

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE - OCTOBER 2009

Prayer focus for October

During the month of October, we will focus in prayer on China, by praying for each of its provinces and affiliated factions. China has the highest population in the world, and therefore it is no small matter to set ourselves to prayer for this nation. In recent years China has spread its influence into many nations around the world. They export their goods, but also purchase land and make agreements to obtain resources from other countries, especially Africa, to help meet the basic needs of its population. The statistics and facts used to support our prayer information were mostly taken from *Operation World*, 2001. Please feel free to do some research yourself, and encourage other Believers to also join in prayer for significant breakthroughs for the gospel in this nation.



Thursday 1 October 2009

Focus on Cancer: **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

The *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM)* organisation is 25 years old this year. They remain dedicated to educating and empowering women to take charge of their own breast health by doing regular self-examinations of their breasts to identify any changes, scheduling regular visits and annual mammograms with their healthcare provider, adhering to prescribed treatment, and knowing the facts about recurrence. (Website: http://www.nbcam.org/about_nbcam.cfm). Give thanks to the Lord for many who became Christians during the adversity of discovering they have cancer. Please pray that cancer patients will all meet and follow Jesus.

Prayer focus on China: Day 1 - Overview of religion in China

The beliefs of the Chinese and many minorities are a blend of folk religions, Daoism and Buddhism. In 2001 the statistical overview of the Chinese people showed the following: Irreligious/other, 49.58%, Chinese beliefs, 28.50%, Buddhist, 8.38%, Christian, 7.25%, Ethnic religions, 4.29% and Muslim, 2%. Accurate Christian statistics are not available. Those listed here are only indicative of the remarkable work of the Holy Spirit. Give thanks to the

Lord for what He is doing in China and for the steady growth of the Church. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Friday 2 October 2009

Economic focus: SA companies are doing well

Seventeen South African companies have been included in the annual world's top 2000 quoted companies, compiled by US publisher *Forbes*. One company was placed at number 223, up from 522 last year, an improvement that showed South African companies are now among the major role-players in the global corporate sector. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/features/1645164.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers to prosper the economy. Ask that these companies will be able to keep their employees despite difficulties the world economy faces.

Prayer focus on China: Day 2 - What is happening in the Church?

The growth of the Church in China since 1977 has no parallels in history. Now the fruitfulness of Christian radio is clear. The 'One Child' policy has deeply impacted family life, shown in: A higher divorce rate, 10 million abortions a year (nearly all girls), suicide (40% of the world's suicides occur in China). In 2000 there were 90 million marriageable unmarried men; in some areas young men outnumber young women by 30-40%. Pray for family stability and health. Pray also for wise policies to be implemented that will stabilise the population. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Saturday 3 October 2009

Prayer focus on China: Day 3 – Persecution remains a reality

Since 1996 the level of persecution has increased on house churches not willing to register with the TSPM (government institution). Arrests (hundreds in 1999), heavy fines, forcible closures and destruction of church buildings (200 in 1997) have increased in some key areas. Pray for the continued commitment of Believers to preach Christ and Him crucified, whatever the cost and without compromise. Another challenge is the widespread lack of Bibles, teaching materials and leaders knowing the Bible well. Pray for many godly men and women to be raised up. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Israel focus: Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), 3-9 October

This festival commemorates the Jews wandering in the wilderness after their Exodus from the hands of the Egyptians, when they had to dwell in makeshift booths or huts (**Lev.23-24**). Messianic Jews (Jews who believe that Jesus, (Yeshua for them), is the Messiah) understand that the *Feast of Tabernacles* teaches that when Messiah Jesus returns, a new kingdom will be established with Him as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Rev.19:11-16; 20:4; Lev.23:39-43; Matt.17:1-4; Heb.11:8-9**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/resources/calendar.htm>). Pray for Jewish people to have a revelation of Jesus as the Messiah who has already come. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Sunday 4 October 2009

Issues of the heart: Watch out what you do and how you do it

In **Ezekiel 16:30** God speaks to all of Jerusalem saying: *See how degenerate is your heart*. In the preceding verses Ezekiel speaks about the people of Jerusalem worshipping other gods, building altars for them and even killing their own children by sacrificing them to other gods. The further away we live from God, the more degenerate our hearts become. When, during the week, we do business in such a way that people would not see any difference between our business dealings and that of a non-Christian, there is something wrong. When we cheat 'just a little' on our spouse and see it as 'only a joke', then we serve immorality and not purity. When we take or pay money that was not worked for or earned, we serve injustice and treachery, the opposite of righteousness and justice. Fear is a form of unbelief, not trusting that God will take care of a situation. God has not given us a

spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind (2 Tim.1:7). Ask the Lord to show you the other gods you serve in your life, and begin to wilfully remove them from your life.

Father, I confess that some of these things are a reality in my life. Forgive me for making things out to be 'not all that serious or important', while they are of great importance to You. This week, please show me the idols in my life. Help me fully understand how You feel about these discrepancies. Lord deliver me from evil in my life, show me the right way, and help me mend my ways.

Abortion focus: International Life Chain Sunday

Today Christians observe *International Life Chain Sunday* by taking a public stand for the right to life for pre-born babies. (For more information, visit: www.christianaction.org.za/courses-events/lifechain.htm). (Website: <http://www.lifechain.net>). Pray for mothers to reconsider their decision to have an abortion. Let us continue to pray that the laws supporting abortion on demand will be changed in South Africa.

Monday 5 October 2009

Salvation focus: Sales people

They stop you in shopping malls with a bottle of perfume, try to convince you over the telephone to buy this or that product right there and then; suggest you get a new credit card to go on holiday, or sell you a funeral plan. Next time one of them crosses your path, do not get angry with them; remember they are only doing their job to earn an income to feed their families. Pray that they will find Christ in those they call upon and also find opportunities to be ministered to themselves.

Prayer focus on China: Day 5

The Chinese Church is growing: The Church in China is the fastest growing church in the world today. Church-going in China is not a convenience or merely a good idea. Because of continual persecution, going to Church in China may result in imprisonment, torture and even death. Persecution seems to have made the Church in China one of the strongest churches in the world. Attending Church in China means that one has to love the Lord Jesus to the utmost and be very sure that you want to commit your life to Him alone. Join us in prayer for the Chinese Church to stay strong and committed, even under the threat of persecution.

