even later, it is useful to be in agreement with them about our common beliefs as much as possible. They believe that there is one God, the God of Abraham. In Arabic the word used for God is "Allah" (Christian Arabs also use this word for the Name of God). Muslims believe that God made the world, that He knows all things, that He is all-wise and very powerful. Muslims do not believe in the Trinity. They believe in angels and in prophets such as Abraham, Moses, David, Noah and Jesus. They believe in the Last Judgment. In general we can agree with them on these points, without forgetting the differences. Affirming our common beliefs enables them to listen to us with greater understanding and openness.

Use stories. Tell stories about the life of Jesus and other men and women mentioned in the Bible. Most Muslims have never had an opportunity to read the Scriptures (many have never read their own book, the Qur'an, in full). Learn to use parables, stories and examples from the Bible and daily life to share the message. In this way your Muslim friends will also remember your words better.

Use media tools. Keep an assortment of Gospels, the JESUS Film, cassettes, CDs and DVDs available in various languages.

Seek them out. Do not be afraid to visit them in their homes and invite them to your own home. It might be wise to simply invite them for dessert at first to avoid the problems around serving meat.

Argument. You have little chance of convincing Muslims with reasoned arguments. Western logic does not carry the same weight with Muslims. Love your Muslim friends and avoid getting into discussions which push them to defend Islam.

The Qur'an. You may read it, but do not necessarily use this as the unique basis for witnessing. Muslims need to meet the Jesus who is revealed in the Bible. If you read the Qur'an or visit a mosque, it is advisable to pray for God's protection and understanding (Eph.6:10-18).

Men witness to men and women to women. Witnessing across gender lines is discouraged, even by correspondence. Respect their cultural rules.

Prepare them for their first visit to church. Explain to them briefly what will happen and what they should and should not do.

Opposition to Christianity. When you speak to Muslims, they will probably raise objections that our faith in the Messiah is unacceptable to them. Believers need to know about these objections and be prepared to deal with them correctly. (Source: www.30-days.net)

[For more information on what Muslims believe and what the Qur'an says about Jesus, turn to 28 August].

Friday 26 August 2011

The Western Cape has the worst women, child abuse rate

According to the Minister of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities, the Western Cape has the worst women and child abuse rate in the country. (Website: <http://www.sabcnews.co.za/portal/site/SABCNews/menuitem.5c4f8fe7ee929f602ea12ea1674daeb9/?vgnextoid=5c99eab24928c210VgnVCM10000077d4ea9bRCRD&vgnextfmt=default>). Ask God to intervene. Please pray for fathers, brothers and young men to

have a clear revelation of their compassionate Heavenly Father. Ask for many to correct their wrongs by asking forgiveness and turning from such abusive behaviour. Pray for victims to receive healing and restoration, also to have the grace to forgive.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 26

The Night of Power, or “Laylat ul-Qadr” in Arabic, is one of the most significant moments of the Islamic year. Muslims believe that groups of angels are sent out on this night to perform special tasks. Some come down to earth to worship Allah; others come to grant the requests of believing Muslims. Muslims are often encouraged to stay awake during the entire night, and pray for blessings and forgiveness. This is one time of the year when Muslims have a bit more confidence that God will hear and act on their behalf. Significant numbers will be praying in desperation and are genuinely seeking help from God.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ, Son of God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Rev.1:8).

Saturday 27 August 2011

Focus on child-headed households in SA

In 2001 there were around 248,000 households headed by individuals under the age of 20, representing 2.1% of households. In 2009, this fell to around 175,000 households (1.3% of households). (Fact a Day. Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/blog/> or e-mail: info@eighty20.co.za or fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za). This either means that youngsters are now older than 20 and are still heading these households, or that many more children are homeless than ever before. Please pray for children on the streets and those having to care for brothers and sisters to be given the opportunity to know Christ, and also opportunities to build lives glorifying His Name.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 27

Algeria has a population of 34 million. About 99% are Sunni Muslims. Firstborn from the dead, let the purity of the gospel turn many Algerian hearts to You.

