

# 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](http://www.ethne.net) or e-mail: [ethne06-prayer@strategicnetwork.org](mailto: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.

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**World Watch List: 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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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](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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Thursday 5 November 2009

**Health focus: Health care services in decline**

The quality of health care services in South Africa is declining. The shortage of health professionals, not enough bed-linen, disgruntled workers, long queues and poor service are some of the problems affecting the country's health system. There is a growing trend of uncommitted health professionals, in particular nurses who are the main providers of health care.

(Website: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032173&PHPSESSID=8f63e05a1>). Lift up this situation in prayer. Ask for more young people to commit their lives to provide health care so the burden on those already practising it will be lifted. Pray for all healthcare personnel, for perseverance to continue with their work.

**World Watch List: 3<sup>rd</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Iran**

In total, more than 50 Christians were arrested for their faith in 2009. A Christian couple died after interrogation by government officials, due to injuries during captivity. Although Christians are a recognised religious minority, they do not enjoy such benefits. Any Muslim who leaves Islam to embrace another religion faces the death penalty. In September 2008 the Iranian Parliament also called for the Penal Code to be revised, making apostasy punishable by death only. Many church services are being monitored by the secret police. (Website:

<http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Muslim converts to be safely hidden and able to continue their Christian witness. Ask that they will have strength not to renounce Jesus.

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Friday 6 November 2009

**Stewardship focus: Solar Energy**

With an average of more than 2,500 hours of sunshine every year, South Africa has the perfect climate for solar panel energy production. SA's solar radiation output is twice that of Europe - making it one of the highest in the world - and the most readily accessible energy available. This immense energy resource lends itself to a number of potential uses and the country's solar-equipment industry is growing. (Website: <http://www.totalsolarenergy.co.uk/south-africa-solar-energy.html>). Ask for wisdom for SA companies to have success in this industry, furthering their export possibilities as well. Pray for many to find employment in this industry.

**World Watch List: 4<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Afghanistan**

Pressure from the Taliban movement increased during 2008. Islam is the "religion of the state". Christians have no rights and government officials are negative towards Christians. A Christian aid worker in the capital city of Kabul was killed because, according to the Taliban, she was spreading Christianity, which is prohibited. Despite this, the Afghan Christian church continues to grow in all segments of society. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for safety of aid workers and Afghan Believers so that they can continue their work and witness. Give thanks for the growing Church.

**Breakthrough: Abortion now a crime in the Dominican Republic**

In response to recent efforts by international pro-abortion groups seeking to decriminalise abortion in the Dominican Republic, legislators of the Dominican Republic permanently enshrined the right to life for pre-born humans by rewriting the Constitution of the Dominican Republic with the words "the right to life is inviolable, from conception until death". The vote of 167 to 32 was held earlier this year and served as a major victory to those working to protect all human life. (Website: <http://www.personhoodusa.com/content/abortion-permanently-crime-dominican-republic-pro-life-victory-comes-vote-167-32>). See the article on worldwide trends on abortion in the previous issue of *Jericho Walls Prayer Guide*.

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Saturday 7 November 2009

**Employment focus: Coal of Africa project to create 14,000 jobs**

*Coal of Africa* plans to invest R3 billion in its Vele colliery project in Limpopo. The investment, based on external macro economic studies and the mine's maximum production potential of five million metric tons per year of coking coal, could create about 14,000 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase. Around 30,000 direct and indirect jobs could be created during the operational phase. (Website: [http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss\\_&fArticleId=4940060](http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss_&fArticleId=4940060)). Give thanks to God for answers to job creation like this. Please pray for this project to be successful, for environmental issues to be effectively taken into account, and for workers to be faithful in committing to their jobs.

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has worsened: India**

Hindu extremists reacted fiercely to the murder of one of their leaders on 23 August 2008 in Orissa, and in a wave of violence that lasted many weeks, more than 110 Believers were killed, more than 170 churches and 4,500 Christian homes were destroyed, more than 54,000 people were displaced (more than 10,000 Christians are still living in refugee camps). In the rest of India, the number of incidents regarding arrests, physical harassment, abductions and church attacks remain high all over India. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Keep on praying for Christians in India to continue evangelising their countrymen, despite these riots. Pray for the Church to continue growing.

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Sunday 8 November 2009

**Issues of the heart: Keep on turning away from evil**

**Joel 2:12:** *Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored] (Amp).* We might sometimes become disheartened when we have taken a situation to the Lord in prayer and do not experience a complete victory from the start. Apart from the fact that disappointment damages our fellowship with the Lord, it also creates hindrances that need to be removed! God here, (speaking about the last days), calls on His people to turn to Him. It literally means turning away from their ungodly ways. Also to keep on coming to Him wholeheartedly and in every situation, if need be with fasting, weeping and mourning about those issues creating hindrances between them and God. This is still His message to us today. If there is something that is a hindrance in your relationship with God, turn to Him, with all your heart. Also fast and cry out before Him about these issues and He will remove them and heal your fellowship!

