

Jericho Walls prayer guide – November 2010

Focus on the Persecuted Church

During November we focus on praying for the Persecuted Church, especially on countries persecuting Christians. Every year *Open Doors* releases updates on countries persecuting Christians. *The World Watch List (WWL)* is a ranking of 50 countries where persecution of Christians for religious reasons is worst. First of all, the list covers persecution of Christians of all denominations in the entire country. The focus is on persecution for their faith, not persecution for political, economic, social, ethnic or accidental reasons. We will pray through some of them this month. Please consider downloading the complete list, put it up in your prayer room during November, and cry out to God on behalf of those who do not have a voice in their own countries. This year the top 10 countries persecuting Christians are: (1) North Korea, (2) Iran, (3) Saudi Arabia, (4) Somalia, (5) Maldives, (6) Afghanistan, (7) Yemen, (8) Mauritania, (9) Laos and (10) Uzbekistan.

Focus on Bible translation

During November we will also focus on praying for Bible translation to accelerate across the world, especially for languages in closed countries. Martyrdom of Christians is as old as the church itself. Approximately 165,000 believers are annually martyred for their faith (Source: *World Christian Encyclopaedia*).

Monday 1 November 2010

Salvation focus: Prostitutes

Men and women selling their bodies for money often do not like or choose to do that at all. Lift up in prayer these men and women. Ask for them to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, to follow Him and that He will help them to find a decent job and have strength to truly change their lifestyle.

Focus on Bible translation: Papua New Guinea

When the new airstrip was dedicated and opened in Megamanau, Papua New Guinea, the villagers celebrated. The airstrip is critical to getting translators, volunteers, and supplies in and out of the region. A pair of translators completed the four Gospels and the Book of Acts, but the new airstrip will provide a tremendous boost as they work toward the completion of the Scriptures. (Website: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/13933>). Give thanks to the Lord for the progress in Bible translation in Papua New Guinea. Please ask God for labourers to the harvest so that people of all languages still in need of Bible translation in this country will have access to it soon.

Tuesday 2 November 2010

Focus on the environment: Water for the future

South Africa is shoring up the security of its water supply by ensuring the completion of seven major new water projects around the country by 2014. These include the Mokolo augmentation project to supply water to the planned Medupi Power station in Lephalale in Limpopo province, and the Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme project, which will include the construction of the Spring Grove dam around eThekweni/Durban and Umgungundlovu in KwaZulu-Natal. Also, a draft policy on the desalination of sea water is being worked on. (Website: http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/environment/sa_will_focus_on_ensuring_water_for_the_future.html). Give thanks to the Lord for these upcoming projects. Please intercede for resources to be utilised effectively and purposefully. Also that each of these projects will be finished within the budget and on time, without any hassles.

Focus on Bible translation: Basic tool for evangelism and church planting

Bible translation helps to ensure that the gospel message is not corrupted or lost. It ensures that the teachings of Jesus and His apostles are passed on from one generation to another and from one culture to another. It also equips new and old believers with accurate teachings of Jesus that can be put into practice in all areas of life. Knowing the full truth is necessary for obeying and living that truth. Scripture is also a critical component of evangelism, church planting and spiritual growth at church/community level. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Please pray for the translation of the Bible into each and every language still in need of it. Ask that believers will come to know the Word of God, to grow spiritually and to expand the Kingdom of God.

Wednesday 3 November 2010

Focus on prayer: Upington for Jesus

Please pray for Gerda Leithgöb of *Herald Ministry*, who will be teaching on practical prayer in Upington this month, in and for the community, giving strategy on how to discern those things hindering revival and the gospel in an area. Also pray for favour as they lead prayer teams to pray in and around Upington. Ask for many local believers to join and become active watchmen on the walls of their city. (*Herald Ministry*. Tel.: 012 348 1377 or e-mail: herald2@mweb.co.za).