Tuesday 6 October 2009

Educational focus: Failures costing SA billions

University failures cost the taxpayer R1.3 billion a year in terms of government subsidy. This had worsened in the past six years as 35-40% of students that enrolled in tertiary institutions had dropped out before completing their studies. The internationally acceptable rate is about 10%. (Website: http://www.fin24.com/articles/default/display_article.aspx?Nav=ns&ArticleID=1518-1786_2452062). Many students drop out because they cannot continue to pay for accommodation etc. Please pray for God's provision so that students can complete their studies. Ask for those who fail to find help when they struggle. Pray for others to appreciate and make good use of an awesome opportunity to study.

Prayer focus on China: Day 6 – Anhui Province and Beijing Municipality

Anhui Province is one of the poorest provinces in Central China with 63,400,000 people, 0.5% being Muslim and 11.6% Christian. The house church movement is large; there may be over 12 million Christians! Lack of church leadership has resulted in the forming of a number of extreme or heretical groups. Pray for the raising up of mature, godly leaders. **Beijing Municipality** is China's capital with 13, 500,000 people. Of these, 4.4% is Christian. China is ruled from Beijing. Pray for the leaders of the nation, for wisdom, to be sensitive to the needs of their people, to seek the good of the people rather than self-interest, and courage to make the long-delayed economic and political decisions essential for the future. Pray for the evangelisation of all marginalised peoples. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Prayer testimony: Generosity that 'rings' true

A radical concept of giving is helping to fund the drilling of water wells in Africa. Ali Eastburn is the executive director and founder of the charitable organisation known as *With This Ring*. She got the idea for the organisation while attending a women's conference. "And I looked around the room and looked at the rings on the fingers of the women as well as my own and realised how much wealth I had on my own finger," she recalls. "So I decided that (of course, with my husband's permission) I wanted to donate my ring. And then I told a girlfriend about it and she said, 'I want to donate mine, too.'" Those two diamonds, she says, laid the foundation for a "movement of radical generosity". Her organisation encourages radical giving, whether it is a wedding ring, class ring, or other jewellery items. Some, she adds, have even donated money from selling a car or a home. "It is not where people are getting divorced and they just decide that they don't want their ring anymore," she explains. "Most of the time it's someone who loves their husband very much, and they look down and realise [they've] got \$7,000 to \$8,000 sitting on [their] finger and that [it] could save 1,500 people's lives." So far *With This Ring* has provided the funds to drill eight clean water wells in Africa with five more in the works. (Website: <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=501482>).

Wednesday 7 October 2009

Public safety focus: Unroadworthy vehicles

From January to mid-April, 209 unroadworthy vehicles in South Africa were suspended from use on a public road. Among them were 20 long-distance buses. Drivers of 171 vehicles were fined for defective brakes, 574 for smooth tyres, 259 for unlicensed vehicles and 1,447 for other defects. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=181&art_id=nw20090504164251974C644099). Please pray for the traffic department to be able to do their job more effectively and be successful in safeguarding our roads.

Prayer focus on China: Day 7 – Chongqing Municipality and Fujian Province

Chongqing Municipality is China's newest municipality and the industrial and trade hub. It is also one of the ten most polluted cities in the world through heavy use of coal. It has a population of 31,200,000. Christians number only 2.6% and there are some Muslims. Pray for the growth of Christian outreach in this strategic but spiritually needy city. **Fujian Province** is on the coast facing Taiwan with a population of 34,300,000, with 0.1% Muslim and 10.7% Christian. Buddhism and Daoism have revived; over 20,000 temples have been illegally built or restored. Pray that the millions seeking the help of religion may come to Jesus. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Thursday 8 October 2009

Focus on cancer: Alcohol linked to cancer risk in Women

Women who drink as little as one alcoholic beverage a day have a significantly higher cancer risk than women who don't drink at all, a seven-year study on more than 1.2 million middle-aged women shows. This study is among the first to link low-to-moderate alcohol consumption to other cancers in women. (Website: <http://www.health-e.org.za/hiv/index.php?PHPSESSID=8f63e05a1>). Continue to pray for women with cancer to meet Christ. Also pray that people will be better stewards of their health.

Prayer focus on China: Day 8 – Gansu Province and Guangdong Province

Gansu Province is China's poorest province with 25,700,000 people. Muslims number 6%, Lama Buddhism 1.7% and Christians 1.9%. Lift up in prayer by name the least evangelised peoples: The Dongxian, Bonan and Enger Yugur are strongly Muslim with no known Believers. The Muslim Hui are numerous with only a handful of Believers in the city of Linxia. Tibetans are largely Buddhist and number 400,000. There is one Tibetan church. **Guangdong Province** is on the southeast coast with a population of 72,409,000, predominantly consisting of secularism and traditional Chinese religions, with 1.4% Christians. Guangdong was the first province evangelised by Protestants in 1807. Christianity is still seen as a foreign imposition and response to the gospel is relatively limited. Pray for

healing from the past and removal of all obstacles so that many may turn to Christ. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Friday 9 October 2009

Educational focus: Rural Internet

In rural KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa one company has helped six schools set up Internet access. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/new-technologies/features/rural-internet-not-online-but-still-connected.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for opportunities like these. Ask that many more schools will have similar access and be able to learn about more modern technology.

Prayer focus on China: Day 9 – Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region & Guizhou Province

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with a population of 47,800,000, is the southernmost mainland coastal state adjoining Vietnam. Mainly Chinese religions and animism are among the minorities, with 1% Christians. The growth of Christians among the Thai-related Zhuang and also among the Han gives cause for praise! Pray for ongoing growth and provision of leadership. Pray for the evangelisation of every people in Guangxi. Please pray, as Bible translation for most peoples has yet to begin, and the Zhuang NT is still incomplete. **Guizhou Province** in the southern inland is poor and underdeveloped with a population of 37,000,000. Buddhism mixed with polytheism and animism is strong among ethnic minorities. Muslims number 0.4% and Christians 3.9%. Praise God for amazing growth of the Church in some areas. There is a chronic shortage of educated leaders and the challenge of the unreached is great. Pray for local and outside Christians to reach out to these unreached peoples. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Saturday 10 October 2009

Water ministry issues call for prayer

Diseases contracted through unsafe drinking water currently kill more people than wars. *Living Water International (LWI)* is issuing a call for prayer over the global water crisis today to mobilise prayer for this crisis. (Website: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/12279>). Water pollution is also a problem in SA. Pray that solutions will soon be found to purify water worldwide in a cost-effective way. Ask the Lord for favour for SA to present such a solution.