Azerbaijan has a population of 8.9 million; Muslim 87.58% and Christian 2.74%. Draconian registration laws enacted in 2010 make life difficult not just for most Christian groups, but also for other faiths, including Muslims. The government seeks to regulate and restrict religious practice, which is evidently seen as a threat. Pray for the preaching of the gospel especially to government officials.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is the Holy and the Just One, the Author/Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead. Through faith which comes through Him, Christ grants perfect soundness (Acts 3:14-16).

What does the Qur'an say about Jesus?

Even if the Qur'anic ideas listed below are the same as or similar to Biblical ideas, Muslims never think of Jesus as being divine, or that He is our Saviour through His death and resurrection. They think of Him as a prophet who propagated a book called the “Gospel”. Various chapters (suras) and verses are indicated below. In the Qur'an Jesus is usually referred to by the name “Isa”. Various titles, roles and activities are attributed to Jesus. Here are a few examples:

Jesus is the word of God: Sura: 3:45; 5:46, 110 and 57:27

Jesus is Messiah: Sura: 3:45; 4:171; 5:17, 72, 75

Prophet or a Messenger from God: Sura: 3:49; 6:85; 19:30; 57:27

Raised the dead and healed the sick: Sura: 3:49; 5:110

Pure, sinless: Sura: 19:19

Sunday 28 August 2011

Personal revival: Unavoidable realities (Cont. 21 Aug)

I am not important. This is the message of John the Baptist in John 3:30: He must increase and I must decrease. We are so very important in our own eyes. Even in doing God's work, we think we are important and that God can in fact not do without us. We do not say it out loud, but our actions and the attitude of our hearts often reflect it. I will die. Death is a given. We do not want to think about death. The fact that we all die is something that will happen to 100% of all people. If we refuse to accept this basic fact, we will always have this nagging fear and unrealistic expectation of the future in our hearts. Christians know that we will be with God forever. Still it is important that we will face death and focus? on this issue before the throne of God and in our own hearts. Only then will we be free to live the life God gives us to the full. Only then, the sting of death is removed and we can live in freedom. *(Taken from "100 Vrae oor Gebed" by Bennie Mostert).*

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 28

Afghanistan has a population of 33 million. About 99% are Sunni Muslims. Ruler over the nations, send Christians to witness Christ to government leaders in the entire Afghanistan.

Albania has a population of 3 million; Muslim 62.40% and Christian 30.47%. Superstition and Folk Islam prosper Islam, mixed with superstition, prosper. Pray for Albanian Muslims to encounter the living Christ every day of their lives.

Turkey has a population of 72 million. About 99.8% are Sunni/Shi'a Muslims. Prince of Peace, let Your Word run swiftly in Turkey; visit them at night.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body (all those called by His Name) (Eph.5:23).

Monday 29 August 2011

Salvation focus: Air hostesses and flight attendants

Air hostesses and flight attendants often have to do up to six international flights per day. Pray for their protection from insults, improper comments and accidents. Ask for their salvation, that each individual will experience God's personal interest in them, that their hearts will be open and receptive to Christ and that they will surrender their lives to Him. Pray for Christians to witness the gentleness of God to them in a way that makes their hearts yearn for God.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 29

Vietnam has a population of 89 million. About 52% are Buddhists, 9% Christian. The deepest spiritual allegiance in Vietnam is not to Communism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. It is the veneration and worship of ancestors that run deepest and across

their religious practices. Its impact is usually underestimated. Christians face hard questions in dealing with this issue Biblically. Pray the Father of glory for the gospel to be wisely contextualised into this reality.

Sri Lanka has a population of 20.4 million; Buddhist 70.02%, Hindu 12.80%, Muslim 8.52% and Christian 8.38. Traditional mainline churches have declined from 21% (1722) to 7% (2010). Please pray for revival to come to the local church, for many indigenous missionaries to be raised up and boldly preach the gospel.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and this is revealed to the sons of men by the Father in Heaven (Matt.16:16-17).