Focus on health: Blindness can be prevented or treated

The *World Health Organization* estimates that 75% of the world's blindness could be prevented or treated. As many as 900 million children and adults in the world today are visually impaired due to refractive errors that could be corrected by prescription eyeglasses. (News Bytes. Website: <http://www.om.org/en/news/newsbytes> or e-mail: debbie.meroff@ict.om.org). Please pray for Christian optometrists to give their time and skill every year to serve poor communities, providing them with glasses. Also pray for God to empower the church to pray for and heal the blind in every country of the world.

Thursday 4 November 2010

Focus on construction industry: The importance of infrastructure for SA economy

Many people do not realise the importance of the infrastructure of a country in the form of roads, railways, airports, harbours, dams, water and waste water treatment, telephones, etc. These are all vital to the economic sustainability of South Africa. They are literally different parts of the arterial system in the 'body' of the South African economy. They carry, support and link the many 'cells' of economic and social activity that helps to sustain and create a better life for all. Pray that steps will be taken to appoint skilled and experienced people to efficiently manage, maintain, improve and expand these vital infrastructure services. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the *SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)*, e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

Focus on Bible Translation: Number of languages still in need of translation

Out of the more than 6,900 languages known to exist on earth, it is estimated that there are about 2,000 languages remaining without Scripture in any appropriate form. Surveys have shown that these languages have either a definite or possible translation need. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Please continue to pray, as often as the Holy Spirit reminds you, for the translation of the Bible in every remaining language very soon. Ask God to send labourers to this field who are willing to spend their lives completing this task.

Focus on the Church: How to pray for your pastor/minister

In **Romans 15:30-31** Paul writes: *'Now I beg you ... that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, that I may be delivered ... and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints.'* Every pastor/minister needs daily, continual prayer. Spiritual leaders are positioned on the cutting edge and live under much spiritual pressure and attacks from the Evil One. Through prayer we form a 'prayer shield' that surrounds our spiritual leaders.

The onslaught against pastors/ministers comes in many ways. The following are a few examples:

1. There are direct demonic attacks on spiritual leaders and their families from e.g. satanists, spiritualists, witch doctors etc.
2. There is the attack of a worldly attitude as well as social pressure to compromise, be popular and think and act according to the worldly system.
3. There is the attack of the old nature, the flesh resisting the Spirit (**Gal.5:13-18**).
4. There are direct temptations and sin which each spiritual worker must resist.
5. Spiritual workers in general experience a lot of stress, both emotionally and socially.
6. Every spiritual worker has a specific personality and comes from a specific background. Many struggle with their own emotional pain and hurt from their past. The enemy likes to target pain from the past that has not been dealt with in the spiritual worker's life.
7. Spiritual leaders are often tempted to seek honour for themselves or to compete with other leaders.

To pray for your pastor/minister literally means to stand in the gap for them, to take up spiritual responsibility for them in prayer, to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Do not pray your own will and ideas upon spiritual leaders. Let the Holy Spirit lead you. The following are some guidelines:

- 1. Families:** Pray for their marriage, for peace, respect and enough time with one another. Pray for the children, that they will experience sufficient love and attention. Ask for wisdom for parents to raise their children. Specifically pray for a relationship of trust between father and son, and father and daughter. Ask that your pastor/minister will live in such a way that they do not provoke rebellion in their children.
- 2. Their health:** *Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health (3 John1:2, NIV).* The climate, attacks from the Evil One, working conditions, continuous criticism, little visible progress, misunderstandings etc. are all factors that may work together to cause pastors/ministers to suffer stress, depression, tiredness and hopelessness. *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John14:27).* Pray for your pastor/minister to refuse to listen to or accept any accusations from the devil, or fellow believers who think evil in their hearts (**Zech.7:10b**). Pray for them to make friends who can also be spiritual partners, and for God to fill them with joy (**Neh.8:10; Deut.12:18**), despite circumstances.
- 3. Their spiritual well-being.** Pray for them to be humble, live pure and holy lives and not to become critical or cynical. *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men (Phil.2:5-7).* Pray specifically that they will not fall prey to a critical or cynical spirit, as that leads to a lot of damage to the work of the Lord.
- 4. To minister with power.** Pray that God Himself will equip them for the work He has given them. Pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, so that they can do their work effectively. Also pray for the Holy Spirit to break open God's Word to them, so they will be able to correctly interpret it and have the ability to convey it to others. Ask for wisdom and great patience for them to handle difficult situations and difficult people. Also that they will know the will of God in each situation. Ask for a great boldness upon them to preach the Word of God (**Eph.6:19-20**).
- 5. Their finances.** Pray for their financial support. Often pastors/ministers suffer financial lack placing pressure on them so that they look for another job to care for their families. (Children of spiritual workers often do not have the finances to go for higher studies.) Also pray for the protection of their earthly possessions, specifically against theft and accidents.