Prayer focus on China: Day 10 – Hainan Province and Hebei Province

Hainan Province faces Vietnam and is China's smallest province with a population of 7,594,000. There is a mixture of polytheism, Buddhism and Daoism among indigenous peoples. Christians number 4.6%. There has been a considerable turning to God with an annual doubling to 360,000 Believers. There are numerous house churches, but there are divisions among Christian leaders. Pray for the effective witness of the Christians to an immoral society. Pray for the Utsat, China's only Malay people. They are all Muslim with no known Believers or attempts to reach them. **Hebei Province** in North China and almost surrounding Beijing has a population of 67,415,000. People practice secularism and traditional Chinese religions. Muslims number 1.4% and Christians 4.0%. Hebei is one of the most rigidly policed provinces and Christians have suffered much over the past two decades. Pray for both grace and greater freedom for the Christians in this strategic province. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Sunday 11 October 2009

Issues of the heart: Just stop it!

In **Ezekiel 18:30-31** God literally cries out to Israel; *repent and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. ...For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies.* Satan wants us to live in terror of God, whom we think is just waiting to pounce upon us if we put a foot wrong. But God is crying out to us to abstain from even putting one foot wrong, because He knows exactly how eager Satan is that we do, so that he

has the right to destroy our lives completely, causing us to believe God is unjust for being so strict. God is telling you now to just stop doing what is wrong. *Come to Me, get a new heart and your spirit will be renewed, for I, God, want you to live.* The message can not be any simpler. Make a decision today to believe God. He is life. Let go of the things you hold on to which are destroying your life.

Father, forgive me for believing what the devil says about You. I am sorry Lord. Today I want to let go of those things which cause me to sin and bring destruction upon my life. Deliver me from evil, show me righteousness and life, for I do not want to die, I want to follow You in all my ways.

Women to pray: How do I pray when I have an incurable illness

Very few people don't know someone who suffers from an incurable illness, and there are many people who suffer from an incurable illness themselves. Some incurable illnesses have a slight influence on people's lives and others have a serious and restrictive influence. How do I pray for myself when I suffer from an incurable illness or when I want to pray for someone else who suffers from an incurable illness?

- It is important to distinguish between terminal and incurable illnesses. Incurable diseases/illnesses often lead to terminal illness.
- Make peace with the fact that you have an incurable illness. This does not mean that you should not pray for healing. You may and can still pray for healing. First of all however, you must accept that you have an incurable illness before you can pray for healing. Acceptance brings resignation and strengthens your trust in God, no matter what the situation.
- When someone has an incurable illness this person must make peace as soon as possible with the fact that he or she is going to die, whether as a result of the illness or not. Make peace with death. The sooner you do it, the sooner peace comes and you can live life to the full. Pray until you make a breakthrough, until you have peace, until you can see that death is not the end of the road, but that this life is but the beginning of everlasting life.
- You may pray for healing. God heals and you may pray for healing yourself and ask others to pray for you to be healed. But while you do not receive that healing, you can and must still live your life to the full. Do not allow the desire for healing to control your life; keep focusing on God.
- Learn to trust God with your life in a new way. Make sure you keep on believing in God. In this situation you must learn to understand God's character, that He is good, gracious and loving. Often people find this difficult to grasp. It is however, when we understand who God is and what God is like, that it helps us to also accept our illness.
- Many people become defiant, blame God, get angry with Him, see Him as merciless and unfeeling, think that God has let them down, lapse into depression and can or will not believe God any longer, or allow bitterness into their lives. The beginning of victory is to admit to these and other emotions before God. Confess them before Him. This mostly leads to a spiritual battle with God. Keep talking to God even if it is a difficult conversation and your emotions overwhelm you. Do not stop reading your Bible – especially take time to read the Psalms. Where necessary, speak to your friends, but talk to God more often. In the end we find our peace and comfort in the Lord Himself. Keep on trusting God; put your hope in Him, even if you don't understand everything and even if many questions are still unanswered.
- Be careful of negotiating with God. Many people bargain with God and undertake to do a great many things for Him if He heals them. Don't do this. Surrender to the Lord and do these things in any case, as far as possible. Even more, try to find other things that the Lord may have in mind for you. Don't become fixated on what you want, but seek His will in this situation.
- Many people, especially those who gave themselves unconditionally to God, testify that their illness brought them closer to God and that they understood the meaning of life better. It is important to ask the Lord why He allowed this sickness in your life. Sometimes the Lord does not give an answer straight away and sometimes He never gives an answer. But keep on praying and asking Him.

- The devil is a murderer of people and will try to destroy your life. If you are suffering from an incurable disease, he will also try to kill you spiritually. Resist him. Don't fall for his lies and know that he will keep on persistently trying to steal your joy and make you passive and despondent.
- Even if you suffer from an incurable illness it is important to remember that this is not death. We all die. It is extremely important that you live the life God gives you – live it to the full. Live the life that God places in you fully. It is *always* your choice how you will live, whether you are healthy and whether you have an incurable disease.
- Suffering from an incurable illness does not mean that God is punishing you for something you did wrong. God has not turned His back on you. He knows about you. He still loves you unconditionally. You should however, ask God if there are things in your life that stand between you and Him – draw near to Him, break with any sin.
- Use your incurable illness to reach out to others who also suffer from incurable illnesses and ask the Lord how to help and encourage them.

Take these guidelines and turn them into prayer requests and prayer directives to pray for yourself or someone else suffering from an incurable illness.

Monday 12 October 2009

Salvation focus: Vendors

They have little mats laden with goodies to sell on the sidewalk, or stop you at the traffic lights trying to sell you a small item. They are humorous and always full of enthusiasm. Next time you pass them, remember to pray for their salvation. That they will find Christ in those passing by, in such a way that it stirs their hearts to find out about Him too.

Prayer focus on China: Day 12

The Chinese economy is expanding: China is one of the fastest growing economies in the world today. China's economic expansion knows no borders. China is expanding her economic influence to several nations in Africa, to Australia, Brazil, Argentina, the USA and Europe. Pray that the God of heaven, the One who rules supreme over all nations, will guide and shape the international impact of China, as He once shaped Rome and Greece. Pray that China as a superpower will be used as an instrument in the hand of God in each and every nation with which China has economic ties.