*Father, forgive me for being afraid that You will not accept me when I come to You with everything in my heart that I know is creating hindrances between us! Today I want to declare that I trust You. I desire that our fellowship will be restored completely and all hindrances in my life be removed. Strengthen me to persevere in prayer, fasting and weeping before You until the breakthrough comes.*

**World Watch List: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)**

The IDOP is observed every year on the second Sunday in November. It is our responsibility as fellow Believers to pray for our brothers and sisters facing persecution. Let us pray for their safety, for perseverance in faith, boldness to witness, for legislation making it possible for Christian families to express their faith unhindered and in daily practice. Intercede for the hundreds of thousands of families who lost a father, a mother or a child the past decade. There is much disruption, confusion, pain, fear and there are many unanswered questions. Cry with those who cry, have compassion with those who suffer and at the very least pray that God will give them strength and protect them. (Website: <http://www.idop.org/>).

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Monday 9 November 2009

**Health focus: Central American Congress on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (CONCASIDA)**

The CONCASIDA takes place every two years in a Central American country to present the research results and search alternatives for more effective ways to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. (Website: [http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/Calendar/20090120\\_MajorEvents2009.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/Calendar/20090120_MajorEvents2009.asp)). Remember in prayer this meeting taking place in San José, Costa Rica from 9 - 14 November 2009. Ask for God's wisdom to be presented by Christians attending the meeting in a meaningful way that may direct everyone to reach the real solution to this problem.

**World Watch List: 5<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Somalia**

During 2008, Islamist insurgents regained control of most of south-central Somalia. The fighting between Somali Islamic militias and Ethiopian forces reportedly led to an increase in hostility towards Christians in several parts of the war-torn East African country. Four Christian teachers, two of them converts from Islam, were murdered in south-central Somalia. A very tiny minority of ethnic Somalis are Christian, practising their faith in secret and living under extremely dangerous conditions. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray especially for converts from Islam to grow spiritually and remain faithful in their witnessing of Christ. Ask that the message of Christ's love will continue to spread.

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Tuesday 10 November 2009

**Focus on prayer: South-East Asia Prayer Consultation (SEAPC)**

Pray for delegates to the SEAPC from 10-13 November 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, as representatives from each nation share what God is doing in their respective nations and major challenges they are facing now. The programme ends on 15 November 2009, which is *Thailand's National Day of Prayer*. (Website: <http://transform-world.net/newsletters/2008/08/SEAPC08.pdf> or e-mail: [lena@silkiss.biz](mailto:lena@silkiss.biz)). Give thanks for insights and wisdom gained on how to pray. Ask for breakthroughs, specifically in challenging areas, to come soon in each area of the world.

**World Watch List: 6<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Maldives**

Gathering for Christian worship among foreigners is also prohibited, and foreigners are not allowed to encourage citizens to participate in worship. The Bible and other Christian materials cannot be imported apart from a copy for personal use. The Maldives remains one of the least evangelised countries on earth with only a handful of indigenous Believers. There was almost no improvement in religious liberty in 2008, despite the new constitution and the newly elected president, Mr. Nasheed. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for breakthroughs for the gospel among indigenous peoples, especially on the smaller remote islands.

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Wednesday 11 November 2009

**Prostitution focus: Sex work and increase in crime linked**

The City of Cape Town has found a link between sex work and an increase in other criminal activities in an area. A court interdict preventing police from arresting sex workers was granted because the *National Prosecuting Authority* consistently fails to prosecute them. The order followed claims by sex workers that police were arresting them merely to harass and intimidate them.

(Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=13&art\\_id=nw20090421130828401C865670](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20090421130828401C865670)). Let us earnestly pray about these matters, asking for God's favour to turn these events around and have definite decisions for legislation on the matter, especially before the *Soccer World Cup* in 2010.

**World Watch List: 7<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Yemen**

The Yemeni government allows expatriates some freedom to practise their faith, but Yemeni citizens are not allowed to convert to Christianity (or other religions). Converts from an Islamic background may face the death penalty if their new faith is discovered. During the past year, several Christian converts were arrested, physically harmed and threatened because of their faith. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for new Believers to escape anyone wanting to kill them. Ask that they will have access to a personal Bible copy and grow spiritually.

**Youth to pray: Dating, in or out?**

Dating is important to all young people. It is a matter of urgency to us that we find the person we would like to get married to. It is still the deepest need of even those who just want to be in a relationship, want to 'enjoy' life and create the impression that they don't want to get married, to have a husband/wife for life, someone they can trust and who will be true to them.

How should I as a young person think and pray about this?