Friday 5 November 2010

Breakthrough: SA convicts first sex traffickers

South Africa made its first conviction for human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in March 2010. The state used laws related to sexual exploitation to convict a couple in the Durban Regional Court. The *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* welcomed the conviction. (Website: http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/crime/sa_convicts_first_sex_traffickers.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+SAGoodNews+%28SA+The+Good+News%29). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayer relating to human trafficking. Continue to pray for other convictions and that the fear of the Lord will fall on those planning or intending abducting anyone to be sold into the sex trade.

Focus on religion: The Hindu festival of lights

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, is the most popular of all the festivals in South Asia and takes place over five days. Because of the lights, fireworks and sweets involved, it is a great favourite with children. *The Times* of India summed up the modern meaning of Diwali: Regardless of the mythological explanation one prefers, what the festival of lights really stands for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple – and some not so simple – joys of life. We need to remember this is a deception, blinding many people. (Website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/holydays/diwali.shtml>). Please pray today for Hindus worldwide, that they will come to know the Light of the Nations, Jesus Christ. Also that they will find that their true hope and joy in life has real meaning only if they seek it in His Name.

Saturday 6 November 2010

Focus on prayer: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network* across the country. Pray for those working on the websites, database, with the finances, those writing material and conducting seminars, those answering letters, e-mails and telephone calls, those participating in prayer journeys, etc. Ask for God's strength, health and protection for them, their families and especially the children. Also pray that God will provide for their practical and physical needs. Please pray that the printing and distribution process will run smoothly this month, as the next issue of *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide* will be posted during the next 12 days. (*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).

Focus on Bible translation: Where are communities located that are in need of Bible translation?

They can be found on all the inhabited continents of the world. The majority are concentrated in three main regions of the world: in Central to West Africa, Asia and on the islands of the western Pacific. These are the areas with the most critical remaining need for Bible translation efforts. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to spend their lives in efforts to translate the Bible in ALL of these remaining and rare languages of the world. Ask that they will be provided for and that they will lack nothing in completing this task.

Sunday 7 November 2010

Prayer is a 'Walk of one'

Sit here while I go over there and pray (Matt.26:36). Jesus had taken Simon and the two sons of Zebedee with Him to the garden of Gethsemane. When it was time to pray though, Jesus went off to be alone with His Father. Some things in our Christian walk we can share with others, but there are other times when it can only be a *walk of one*, whereby we stand alone before God: Such as at the moment of our conversion; at various significant milestones in our faith walk, and at the time of judgment/reward at the end of the Age. These are times we stand alone before God. In the end, prayer is a one-on-One personal spiritual encounter. True prayer is when you come to a point where you realise; now it is only you and God. The moment we realise this, we are free to speak, to be ourselves, to surrender, to acknowledge our weaknesses and sins, and to know that it is safe to do so. All of us need such times. This is where God reveals His heart to us, speaks His grace and love to us, tells us what to do and what He envisions for us. (By Catherine Brown: *Gatekeepers Global Ministries*, with some additional remarks). Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on these thoughts. Pour out your heart before God and ask Him to change your heart so that you may reflect Him more and more.