Tuesday 13 October 2009

Corruption focus: Crisis boosts white collar crime

Forensic auditors say white collar crime, which includes fraud, corruption, expense claim manipulation and fiddling with financial statements is on the increase as the economy slumps. (Website: http://www.fin24.com/articles/default/display_article.aspx?Nav=ns&ArticleID=1518-25_2478091). Please lift up in prayer people who resort to crime in desperation to care for their families. Ask that they will find Christ as their hope in all circumstances and not fall into traps of crime.

Prayer focus on China: Day 13 – Henan Province and Heilongjiang Province

Henan Province (declared an 'Atheistic Zone' in the 1960s) in central China, with a population of 95,400,000, is prone to flooding and river course changes with frequent loss of life. Muslims number 1% and Christians 10.4%. Mao's disastrous policies caused over 8 million Henanese to die in a famine. Revival began with mass conversions, miracles and visions for evangelising China. Outreach from Henan churches has been one of the great stories of the expansion of Christianity. Give thanks to God for these testimonies. Keep on praying for continued growth. **Heilongjiang Province**, with a population of 38,805,000, borders Siberia in the north and has huge natural resources. Shamanism and Buddhism are prevalent among the indigenous peoples. Muslims number 0.4% and Christians 5.3%. Pray for maturity and stability as well as provision of godly leadership. Most of the

small indigenous Mongolian and Altaic peoples are shamanistic and there are few Scriptures or other media for these peoples. Please pray for translation of Scripture for them soon! (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Wednesday 14 October 2009

Missions focus: World evangelism

More than 4,000 Christian leaders meeting for 10 days in October 2010 in Cape Town will reflect on major obstacles to world evangelisation. They trust God for breakthroughs in six main areas: Portraying the uniqueness of Christ in a pluralistic world; religious fundamentalism; obstacles to world evangelisation within the Church; the shift within the world Church from the Global North to South and West to East; the development of a theology of suffering and reconciliation; and the building of new partnerships to help the Church advance in the unfinished task of world evangelisation. (Website: <http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/article.htm?id=2409&cat=press>). Pray for preparations for this conference and for God's favour for them to know how to address difficult issues.

Prayer focus on China: Day 14 – Hubei Province and Hunan Province

Hubei Province, with a population of 60,653,000 is a province of many lakes and much agriculture. Muslims number 0.2% and Christians 1.3%. The Church grew considerably before 1949, but since then growth has not matched that of many other areas. The authorities have maintained tight control — especially over the cities, so registered churches are relatively few. Pray for a shattering of the political, ideological and spiritual chains that bind the people. **Hunan Province** is in Central China, with a population of 66,895,000. Muslims number 0.1% and Christians 2.4%. Maoism in this, Mao's home province, is still strong. Hunan is possibly China's spiritually most resistant Han Chinese population. Pray for the removal of the spiritual barriers. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Thursday 15 October 2009

Health focus: Decline in female population

In 1999 there were 1.1 million more females than males in South Africa. In 2008 there were only 106,000 more. (AMPS 1999, AMPS 2008B). (Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/databases/index.cgi> or e-mail: fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za). Women contract HIV/AIDS more easily than men. This might be one reason for this decline. Please pray for the safety of women, especially those who contract diseases through rape, molestation or abuse. Also ask that they will have opportunities to find Christ.

Prayer focus on China: Day 15 – Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region & Jiangsu Province

Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (Nei Mongol) is barren grassland and desert bordering on Mongolia and has a population of 23,928,000. Christians number 4.7%. Mongolians have become a minority in their own land because of the massive immigration of Han Chinese. Few have become Christian. Pray for workers in this harvest; for the New Testament to be translated and printed in the Mongolian vertical script and for more churches to be planted. **Jiangsu Province** is on the fertile coastal province west of Shanghai with a population of 73,866,000. Muslims number 0.2% and Christians 7.6%. Church growth has been spectacular since 1980. Pray that no subterfuge or attack of the enemy of souls may succeed in hindering that growth. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Friday 16 October 2009

Basic needs focus: World Food Day

Today is *World Food Day* (officially recognised in 1979), a worldwide celebration of the founding of the *Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)* of the *United Nations*. Over 150 countries worldwide honour this day to consider those lacking proper nourishment. There are more than 850 million undernourished people around the world and the number is growing steadily. The price of food has increased substantially and is a major factor in the rate of

hunger and poverty that is ailing so many across the globe. (Website: <http://www.wn.org/site/c.coIELNOsGpF/b.4669503/>). Pray for better ways to evenly distribute food to those in want (there is enough food in the world), for access to clean water (contaminated water is a major cause of deaths).

Prayer focus on China: Day 16 – Jiangxi Province and Jilin Province

Jiangxi Province in south-central China has a population of 42,654,000. Christians number 4.8%. The Communist Long March began here (a march that ended with the political triumph for that ideology, but an immense disaster for China). The blight of that history still affects Jiangxi. Pray for the release of the province from all that opposes God. There are some areas where Christians have multiplied, but many parts of the province are relatively under-evangelised. **Jilin province**, with a population of 27,153,000, borders on North Korea and Siberia. Many Koreans practise a mix of Buddhism and Shamanism. Muslims number 0.5% and Christians 5.7%. Nearly a third of the 2.1 million Koreans in Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces are Christian. Praise God for this. Pray for churches to be multiplied and for Christians to be able to play a part in the healing and re-evangelisation of North Korea. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Saturday 17 October 2009

Focus on prayer mobilising: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for the different projects of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* across the country. Pray that more individuals and groups will join the prayer task force and subscribe to the printed booklet and the weekly *Global Prayer Alert* to keep up to date with regular prayer related news and events. Pray for prayer coordinators across the country to have fresh zeal and renewed favour in making others enthusiastic to become involved in prayer in their cities/towns. Please pray for subscription opportunities in other countries, especially *via* the Internet. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Prayer focus on China: Day 17 – Liaoning Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Liaoning Province, with a population of 42,863,000, borders the Yellow Sea and North Korea. Muslims number 0.7% and Christians 5.1%. Over 20% of Christians in the province are Korean. The Xibe are an Altaic-Tungus people that have been largely assimilated into Chinese culture, but only a handful is known to be Christian. Ask for breakthroughs for the gospel among these people. **Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region** is along the Yellow River in north China with a population of 5,410,000. Muslims number 34% and Christians 3.9%. The Hui number 10.6 million. There are only about 200 scattered Believers among them. Pray that in every city across China, local Christians might have a burden to reach them, and for the willingness to adapt their approach to be effective. Pray for adequate leadership and good literature for these Christians — both in short supply. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Sunday 18 October 2009

Issues of the heart: Be really open for correction

In **Ezekiel 33:31** God speaks to Israel and says these words: *So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them, for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.* Christians have numerous opportunities to hear the Word of God, whether through books, television, a church or a conference. Subconsciously we begin to compare sermons, excerpts from books, e-mails and that which we hear over the radio. Before long, we might find we are not taking to heart the very message from God coming towards us. We speak to each other about the words and messages of God. But do we still allow these words and messages to pierce our hearts and minds as when we were young Believers? Do we allow them to correct our thinking? Or have we joined those pointing fingers? May our hearts not be puffed up, because God only regards the lowly! (**Ps.138:6**). Will you not take some time today to examine your heart before God? Do not compare yourself with others, set yourself before God and let Him examine you.