- It is your privilege and responsibility to pray for your future husband/wife. Ask the Lord to show you the right person. Don't lose heart if he or she doesn't make an appearance within the first week. Carry on praying about it regularly. Over and above giving your heart to the Lord, your choice of a husband/wife is most likely the most important decision in your life.
- Ask your parents to pray for you about this matter as well. It is also important to listen to your parents. *Never* go out with someone or get married against your parents' wishes. If you differ on this matter, talk to them, ask why they are against it and pray until you and your parents have peace about who this person should be.

- Choose not to go steady with someone before you know this is your husband/wife. This is a choice one does not make easily. Do not be in a hurry. Many young people say, "But how will I know if I don't have a steady relationship with someone and make sure?" This is not the way to go. God will show you. You don't have to try to find out for yourself. God alone knows the hearts of people and He knows who the right person for you is.
- It is fine to have friendships. But keep these friendships at a healthy level. Stay in a group. Make sure that as far as possible, you are always in the company of more than just one person of the opposite sex. Don't form intimate relationships and start holding hands, kissing and going further before you know who your husband/wife for life is. Remember, if you have an intimate relationship with someone and that person might not become your husband/wife, you are in a relationship with another person's husband/wife!
- When you feel that you have found your husband/wife, do things together and get to know one another, but do this within the protective context of a circle of friends. When there are enough indications that this person might be your husband/wife, you can spend limited periods of time together, but within all the perimeters of a pure and clean relationship.
- When such a relationship develops, go to mentors who can help you. Allow these persons to ask you difficult questions: Are you mature enough for a relationship? Can they tell by what they see that you are suited to one another or do they see warning signs? Are you drawn to this person because of his or her appearance or is it about this person's character and that you and he or she will be able to have a deep relationship?
- Make sure your husband/wife is a Christian. Do you understand the consequences that this relationship is for life? Do your parents approve of the relationship? Are you satisfied that God approves of it and that it is His will, or are you trying to twist His arm so that He will give His permission? Search your heart prayerfully.
- Young people often confuse love with emotions and hormones. A person's sexual urge is particularly strong at a young age and it is easy to confuse these desires in your body with love. Make a determined decision not to become involved in an intimate relationship before you are married. I don't know of anybody who has regretted this, but there are literally hundreds of millions who regret not having waited.
- You always have a choice how you wish to handle this situation. It is so important that you make the right choice about how you will handle it. Your choice must always be in line with God's will, purity, respect for your own body and the body of the other person and for the person herself or himself. Know that your choice, whichever way it goes, has consequences. There is no middle-of-the-road here. Make a radical choice about this matter, no matter how difficult it is, or if your friends find it ridiculous. Don't become known as a cheap girl. Don't be a guy who destroys the lives of young girls, who breaks their hearts and even robs them of their virginity. Choose for sex within marriage. Sex outside the marriage bed is a sin in the eyes of God.
- Never make the mistake of thinking it's all right to marry an unsaved man or woman and once this person is married to you, you can lead him to the Lord. It hardly ever works out this way.
- Love is not the only condition for marriage. The condition is the will of God. If you marry for love you might think the marriage can break up if there is no love. In the eyes of the Lord marriage is a permanent institution. For a Christian, marriage lasts a lifetime, until one of you dies. God's intention with marriage is to bring forth a spiritual offspring (**Mal.3:15**). Most people in western culture get married because they love each other and do not understand that it is also God's intent that a spiritual offspring will be brought forth. Ask the Lord what this means and make sure the man/woman you marry, wishes to pursue and practice it as you do.

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Thursday 12 November 2009

**National focus: Soccer World Cup 2010**

There will be a focus on border security at all ports of entry to South Africa's land, sea and air borders. Route security, specifically those leading from airports into the cities, will be a priority and 41 000 officers will be deployed. (Website: <http://www.sa2010.gov.za/safety-and-security>). Please pray for the recruiting and training of these policemen and women. Pray that security plans will be implemented and executed properly, as planned.

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**World Watch List: 8<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Laos**

The Church is relatively small but continues to grow (about 200,000 Believers, who mostly belong to ethnic minorities). Believers are under strict surveillance. The regime limits the number of open churches and regularly closes churches, especially in the countryside. The biggest challenge to the Church in Laos is societal pressure against converts who renounce evil spirit worship. Though most of those arrested have been released, an unknown number is still in jail. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Christians in jail, to have opportunities to minister Christ to others. Also pray for Christians to remain faithful and not deny Christ.

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Friday 13 November 2009

**Missionary focus: Joseph and Edwina Charles**

Praise the Lord for the families, including young people, who have responded to the gospel message of salvation through our ministry at the resource centre in town, good news club and evangelism in the wider area of Sukhothai in Thailand. Please pray with us that all our documentation will be finished in advance so that we will be able to return to Thailand early in January. We will live and work in a new area and need God's guidance what the best strategies will be to reach the lost in a culturally relevant way. (Joseph and Edwina Charles, 20 Leon Court, Sydney Street, Bellville, 7530. E-mail: [jecharles2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jecharles2003@yahoo.com)).