Focus on evangelism: CMA South Africa celebrates 30 years of preaching the gospel

Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) started in Krugersdorp in 1980 with nine men. The vision René Changuion had was to reach his motorcycling buddies for Christ after a dramatic conversion to Christ and God healing him from a crippled leg. The many seemingly wasted years of motorcycling hooliganism God turned around and uses it for ministry to motorcyclists! They praise God for every person who found Christ the past 30 years. Also for every team that has been equipped in SA and worldwide to be highly visible and credible as they reach out on the highways and byways in compassion without compromise. Continue to pray for their ministry to train and equip leaders and members to understand and apply Biblical truths in their lives and on their travels. (*C.M.A. Western Province*. Tel.: 021 982 2303, fax: 021 982 0997. Website: <http://country.cmainternational.org/SA> or e-mail: cmawp@absamail.co.za).

Monday 8 November 2010

Salvation focus: Prisoners

Lift up in prayer all prisoners countrywide. Pray for the protection of young Christians and others in prisons and that those that rape and abuse others, will come to repentance themselves. Ask that each one will have an opportunity to hear and fully understand the message of God the Father's love for them, as expressed through Jesus Christ. Pray that many will submit their lives to Jesus and grow spiritually.

Focus on Bible translation: Quechua of South America

The Quechua people of South America didn't believe God understood their language! As far as they could tell, God spoke only Spanish. Ricardo often heard about spiritual things in Spanish, his second language. He grew up as the son of the local curandera, a witchcraft healer, requiring him to take over his father's practice. After listening to the Bible in his own language on a solar-powered audio Bible called a 'Proclaimer', Ricardo realised there was another way to live. "After three months, I understood that witchcraft was a sin. What it says in the Acts of the Apostles changed my life." He has now taken over his father's business - but with a twist. "People come to me to heal them, but I preach the gospel to them!" (ASSIST News Service (ANS), P.O. Box 609, Lake Forest, CA 92609-0609 USA. Website: www.assistnews.net or e-mail: assistnews@aol.com). Praise God for this testimony. Please continue to pray for the availability of the Bible in every remaining language on earth.

Did you know?

Sister Rani's murderer now says, "Christians are India's hope."

Samandar Singh killed a nun in 1995 and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. There he began plotting how he could take revenge on the man who pushed him to kill the nun. Then he received a visit from someone who happened to be the murdered nun's own sister. She hugged him and called him brother. He was profoundly touched by it. He gave up his plans for revenge and realised the sorrow caused by the murder. Eventually Samandar was released because of a petition signed by Sister Rani's family. When his release was slow in coming, a delegation went to see the local governor to plead his case. "Only you Christians can truly forgive," the latter said. "You are a great example. Go, I shall do all I can to get him released." (Website: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-Rani%E2%80%99s-murderer-now-says.-%E2%80%9CChristians-are-India%E2%80%99s-hope%E2%80%9D-18193.html>).

Tuesday 9 November 2010

Focus on the media: License applications

Pray for the Lord to raise up new Christian radio stations in secondary towns throughout South Africa. Pray for new applications to be submitted. There are still hundreds of FM channels available to community broadcasters outside of the major city areas. Pray for the Lord to raise up a Christian radio station in Bloemfontein. (Association of Christian Broadcasters of Southern Africa (ACB), c/o 30 St Helier Rd., Gillitts, 3610. Tel.: 031 7670825, fax: 0865162407. Website: www.acb.org.za or e-mail: info@acb.org.za).

Breakthrough: Fall of Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989

The *Berlin Wall* (165 km long), included 289 concrete observation posts/machine gun towers and 123 km of electric fencing, built by the communist regime East Germany. A further death strip, stretching 1,393 km along the border between communist East Germany and free West Germany was also constructed. Before it fell on November 9, 1989, the *Berlin Wall* had completely encircled the city of West Berlin for 28 years, separating it from East Germany, including East Berlin. The wall was officially dismantled on June 13, 1990 by the East German military, and on July 1, West German currency was adopted by East Germany, and all border controls reportedly ceased. (Website: <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20091109/church-leaders-recall-faith-courage-on-berlin-wall-anniversary/index.html>). Continue to praise the Lord for this breakthrough-answer to many prayers today. Also pray for the visible poverty line between East and West Germany to be erased in this generation, and for a new hope in Jesus the Saviour.