Father, please forgive me for I have closed up my hardened heart and with my mouth I have spoken proudly (Ps.17:10). I set myself before You today and open up my heart to You again. Please correct me and show me Your ways. Help me once more to be willing and able to do Your will.

Monday 19 October 2009

Salvation focus: Reps

You see them in supermarkets checking out their company's products and shelf space, or sitting at restaurants presenting a business or marketing plan. All day long they have to convince people to buy their product so they will be able to earn an income. When you see them, pray for them to find Jesus Christ as their Saviour and King. Ask that they will encounter Believers, like you, who will minister the love of God to them in a kind way.

Prayer focus on China: Day 19

Chinese missions are booming: The underground Church in China has a strong vision "to take the gospel back to Jerusalem". China lies on the eastern end of the ancient Silk Route. The road for the gospel to go back to Jerusalem goes through nations such as Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria - all of them nations under Islamic rule. Pray for the release of the Chinese Church in this vision and for the gospel to penetrate these ancient strongholds of Islam. Pray for the preparation of China as a 'sending nation' and that the Lord of the Harvest will thrust labourers from China into the harvest.

Tuesday 20 October 2009

Youth focus: Teens and MXit

The news that a 13-year-old girl (saying many of her friends do the same), sold nude photographs of herself via MXit, has prompted the police to launch an awareness campaign about the possible dangers of the instant messaging service. After paying her, the man wanted to meet her. Her mother apparently saw her trying to quickly and surreptitiously erase messages from her cell phone and found out what was going on. (Website: http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2475507,00.html). Pray that children will realise the dangers of making contact with strangers, both physically and/or via media such as MXit. Also pray for parents to be more attentive to their children's activities with regard to modern technology. Pray for good communication between parents and children.

Prayer focus on China: Day 20 – Qinghai Province and Shaanxi Province

Qinghai Province is a huge, high alpine desert province in West China on the Tibetan Plateau with a population of 5,098,000. Muslims number 16% and Christians 2.3%. The unreached: a) The Tibetans are strong in their Lamaistic Buddhism. There is now a handful of isolated Believers. Pray for open hearts, and deliverance from bondage. b) Pray for the Tu and Mongour who are Lamaistic Buddhists while there are no known Believers. They are isolated from existing outreach. c) Ask for breakthroughs among the numerous Muslim Hui. There is a handful of Christians, but few witness to them. d) Cry out specifically for breakthroughs among the Muslim Salar and Bonan who remain completely unreached. **Shaanxi Province** is in north-central China with a population of 36,828,000 and is famous for the buried terracotta army. Muslims number 0.4% and Christians 4.5%. Shaanxi was the birthplace of Christianity in China. Terrible persecution wiped out this witness. Pray that the 21st Century may be one of triumph for the Church. The Church has grown dramatically since 1949. Pray for spiritual unity among Shaanxi Christians and for them to carry this on to the next generation. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Wednesday 21 October 2009

Addiction focus: Drug abuse on the increase

Drug usage among South Africans has increased these past two years. About 9% of the South African population of 47 million people use dagga (marijuana). We also use double the dagga, cocaine and *tik* (amphetamine)

compared to the world average, costing about R20 milliard per year. Only 17,000 South Africans receive treatment for drug and/or alcohol addiction per year. (Website: http://www.news24.com/Beeld/Suid-Afrika/0,,3-975_2473057,00.html). Pray for people to acknowledge their addiction, admit themselves for treatment and choose to change their lives. Ask that thousands will find Christ in this process.

Prayer focus on China: Day 21 – Shandong Province and Shanghai Municipality

Shandong Province is a northern coastal province with a population of 90,928,000. Muslims number 0.4% and Christians 3%. Shandong was the birthplace and home of *Confucius*, whose philosophy and writings have deeply moulded Chinese culture to this day. Pray that the Chinese may be freed from the social demands which hinder many from commitment to Christ. *The Jesus Family*, a remarkable form of communal Christianity, began in this province. They were influential in the establishment of the house church movement of which they are a part today. Pray for the spiritual growth of indigenous Christianity and for the centrality of Scripture in their life and teaching.

Shanghai Municipality, with a population of 14,773,000, is China's largest and most wealthy city (after Hong Kong) and industrial hub of the country. Muslims number 0.4% and Christians 9.6%. In 1950 there was a varied and effective Church life with 256 churches, but all was destroyed in the Cultural Revolution. Pray for freedom for congregations to grow and multiply. Pray that the drive, wealth and sophistication of this city might be harnessed for the spreading of the gospel. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Thursday 22 October 2009

Stewardship focus: SA water demand exceeds supply

Water problems in South Africa are on the increase as the demand exceeds available supply. Apart from that, local water is no longer safe to drink everywhere. (Website: http://www.news24.com/News24/South Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2473081,00.html). Lift up this issue to the Lord, asking for His favour to continue to shower us with rains to fill dams and rivers. Also pray for specific breakthroughs in accelerating the purification of polluted water in terms of the erection of the necessary infrastructure and qualified civil engineers to do the work.

Prayer focus on China: Day 22 – Shanxi Province and Sichuan Province

Shanxi Province has a population of 32,251,000 and is in Northeast China, west of Beijing and not to be confused with the neighbouring Shaanxi. Muslims number 0.2% and Christians 3.4%. The Boxer Rebellion of 1900 led to many martyrs — thousands of Chinese as well as 159 missionaries and 46 children in Shanxi alone. Pray that their testimony may lead to many modern-day Chinese following Christ. Datong has a low percentage of Christians and is, historically, a major Buddhist centre. Pray for the breaking down of spiritual strongholds.