**World Watch List: 9<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Eritrea**

Eritrea is new in the top ten of the World Watch List. The Eritrean government severely restricts freedom of religion for unregistered groups and violates the rights of some registered groups. Anyone caught worshipping outside of church buildings, even in private homes, has been subjected to arrest, torture and severe pressure to deny their faith. Recently almost 3,000 Christians have been incarcerated for their faith. Many remain under arrest in police stations, military camps, metal shipping containers and jails all across Eritrea. Some have died as a result of the poor conditions in prison and from extensive torture. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Please lift up in prayer those tortured for their faith. Ask that they will remain faithful to Christ and their testimony will touch and turn the hearts of their persecutors.

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Saturday 14 November 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. The Swahili school's launch takes place this month. Pray for *World Mission Centre* staff travelling to Tanzania. Pray for the church leaders to also attend and take part in training missionaries in their country. (*Live School*. P.O. Box 35545, Menlo Park, 0102. Tel.: +27 12 343 1165, fax: +27 12 343 1167. Website: [www.liveschool.org](http://www.liveschool.org) or e-mail: [info@liveschool.org](mailto:info@liveschool.org)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has worsened: Iraq**

Iraq's Christian minority faced a year filled with violence in 2008. It started with a series of bomb blasts, damaging seven Iraqi churches. Many Iraqis see the West in general as Christian. Having a "Christian" ID is sufficient to get you killed. The violence has caused hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people, both Muslim and Christian, to leave the country, and many are displaced inside Iraq, particularly in Kurdistan. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for those who have lost family members to find emotional healing in the Lord. Ask for them to be able to forgive their perpetrators and testify of God's love to them.

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Sunday 15 November 2009

**Issues of the heart: Rend the heart, not garments**

In Bible times, people would tear their clothes and put ashes or dust upon their heads to show that they were in mourning. Joel puts out a call to us to rend our hearts and not our garments and return to the Lord. God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness; and He revokes His sentence of evil

[when His conditions are met] (Joel 2:13, AMP). We might be mistaken to think that because God is gracious, merciful and slow to anger, we can continue to do whatever we want. But He only revokes His sentence on evil when His conditions are met! These conditions are for us to rend our hearts (inwardly) and not our garments (an outward appearance of repentance/mourning). He wants a wholehearted return to His ways, on His conditions, and then there is complete forgiveness and remission of sins.

*Father, I confess that although I forgive people and declare it with my mouth, it is not always done wholeheartedly. I still keep some things against them. Please teach me how to forgive others. Also help me understand that You are a holy God and how to exchange my ways for Your ways in every circumstance.*

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Monday 16 November 2009

**Salvation Focus: Shoe repairs**

Often miracles, rather than a repair, are expected from those who repair shoes. They work in the smallest possible shops with machines that make the loudest noise. Their work is dirty, smelly and unpleasant. Please pray for those workers doing shoe repairs, that they might encounter Christ in their daily job. Ask that their clients will minister the kindness of God to them. Pray that they will open their hearts to meet Jesus in a meaningful way.

**World Watch List: 10<sup>th</sup> on World Persecution List 2009: Uzbekistan**

Activities such as proselytising (persuading others to accept your beliefs), importing religious literature, and offering private religious instruction are forbidden or restricted by the law. In 2008 no new registrations of churches have been issued by government; many churches had to go underground. Recently a TV program was broadcast several times, portraying Christians extremely negatively. Media campaigns against Christians are now more frequent and fierce than before. Christians are forced to leave their houses because of threats. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for the truth about Christians to be seen by the people on ground level as they interact with them. Ask for Christians to really portray the love of God in all circumstances and to set up 24-7 prayer watches to pray for breakthroughs in their nation.

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Tuesday 17 November 2009

**Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**

Please pray today for each staff member working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* across the country. Ask for their safety, strength, health and provision. Give thanks to the Lord for all material that is translated, printed, posted and effectively distributed. Give thanks to the Lord for helping us to do that which He has set before us. Remember to pray over the next week for the posting process of the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide*. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Bhutan**

Officially, the Christian faith does not exist in Bhutan. Christians are not allowed to pray or celebrate in public. Christians can meet as a family but not collectively with other Christian families. Religious workers are denied visas to enter the country. Christian children are accepted in schools, but some face discrimination if known to be a Christian, and face constant pressure to attend Buddhist religious festivals. 2008 marked the first-ever elections for parliament with a new constitution, which guarantees more religious liberty. A new king was also crowned. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Christians to have favour with Buddhists to befriend and share the gospel with them. Pray for Christian children, to find wisdom how to live their faith and also influence other children to seek God.