Tuesday 30 August 2011

Focus on revival: When revival comes, everything changes. It is no longer necessary to try to convince people to come to a prayer meeting; rather to get them to go home! Then it is no longer a matter of one or two people giving their lives to God and continuing to struggle along the Christian path. People openly confess their sins, testify of God's deliverance and healing in their lives, and run the Christian race with joy in their hearts. Cry out to the Lord to grace us with revival in this generation.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1-30 August 2011: Day 30

Western Sahara (included under Morocco) has a population of 32.7 million; Muslim 99.88% and Christian 0.09%. There are only a handful of Christians among this entire nation. Pray for the viewing of the JESUS Film in homes, communities and many remote places in this country. Ask for many to come to Christ at a time when missions are almost completely restricted.

Yemen has a population of 23 million. About 99% are Sunni/Shi'a Muslims. The only Holy God, pour out Your Spirit upon those seeking for something new and have them meet with Christians in their vicinity.

Proclaim over all Muslims: Jesus Christ is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God (Rev.19:13).

Wednesday 31 August 2011

Thanksgiving focus: Ramadan 2011

Take time to give thanks to the Lord for answering millions of prayers the past 30 days. Give thanks and praise to Him for saving souls, turning lives around, healing the broken-hearted, giving hope to prisoners and making Himself known as the true Living God to the veiled peoples of the earth. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thess.5:18). Always remember to give thanks after interceding about anything God puts on your heart.

Breakthrough in Liberia

One of the main initiatives of Medical Teams International has been in the establishment of medical clinics. In some places in Liberia children under the age of five were dying at a rate of 20%. This has now dropped to less than 10%. As children are becoming healthier, more and more people are becoming interested in the Lord. Pray that this work would continue to attract people to the gospel. Ask that they will be open

and embrace Christ, and become preachers of the Living God themselves. Pray for stamina and spiritual vitality for the believers working on these projects tirelessly. (Website: <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/15295>).

Breakthrough:

Free Audio Bible Podcasts in 400 Languages

Portable audio has come a long way since the cassette players of the 1980s. According to a news release from Faith Comes by Hearing, free Audio Bible Podcasts are now available through the iTunes Store and 10 other podcast directories has 449 free Audio Bible Podcasts on the iTunes Store. (Website: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/faith-comes-by-hearing/id349979282>). Subscriptions to over 1 million chapters of Audio Bible Podcasts from Faith Comes by Hearing were received in the first 90 Days! The free, dramatised Audio Bibles have multiple character voices, sound effects and music, yet are word-for-word Scripture recordings. For more than 35 years, Faith Comes By Hearing has provided the world's poor and illiterate with Scripture in their own language. For more information visit www.faithcomesbyhearing.com

Thursday 1 September 2011

Focus on evangelism: Every Home for Christ (EHCSA)

Every Home for Christ, South Africa (EHCSA) provides Christian literature for outreach teams who visit homes, prisons, schools and hospitals. The booklets, The Way to God/Help from Above and The Gospel of John/Seven Steps to Knowing God strengthen many new Christians. Please pray for the teams reaching out as well as for a hunger for the Word of God in the hearts of those who listen to the message of hope. (EHCSA, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587. Website: www.ehcsa.co.za or e-mail: info@ehcsa.co.za).

Focus on children in Niger

Niger is one of the five poorest countries of the world, and also has the highest birth rate. A lot of children and few financial options have created a hopeless atmosphere of disease and disabilities going uncured. Praise the Lord for a new Children's Hospital in Niamey. The hospital will provide free surgery for up to 2,000 disabled children per year, while bringing them and their families the hope of the gospel. Pray that this new hospital would start with a firm foundation rooted in Christ, that it might be a haven for both physical and spiritual healing. Pray for families to be touched by the love of Christ that they see in surgeons, staff and the hospital's care in general. (Website: <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/14879>).