Sichuan Province is a large rice-growing province on the Yangtze River, also known as the 'panda province' and has a population of 87,681,000. Lamaistic Buddhists number 4% among Tibetans, the Jiarong, Mosuo and Chrame. Animism and polytheism are practiced among the Nosu, Bai Ma, Qiang and Miao. Christians number 1.4%. Sichuan had the lowest Christian percentage of the Han-majority provinces until recently. Pray for continued breakthrough and millions to turn to Christ. Ethnic minorities indigenous to Sichuan total 4 million in 44 peoples, but 33 of them have no Christians and no known outreach to them. Pray for labourers to this specific harvest soon. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Friday 23 October 2009

Missions focus: World Mission Centre (WMC)

The vision of this SA based ministry's *Live School* is to train one million Christian workers with special emphasis on those who live in places where they have no access to mission training. They want to see 100,000 trainees eventually reach the Least Reached People Groups of the world. WMC staff is working under much pressure to complete the Swahili Translation (to be launched in Tanzania in November), by the end of October. Pray for God's strength and grace to complete the job. (*Live School*. P.O. Box 35545, Menlo Park, 0102. Tel: +27 12 3431165, fax: +27 12 3431167. Website: www.liveschool.org or e-mail: info@liveschool.org).

Prayer focus on China: Day 23 – Tianjin Municipality and Tibet – Xizang Autonomous Region

Tianjin Municipality is the port city of Beijing with a population of 9,883,000. Muslims number 1.8% and Christians 2.3%. The Church is almost as tightly controlled as in nearby Beijing, and church growth has been more limited. Pray for an easing of the harsh restrictions and for more church growth despite persecution. **Tibet – Xizang Autonomous Region** is the barren Tibetan plateau north of the Himalaya Mountains, much of which is uninhabited and includes Mount Qomolangma (Everest); often called the 'Roof of the World' with a population of 2,500,000. Lama Buddhists number 80%, Muslims 0.2% and Christians 0.2%. Over one million people may have lost their lives when China invaded the land in 1950 and a further 100,000 may have been forced into exile, including the spiritual and political leader of Tibetans, the Dalai Lama. Pray for Believers to play a role in the reconciliation process and healing of this nation. Tibetan Buddhism has a strong hold on the people with 1,780 monasteries and at least 46,000 Buddhist monks. Pray that present sufferings may be God's means for bringing spiritual freedom to Tibetans. Pray for open doors and freedom to proclaim the gospel and the planting of house fellowships among them. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Saturday 24 October 2009

Missions focus: SA missionaries abroad

Lift up in prayer thousands of South Africans who serve as missionaries abroad, often in closed countries, especially those who are separated from their families. Ask for God's favour and blessing on their work, families, marriages and interpersonal relationships with other Believers. Pray for generous financial support, to have time and a pleasant place to rest and to experience God's presence in their relationship with Him. Ask that God will affirm their vision and work and speak clearly to them about their purpose in these countries.

Prayer focus on China: Day 24 – Xinjian Uygur Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with a population of 17,582,000, is ringed with mountains surrounding the Taklamakan Desert in northwest China. Muslims number 65.1%, Lamaistic Buddhists 1.5% and Christians 2.2%. Almost all the indigenous peoples are Muslim and unreached. Pray for labourers to this harvest, the completion and distribution of the New Testament in their language and also the dissemination of the *JESUS Film* in Uygur. Also ask for churches to be planted among them once more. **Yunnan Province** is in China's mountainous southwest, with a population of 42,030,000. They mainly practice Buddhism, animism, polytheism and ancestral worship. Muslims number 1.5% and Christians 5.3%. Yunnan is, ethnically, China's most complex province. Yunnan's indigenous ethnic minorities, numbering 16 million in 208 ethno-linguistic peoples, are an immense challenge for the Church in China and the world. About 205 peoples have no witness and no Christians, and a further 47 have less than 1% Christians. Many are polytheists or Buddhists. The poverty of local Believers and difficulties in travel slow down any attempts. Cry out to the Lord for breakthroughs for the gospel in this challenging province, that obstacles will be overcome. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Sunday 25 October 2009

Issues of the heart: Intentionally humble yourself

When his heart was puffed up and his spirit hardened in pride, Nebuchadnezzar was deposed from his kingly throne. His son Belshazzar, although he knew what had happened to his father, did not humble his heart before God in his reign as king. The very night that God warned him, he was killed (**Dan.5**). When we are in positions of influence, we are often at risk of thinking that nothing can touch us, or that we are better than other people. Once our hearts become proud, it affects our spiritual lives too! It is important therefore to check our hearts before the Lord on a regular basis. One fact needs to remain clear; no matter how hard we work to obtain a certain position, it is still God who grants us favour to actually attain any position of authority (**Rom.13:1**). This helps us to clearly understand why we have to remain humble before Him, whether we are in a position in government, at work or as parents at home. Take time today to ask God to show you anything in your heart that is not pleasing to Him. Be honest and admit it when the Holy Spirit shows you something that is not right. Put right what is wrong regarding your position and the way your conduct influences others around you.

Father I confess that my heart is not completely humbled before You, especially with regard to the position of authority You have granted me. Forgive me where I have wronged people, presented myself as more important and better than others, and discarding You as my Heavenly Father. I humble myself before You once again today; please show me true humility and how to be a man/woman after Your own heart.

Monday 26 October 2009

Salvation focus: Farmers

The responsibility to manage practical things on a farm, the farm workers, and to make wise decisions at all times, is huge. At other times their crops fail, their livestock is stolen or killed or they are attacked on their farms. Pray for farmers today, to find the hope of their future in Christ Jesus and to call upon Him in every circumstance, good and bad. Ask that God will encourage them when they feel weak and show them how to make wise decisions at all times.

Prayer focus on China: Day 26

The Chinese Church is touching the world: There is a vast difference in the way the Eastern nations and the Western nations view the world. This has caused many historical misunderstandings between East and West. Paul preached to the church in Colosse (**Col 3:11**) that there is no Greek or Jew in the Church of Jesus Christ. Pray that the Church worldwide will begin to understand this very unique calling to unity. Pray for a union of vision and purpose between the Church in the Eastern and Western nations. Pray for the Church in the West to accept and welcome the release of the Chinese Church in our generation.