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Wednesday 18 November 2009

**Focus on Crime in SA**

About 136 South Africans out of 100,000 commit a business related commercial offence, according to *South African Police Service's* figures of 2007/8. (Website: <http://www.saps.gov.za>). These are only crimes that are actually reported to the police. Lift up in prayer all employed in South Africa. Ask that people will clearly discern between right and wrong and not even attempt to commit any offence.

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has deteriorated: China**

China remains a country with many contradictions. Border controls were very tight during the Olympic games in 2008. The visas of many foreigners (especially with missionary background), were not renewed after expiry and they were forced to go back to their home country. China has a large Church and there are many differences between the cities and the countryside. In the past year the government shut down house churches, arrested and physically harmed Christians. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Lift up in prayer each of these situations, especially that of missionaries having to leave the country. Ask for the Chinese church to grow despite these setbacks.

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Thursday 19 November 2009

**Focus on: *Trans World Radio (TWR)***

*Project Hannah* focuses on helping women realise God is always near despite difficulties. Pray for the different project leaders and personnel of *TWR*. Specifically ask for breakthroughs in Mozambique where new equipment is desperately needed. Give thanks to God for His provision and the effective spreading of the gospel message through radio stations in Africa, and pray for new listeners, for the people that present programs to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (*Trans World Radio*, Private bag 987, Pretoria, 0001. Tel.: +27 11 974 2886, cell: +27 84 512 9098, fax: 27 86 567 8029. Website: [www.twr.org.za](http://www.twr.org.za) or e-mail: [bbooyens@twr.org.za](mailto:bbooyens@twr.org.za)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has deteriorated: Turkmenistan**

The number of Christians who were arrested because of their faith, who were sentenced to imprisonment, labour camp or psychiatric hospitals, was lower than the previous year. However, the overall situation of Christians in Turkmenistan has not drastically changed. In smaller towns and villages some of the Christian leaders have to report weekly to the police station for a 'chat'. They are not kept at the station, but are allowed to leave the same day. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Christians for wisdom when interrogated by police. Pray that they will win the favour of these policemen and even inspire them to become allies in spreading the gospel.

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Friday 20 November 2009

**Discipleship focus: *Precept Ministries***

*Precept Ministries* is a ministry that has been raised up by God to equip people in their study of the Bible, and exists to be a resource and support to the local church. Pray that God would continue to open doors of opportunity to partner with pastors in discipling people all across Africa through inductive Bible study. (*Precept Ministries SA*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836. Website: [www.precept.org.za](http://www.precept.org.za) or e-mail: [info@precept.org.za](mailto:info@precept.org.za)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Vietnam**

Fewer Believers were harassed in Vietnam this year. Believers also encountered less discrimination at school and at work. Overall, there is the impression that the improvements reported last year continue to exist, but did not expand further this year. There seems to be an invisible border that the state will not allow to be crossed. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Give thanks to the Lord for reported breakthroughs and answers to prayer. Pray for increased opportunities to witness Christ, and open hearts and ears.

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Saturday 21 November 2009

**Children focus: Children's ministry advances**

*Petra College* this year celebrates their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Give thanks to the Lord for answering so many prayers over the years. Continue to pray for their *Children's Ministry Mentorship Course* that will be presented March-May 2010; for provision and the appointment of strategic leadership. Also pray for them as they have to register new training programmes with the SAQA; for the preparation of documentation etc. Also ask for favour for cooperation of tertiary institutions to incorporate children's ministry in their curriculum. (*Petra College*, Private bag X9906, White River, 1240. Tel.: 013 751 1166, fax: 013 750 0906, cell: 082 446 2274 or e-mail: [info@petra.co.za](mailto:info@petra.co.za)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has worsened: Mauritania**

The Islamic republic of Mauritania recognises Islam as the official religion and limits freedom of religion partly by restricting the Evangelisation of Muslims and the distribution of non-Islamic religious materials, though private ownership of these materials is not prohibited. There is no freedom for conversion to any religion. The sentence for apostasy is death. Like the previous year, the persecution situation in Mauritania worsened considerably in 2008. The Mauritanian media are portraying Christianity as a wicked movement that needs to be attacked. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Lift up this situation to the Lord, asking for His light to break in upon the hearts and minds of specifically the Islamic leaders of the nation. Pray for Christians to persevere in prayer and fasting for breakthroughs in their nation.

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Sunday 22 November 2009

**Issues of the heart: What to do to please God**

Our actions mostly reflect what is in our hearts. No one's actions are completely distant from the attitude of their hearts. In **Zechariah 7:9-10**, God speaks to the people of the day, telling them what is right to do; to execute true judgment, to show mercy, kindness and tender compassion, every man to his brother. In verse 10 He tells them what NOT to do; oppress not the widow or the fatherless, the temporary resident or the poor, and let none of you devise or imagine or think evil against his brother in your heart. God is telling us the same today. Take time out with God to meditate on this verse today. Ask Him to show you if there are widows or orphans in your sphere of influence to which you can show more kindness. Ask Him to show you areas in your life where you are planning or thinking evil about someone – whether, in your eyes, they deserve evil things happening to them or not. More than anything, we want to stand holy before God. Also spend time asking Him for the good things He desires to grow and take form in your heart, as set out in verses 9 and 10.

*Father God, I confess that I do not really understand what it means in practice to have a pure heart before You! Please teach me to be more sensitive to Your voice and show kindness to widows and orphans and to have pure and uplifting thoughts towards all people in my life, whether I know them, or whether it is someone passing me by on the highway.*

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Monday 23 November 2009

**Salvation focus: Waiters**

School children or students often become waiters at restaurants to earn extra income. Often young people who completed their university degree cannot find a job and become a waiter just to earn an income. They have to work long hours and are not always properly remunerated by the people they work for. Many only live on the tips they get. Pray for waiters to have personal encounters with the Lord Jesus during their shifts. Ask for Believers visiting restaurants to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to minister to waiters in a gentle way that will help them put their trust in God.

### **World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Azerbaijan**

This year, no Christians in Azerbaijan have been sentenced to prison/labour camp. Also, fewer Christians were arrested. The number of raids upon churches not registered with government has increased. Christians are also being discriminated against at work because of their faith. In the capital Baku, harassments from the government are not as acute as in the remote districts. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for Christians in Azerbaijan to cry out to God for breakthroughs in their nation. Ask that they will remain faithful in proclaiming the gospel, despite their circumstances.

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Tuesday 24 November 2009

### **Crime focus: KwaZulu-Natal**

KwaZulu-Natal has the highest rate of unreported violent crime; 57% of victims of violent crime did not report the incident(s) to the police 2007/2008. (Eighty20 Fact-a-Day. Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za> or e-mail: [fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za](mailto:fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za)). Lift up this situation in KwaZulu-Natal and all other provinces to the Lord in prayer. Pray for His righteousness and justice to enter into the hearts and minds of criminals, and for restoration and healing for those who are victims of crime in our country.

### **World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Sudan (North)**

Persecution of Christians in North Sudan decreased during the past year. Sudan will have their presidential and parliamentary elections from 6-21 February 2010 at the end of a transitional period, which began when the decades-long Second Sudanese Civil War finally came to an end in early 2005. The ruling *National Congress Party* aims to attract votes by relaxing restrictions on Christians in the north. There were no reports of Christians being murdered or kidnapped for their faith this past year and no churches were attacked in 2008. However, Muslims in the north who showed an interest in Christianity were strongly pressured by society not to renounce their Muslim faith. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese\\_general\\_election,\\_2009](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_general_election,_2009)). Pray for new Believers to grow in their faith. Give thanks for breakthroughs and ask for favour for Believers to proclaim the gospel more openly soon.

### **Children to pray: Praying for atheists**

Many people who are without any religious belief are unhappy because they cannot find purpose in life. Will you not spend 5 days to pray for people who do not believe in God?

1. **Open their eyes!** Even if they are not Christians, almost 85% of the people in the world believe in some kind of god. Some worship the moon or stars, rivers, plants or animals. But an estimated 938 million people in the world do not believe in any god at all! They are irreligious. Read **Romans 1:20** and pray: *Father, will you reveal Yourself to all irreligious people as the One who created them!*
2. **Touch their hearts!** There are three types of irreligious people. Atheists do not believe God is real. An agnostic thinks you cannot know for sure if God is real. The third group doesn't really care if God is real or not. Read **Acts 17:26-28** and pray: *Eternal Father, help irreligious people to know that You can fill the emptiness in their hearts.*
3. **Let them know You made everything!** Irreligious people do not pray or believe in miracles, heaven or hell. They think the world happened by chance. Read **Matthew 13:22** and **Revelation 3:17-18** and pray: *Wonderful Saviour, help irreligious people see that true riches are found only in You.*
4. **Let them hear!** Irreligious people often look at the lives of Christians and they do not look any different to them than their own. That makes them think they are no worse off without God than Christians. Read **Daniel 6:20** and pray: *Father God, You are the only Living God. Like Daniel showed the heathen king You are alive, please show irreligious people that you are alive through the testimony of other Believers.*
5. **Help them see You are real!** To irreligious people the Bible is just another book. But many have never even considered picking up a Bible to read, or have not even heard of the existence of the Bible. Read

**Luke 4:4** and pray: *Father, You are the living Word. Please help irreligious people find a Bible and be curious enough to read it. Please touch their hearts and minds to see You are real.*

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Wednesday 25 November 2009

**Youth focus: Where do they live?**

There are 20.2 million youngsters (aged 0-19) in South Africa. Of these, 34% live with both their mother and father. (GHS 2007) (Eighty 20 Fact-a-Day. Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za> or e-mail: [fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za](mailto:fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za)). Lift up in prayer broken families to the Lord. Ask for parents to be able to take care of their children and for children to have a safe home where they are cared for. Pray especially for youngsters living on the streets, or babies being dumped there to die, to find shelter and be raised with Christian families.