Chinese people are flooding the nations: When God is working in and through nations He calls the Church to join with Him in His purpose for the gospel to reach all nations. All of us are responsible for and called to love our neighbours and even strangers (**Lev. 19:34**). Many Chinese have already relocated to other nations. Find a Chinese family near you and reach out to them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Make them feel welcome in your country. Share the gospel with them. Invite them into your circle of friends and allow the Lord to use you in His greater purpose for China.

Tuesday 27 October 2009

Alpha Course in South Africa

Pray for all the participants who attend an *Alpha Course* in South Africa; that they will grow spiritually and find direction and purpose in life. Please also pray for Sheldon Delpont as he takes over from Peter Sutton as the National Director of *Alpha SA*. Continue to pray for Peter as he will now focus on the very important area of prison work. Please pray for financial support to continue the work of *Alpha*. (*Alpha SA*, website: www.alphasa.co.za or e-mail: communications@alphasa.co.za).

Prayer focus on China: Day 27 – Zhejiang Province

Zhejiang Province is the prosperous coastal province south of Shanghai, with a population of 45,152,000. People practice secularism and traditional Chinese religions. Muslims number 0.3% and Christians 11.2%. **Wenzhou is sometimes called the Jerusalem of China.** Over 30% of its population is Christian. In many rural areas there is a prominent church building in full use every kilometre. Many of their church buildings were destroyed in 2000 in a strong effort to eliminate unregistered Christians. **Zhejiang house churches** have done much to evangelise other parts of China through evangelising migrant labourers and following contacts to their home areas. Pray for this vision to grow. Pray for the assaults of those opposed to the gospel to fail and for the perpetrators to be converted. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Wednesday 28 October 2009

Child abuse focus: Online child porn worsens

The *Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)* says the proportion of websites posting horrific images of child torture or rape is up by 11%. It found that 58% of child sexual abuse domains traced in 2008, contained graphic images involving torture, compared with 47% in 2007. Investigators traced 1,536 websites around the world publishing child abuse images last year, a fall of 10% on the previous year. (Website: <http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/>). Give thanks to God for every breakthrough concerning child pornography. Let us therefore persevere in praying for this form of trading to be stopped completely. Also for the 'clientele' to find God and be set free from their addiction.

Prayer focus on China: Day 28 – China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a mountainous peninsula and 230 islands on the coast of Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China (PRC) with a population of 6,965,000. Religious freedom in a secular state, guaranteed by the Basic Law, has been adhered to. Chinese/Buddhists number 66.13%, Irreligious 18.25%, Christians 10.05%, Muslims 1.50% and Hindus 0.25%. **The challenges facing the Hong Kong Church: a) The need for renewal and revival. b) Increasing wealth and materialism** that saps spiritual commitment. **c) Divisions over doctrine.** Some barriers have been broken down with pastors praying together. Pray that churches may unite for prayer, evangelism and missions. Mature Christian leaders are relatively few. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Thursday 29 October 2009

Evangelism focus: Growth of Alpha in South Africa

The *Alpha* Evangelism Course has been running in South Africa for the past 14 years and has been growing steadily. There are also now just under 3,000 *Alpha* courses running in 38 countries across Africa, a direct answer to prayer! Give thanks to God for every life that has been transformed. Please pray for new and young Believers to continue to grow. Lift up the different *Alpha* courses to the Lord in prayer: *Alpha* at Churches, *Alpha* for Prisons, *Alpha* in the Workplace and The Marriage Course. (*Alpha* SA. Tel.: 012 998 8144. Website: <http://www.alphasa.co.za/> or e-mail: communications@alphasa.co.za).

Prayer focus on China: Day 29 – China, Macau, special administrative Region

China, Macau, special administrative Region, with a population of 445,427, is a tiny peninsula and two islands 64 km west of Hong Kong on the coast of Guangdong Province of China, with full freedom of religion. Irreligious/other number 60.00%, Chinese beliefs 19.69%, Buddhists 13.00% and Christians 7.31%. Macau has the dubious distinction of being the first Christian territory in Asia to become non-Christian. Pray for local leaders to be raised up who will help the Church grow and have an influence on the rest of China and the world. Gambling and prostitution are major money-earners run by ruthless Triad gangs who wage wars for control of this lucrative 'industry'. Pray for breakthroughs in the resistance that prevents people coming to the Lord. There are a number of missionaries from Hong Kong and other countries, most being involved in evangelism, church planting, drug rehabilitation and Bible teaching. Pray for their work to prosper. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Did you know about China...

- ✂ In Communist China, persecution comes largely in the form of government restrictions, fines, and imprisonment. Limits are placed on the ways Believers are allowed to worship, the number of Bibles in the country, expression of faith, and evangelism.
- ✂ China continues to enforce the old policy that prohibits religious education for children under the age of 18.
- ✂ The publication of Bibles and other Christian materials is restricted by the Communist government.

✚ Over 90% of Chinese Christians worship in unregistered house churches, therefore it is hard to know the actual size of the Christian church in China. Estimates range from 60 to 130 million.

✚ China continues to repatriate North Korean refugees back to their country, to sure punishment, including harsh labour prisons, interrogation, imprisonment of their family members and death.

(Website: http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/DocServer/Church_Bulletin_Inserts.pdf?docID=3062)

Friday 30 October 2009

Crime focus: SMS tip-off initiative

The *Crime Line* initiative has been endorsed by the *South African Police Service (SAPS)*. If someone suspects someone else (even family or friends) to be involved in crime, they can now anonymously report it. Any information about criminals passed on to *Crime Line* will be acted upon – whether the perpetrators be murderers, rapists, robbers, hijackers, drug dealers, gangsters, child abusers, etc. (Website: www.crimeline.co.za). Give thanks to the Lord for initiatives like these in answer to much prayer over the years! Pray that people will become aware of this initiative, and for many criminals to be put to trial for their deeds.

Prayer focus on China: Day 30 – China, Taiwan

Taiwan is a mountainous island 160 km east of mainland China together with the Penghu archipelago and the islands of Matsu and Quemoy close to the mainland, with a population of 22,401,000. Because of rapid industrialisation and economic growth they are becoming one of the world's most dynamic export-oriented economies of the world, and they have no public debt. The great majority of the population follow the unique Chinese blend of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. Buddhism has grown markedly in influence and numbers. Chinese beliefs number 43.21%, Buddhist 25.00%, Irreligious/other 25.30%, Christian 6.06% and Muslim, 0.35%. Taiwan remains the only major Han Chinese population in the world where the spiritual breakthrough has yet to come. Pray that every obstacle to the reception of the gospel may be broken down. The major challenges to be faced by the Church are: a) *Spiritual strength* to stand against gambling, entrenched ancestor worship, rising materialism and aggressive opposition from non-Christian religions. Many Christians are still in bondage to, or in fear of, these things. b) *Low commitment*. Too few of those converted become active participants in congregational life, and there is a high drop-out rate. Few Christians become soul-winners. Please pray for God's intervention and the hearts of people to become hungry to do God's will. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: info@gmi.org).

Saturday 31 October 2009

National focus: Illegal immigrants

Several million people living in South Africa have illegal immigrant status - they're mostly from other African states. (Website: <http://www.exploresouthafrica.net/facts/>). Apart from those fleeing Zimbabwe, South Africa also hosts several refugees from other countries. Their presence in some areas has sparked some of the xenophobic attacks. Please pray especially for illegal immigrants to find Christ in a meaningful way while here. Ask for local churches to reach out to immigrants living in their areas.

Prayer focus on China - Day 31 – Thanksgiving

Lord, we declare that You are the Lord of the harvest, also over China. We cry out for Your mercy to hear and accept our prayers of the past 30 days. Thank you, for Your arm is not too short to help, neither is Your ear too deaf to hear. Thank you for loving the people of China and stirring up their hearts with renewed fervour to seek You and declare to others who You are.

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE - NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday 1 November 2009

Issues of the heart: Set your heart to trust God

When Gabriel visited Daniel in Babylon, he said to him, *Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words (Dan.10:12)*. Like Daniel, we all want to see great things happen in our nation and for people to turn back to God. It seems quite impossible sometimes to think that just one man can make a real difference. When a clear answer from God after much and prolonged prayer is delayed, fear grips our hearts that God might not have heard, or doesn't want to help us any more since our sins are so great. God wants to encourage YOU today, that if you would set YOUR heart towards Him for understanding and humble yourself before Him, He will hear you, from the first moment you do it! Do not become disheartened about South Africa and our nation. God has always been a God who answers the prayers of His saints, and He will continue to do so.

Father, forgive me for the times I become disheartened and fearful when a clear answer from You is delayed. Today again, I humble myself and cry out for our nation and its people. All have sinned before You. Pour out Your Spirit upon us, show us who You are. Help us to have a clear understanding of our wrongs before You in the light of Your holiness.

Nations focus: ETHNE09

ETHNE09 will be the global gathering for the *Ethne* movement, scheduled for the first week of November in Colombia. *Ethne* focuses in prayer on reaching the least-reached peoples of the earth. Please pray for this important time to celebrate what God has done over the past 3 years among the remaining least-reached people groups. These groups are of all sizes with less than 2% evangelical and less than 5% adherents to any form of Christianity; progress will be assessed, and movements to Christ accelerated among these 6,000+ people groups globally. (*Ethne* Prayer Updates, Website: www.ethne.net or e-mail: ethne06-prayer@strategicnetwork.org).

Monday 2 November 2009

Salvation focus: Grade 12's

Most Grade 12's started their National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination on 26 October and will complete their exams around 4 December. (Website: <http://www.artschool.co.za/NSC%20FINAL%20Table%20Nov%202009.pdf>). Remember to lift them up in prayer so that they will focus on their studies and finish their last papers with as much zeal as the first one. Pray for their protection from losing hope, attempting suicide or cheating during their exams.

World Watch List: Prayer focus on the Persecuted Church

More than 200 million Christians face persecution each day, 60% of them children. Over the next 30 days we will focus in prayer on the top ten countries where Christians are persecuted, some countries where the persecution situation improved or worsened this past year. This information is taken from *Open Doors'* World Watch List (WWL) compiled from a specially-designed questionnaire of 50 questions covering various aspects of religious freedom. The total number of points per country determines its position on the WWL. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Will you not encourage friends, family and members of your church or cell group to set aside some time each week this month to pray for persecuted Christians around the world?

Tuesday 3 November 2009

Youth focus: Why children use drugs

Children say they choose to use drugs because they want to relieve boredom, feel good, forget their troubles and relax, feel grown-up, show their independence, belong to a specific group and be cool, or are neglected by their

parents. If parents would realise this, they may be better equipped to address the needs of their children. Encouraging children to become involved in uplifting activities such as sports, music lessons, community service projects, etc. can keep children and teens active and interested, while building their confidence and interpersonal skills. (Website: <http://www.yic.gov/drugfree/whykiduse.html>). Lift this situation up in prayer. Pray for parents across cultural divides to become more involved in their children's lives.

World Watch List: 1st on World Persecution List 2009: North Korea

North Korea tops the World Watch List for the seventh time in a row. The number of people sentenced to labour camp or prison has increased since last year. North Korea is closing its doors and Christians are persecuted constantly. Christianity is illegal in North Korea. Genuine religious freedom does not exist at all. The constitution is firmly based on Juche ideology. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Christians in North Korea to remain faithful to Christ, and for their witness to spread despite restrictions.

Wednesday 4 November 2009

Focus on children: Number of abandoned kids rising

According to *Child Welfare SA*, 291 children were abandoned during the 2008/09 financial year compared with 162 during the previous financial year. The reasons for this increase are different; e.g. teenage pregnancy, accommodation, substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20090408105929187C161457). Lift up abandoned children to the Lord in prayer, also asking for more homes that care for them to be established. Ask for His supernatural intervention when they are left for dead in obscure places, so that they will have an opportunity to live.

World Watch List: 2nd on World Persecution List 2009: Saudi Arabia

In Sharia-ruled Saudi Arabia, the deplorable state of religious freedom remained generally unaltered in 2008. Apostasy (conversion to another religion) is punishable by death if the accused does not renounce Christ. For Believers from a Muslim background, there is also a great risk of honour killing if their family or social environment discovers their new faith. (Their honour is at stake when a family member becomes a Christian). Non-Muslim worshippers who engage in Christian activities risk arrest, imprisonment, lashing, deportation, and sometimes torture. More reports of Christians arrested for their involvement in religious activities were received than during the previous year. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Believers to grow spiritually and to remain steadfast in following Christ. Ask for favour to proclaim the gospel despite persecution.