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Zanzibar Islands**

There was somewhat more freedom for the Church in 2008 compared to 2007 with no reports of Christians being sent to jail, kidnapped or physically harmed for their faith; neither were churches attacked. The Zanzibar Islands have their own government and operate autonomously although they are represented in the Tanzanian parliament. Whereas mainland Tanzania is predominantly Christian and its constitution provides for freedom of religion, 97% of Zanzibar's population is Muslim, with a very active extremist element. The Church in general on Zanzibar Islands faces struggles in areas like registration of churches, purchase of property, education, and employment. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for strength for the Church to face their daily battles. Ask for Believers to plan special events of prayer and fasting for breakthroughs in their nation.

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Thursday 26 November 2009

**Health focus: Depression on the increase**

The SA *Depression and Anxiety Group (Sadag)* reports that about 16.5% of South Africans suffer from common mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. One in three women in low-income and informal settlements surrounding Cape Town suffers from postnatal depression. (Mental Health and Poverty Project (MHaPP), 2008 of the University of Cape Town. Website: <http://news.iafrica.com/sa/1410194.htm>). Lift up in prayer every person suffering from depression. Ask for God's intervention in their lives, that they will be set free and be able to live lives of abundance.

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Cuba**

It seems like the worst of religious persecution might be over in Cuba. Yet the subtle forms of 'persecution' like social control and surveillance continue. Christians may still not speak out on issues of national importance. All denominations are experiencing growth in the number of Believers and churches, which results in huge needs for the Church. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for the Church of Cuba to set their hearts to prayer, they themselves asking God for breakthroughs in their nation. Give thanks to God for answering prayers for this nation.

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Friday 27 November 2009

**Economy focus: Illegal fishing**

The *Institute for Security Studies* found that illegal fishing in South African waters costs around R6 billion a year. The hake industry, which accounts for about half of the income generated from commercial fisheries, is facing a crisis. (Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=14&art\\_id=vn20090413071628744C652984](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=vn20090413071628744C652984)). Please pray for practical solutions to this problem and that government will address it soon and will find lasting solutions for the problem. Pray that everyone in this industry will legally earn their income.

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**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Turkey**

A good Turkish citizen is Muslim and speaks Turkish; any deviation from this is treated with hostility, and accusations of insulting being Turkish (an offence under Turkish law) are readily made. This has far-reaching consequences for ethnic and religious minorities – they are hard-pressed and put under limitations. This year Turkey had no reports of Christians being murdered or jailed, but there have been no significant changes in Turkey. Public opinion is extremely nationalistic. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray about these situations. Ask for Believers to begin praying strategically for specific breakthroughs in their nation.

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Saturday 28 November 2009

**Highway Ministry Prayer Patrol**

*Highway Ministry* is an interdenominational ministry directed at the trucking and taxi industries, as well as all road users. Its mission is to proclaim the Word to, and establish the love of Jesus Christ in the hearts of all road users. Pray for them to be effective in reaching out to people travelling SA roads. Pray for favour to also proclaim Christ with other role players as the organisation endeavours to connect with and strengthen existing programmes such as *Arrive Alive*. (*Highway Ministry*. Tel.: 016 349 1996, fax: 086 502 8441 or e-mail: [highwaymin@lantic.net](mailto:highwaymin@lantic.net)).

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has worsened: Algeria**

In Algeria, a law approved in 2006 and put into full effect in 2008, prohibits efforts to convert Muslims to another religion and gives the government the right to regulate every aspect of Christian practice. Since almost all Algerian Christians are converts from Islam, the new law could be understood to make nearly all Christian churches in the country unlawful. During 2008, 26 churches received the order to close their doors. At least ten Christians were arrested (most in possession of Christian books or Bibles) and questioned, and several of them received suspended jail sentences and fines. In this way, the authorities try to pressure Christians to return to Islam. (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Pray for perseverance among Algerian Christians and for them to persist in prayer and fasting for breakthroughs for the gospel in their nation.

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Sunday 29 November 2009

**Issues of the heart**

It is a very difficult situation when we discover that a pastor or someone close to us is cheating on their spouse. Especially if the guilty party is reluctant to admit what they have done is really wrong. Our natural response is to give them a piece of our mind. There is a remarkable scripture that speaks to us clearly from the Message translation, **Ps.4:4-5**: *Complain if you must, but don't lash out. Keep your mouth shut, and let your heart do the talking. Build your case before God and wait for his verdict.* It is not easy to accept this, but it is truly wise. It does not say we cannot speak to a person who has fallen into sin, but it does give us guidelines on HOW to do it. Eventually, only God can remedy such a situation. None of our most sincere words can ever heal the hearts of those in a marriage that has been hit by such devastation. When others, especially those close to us, sin, we have a responsibility to watch over our hearts, so that we will not sin ourselves. Take the issue to God, over and over again, and speak to Him about every detail that troubles your heart. He is the best Man to handle any case!

*Father, You are a righteous Judge. Forgive me for the times I lash out at people because I am upset by their actions. Forgive me that I then neglect to give godly counsel or help them, like a father his son, to discern right from wrong. Help me Father to be like You. Help me to speak the truth to them from Your heart, and to speak to You about all that is in my heart.*

**Prayer multiplication: Pray for others and see God providing those who will pray for you!**

After our survey at national level (in Benin), I decided to change my strategy. Instead of developing prayer partners, I would pray. I began to contact people and I prayed for them, instead of asking them to pray for me. This developed into a pattern of praying for 30 different people every month on a day-by-day basis. On the first day of

each month I pray for the same person. On the second day of each month I pray for a different person, and continue like this throughout the month. This means I have 30 people I pray for every month. When possible, I pray with them in person or by phone. If not possible, I send an SMS or e-mail containing my prayers for each of them. The result of this process is that 30 people respond to my prayers by praying for me. As I talk to them about this process, I encourage them to pray for 29 other people on the days they are not praying for me. So, in one generation the prayer network goes from 30 to 900 people praying. We pass prayer requests back and forth on this network. We encourage all participants to find 30 people to pray with every month. By three generations there are 27,000 people in the prayer network. That's  $30 \times 30 = 900$  and  $900 \times 30 = 27,000$ . This is exponential growth. If the process is only 10% effective there will be 2,700 people praying. If it is only 1% effective there will be 270 people praying! (Source: Sossa Claude, e-mail: [sossa2@yahoo.fr](mailto:sossa2@yahoo.fr)).

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Monday 30 November 2009

**Salvation focus: Security guards**

They are everywhere, in parking lots, shopping malls, banks etc. Often they take the night shift and need to be on guard in the bitter cold or rain. Others endure the heat of the day on a daily basis. Please pray for security guards to find Christians ministering to them with practical deeds of kindness. Ask that this will lead to many coming to Christ.

**World Watch List: Countries where persecution has decreased: Colombia**

As guerrilla groups move into different areas and take control, the degree of persecution of Christians varies by the perception of the guerrilla commanders about the influence of the Church. Some allow the churches to operate, some restrict their operation and some outlaw them, so that pastors, church leaders and members are marked for dire consequences if they persist. There were fewer reports of the persecution of Christians from Colombia this year. As a result this long-time WWL country has therefore disappeared from the list! (Website: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>). Give thanks to the Lord for this situation! Ask that the Church in Columbia will not relax its efforts to evangelise, but make use of their opportunities to preach Christ.

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Tuesday 1 December 2009

**Global health focus: World AIDS Day 2009**

*World AIDS Day's* focus is to appeal to governments, policy makers and regional health authorities to ensure that by 2010 they meet the many targets that have been set in the fight against HIV and AIDS. (Website: <http://www.avert.org/worldaid.htm>). Please pray that all sectors of society such as families, communities and civil society organisations – and not only governments – also take the initiative and provide leadership concerning AIDS. Pray for the Church to take up her position according to God's purposes.

**Language surveyors needed: Nigeria**

Nigeria is a big country with up to 300 languages possibly needing Bible translation. Language researchers are always in short supply. Pray for people working to recruit and train more researchers. Praise God that more and more Nigerians are called to serve others within their own nation, among other things through Bible translation and language survey efforts. Ask God to give qualified young linguists an increasing vision of the need for language surveys. (Barry and Kathy Marais. Website: [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net) or e-mail: [mailto:Personnel\\_Southafrica@wycliffe.org](mailto:Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org)).

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Wednesday 2 December 2009

**Every Home for Christ South Africa (EHCSA)**

Since 1953 *Every Home for Christ* has distributed just over 3 billion pieces of literature throughout the world. To date nearly 72 million people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour through the outreaches of this ministry. In South Africa *Every Home for Christ* has follow-up material available free of charge to assist and

establish young Christians in their relationship with God. Pray with us that congregations will take responsibility for the spiritual growth of new Christians in order for them to become mature members in the Body of Christ. (EHCSA, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587; website: [www.ehcsa.co.za](http://www.ehcsa.co.za) or e-mail: [info@ehcsa.co.za](mailto:info@ehcsa.co.za)).

**Missions focus: Russia**

*Kingfisher Mobilising Centre* is forming an indigenous movement in the Russian-speaking world mobilising individuals and churches to get involved with missions. Pray for SA missionaries Johann and Annalena Theron who are working on this project in the Ukraine. Ask that Russians will take ownership of this movement and for new doors to be opened to each one of the 15 former Soviet Union Republics. (*Kingfisher Mobilising Centre*. Johann Theron, e-mail: [jtheron@xsinet.co.za](mailto:jtheron@xsinet.co.za)).