Wednesday 10 November 2010

Focus on the media: Legislation concerning Christian broadcasts

New regulations from *Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)* and the proposed new *Public Broadcasting Services Bill (PBS)* increasingly complicate things for Christian broadcasters in South Africa. Pray for Christian broadcasters facing these new requirements to be able to meet them. Also ask for favour and wisdom for the ACB's response to the new legislation. (Association of Christian Broadcasters of Southern Africa (ACB), c/o 30 St Helier Rd., Gillitts, 3610. Tel.: 031 7670825, fax: 0865162407. Website: www.acb.org.za or e-mail: info@acb.org.za).

Focus on Bible Translation: Teams are needed to complete a translation

Producing a good translation of the Bible requires the work of a team of people with varied skills as well as a commitment to teamwork. A typical project team includes: Language analysis workers; Translation Advisors (those

who train, advise and provide consultation on linguistic and exegetical issues); Translators (those who actually draft materials into the mother tongue); Translation Reviewers (mother tongue speakers of the language who ensure that the resulting translation is clear and natural); and Translation Consultants (those more experienced in translating and advising who are able to provide help to a number of translation teams, as well as monitor translation quality, approve translations for publication and give advice on publication options). (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus* Bulletin. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Take time this week to pray for each component of a translation team as set out here to be added to each team in need of any of these people. Make a note of this prayer point in your Bible, and tell others to pray for these items on a regular basis.

Thursday 11 November 2010

Focus on global economy: G-20 Seoul Summit: 11-12 November 2010

The G-20 was established in 1999, in the wake of the 1997 *Asian Financial Crisis*, to bring together major advanced and emerging economies to stabilise the global financial market. Building on past achievements and close cooperation among members, the G-20 will double its efforts in 2010. (Website: <http://www.g20.org> and e-mail: G20KOR@korea.kr). Lift up in prayer these important decision-makers over the next two days. Ask that Christian believers among them will have favour to influence this meeting to adopt Biblical principles and strategies to help the world make a successful transition from global recovery to stronger, more sustainable and balanced growth.

Focus on sending Bibles: To the ends of the earth

The one thing that means more than anything to new converts living under persecution is a Bible as it is essential for their spiritual growth. Sending Bibles into high-risk countries like China, while often dangerous, is one of the most encouraging things to do for those willing to risk their lives for Christ. Committed believers put their lives at stake, using whatever means God provides to deliver the Bibles provided. (*Open Doors*. Website: <http://www.opendoors.org.za> or e-mail: southafrica@od.org). Please pray that Bibles will be provided, transported, distributed and used by new believers everywhere in the world. Pray for the protection of new believers, as well as those distributing Bibles.

Friday 12 November 2010

Focus on evangelism: *Pneumatix*

Please pray for our staff as we face the challenges of working with the upcoming generation; it gets tougher each year! Give thanks for each young man and woman that gets equipped to minister the gospel of Christ to other young people. Also pray for our *Tour weeks* in 2011, that more schools will open their doors for us to minister, but also to be able to accommodate a *Pneumatix Tour* week. Ask for wisdom for us to provide the right strategy and input in the lives of the new **2011 team**. Our campus can accommodate 104 students, we want nothing less; the more lives we can reach the more communities we can reach with Christ! (*Pneumatix*. Tel.: 021 858 1877, fax: 021 858 1268. Website: <http://www.pnxglobal.com> or e-mail: finance@pnxglobal.com).

Focus on evangelism: *The Live School* trains Arabic missionaries

Live School is an excellent course on DVD for the training of missionaries and a tool developed in South Africa that helps equip ordinary people to do extraordinary things! Pray that the Lord will open doors for more schools and students to be trained in North Africa and the Middle East. Pray for the safety of these *Live School* students and for favour and breakthroughs in their outreach efforts. (*The Live School*. Tel.: 012 343 1165, fax: 012 343 1167. Website: www.liveschool.org or www.worldmissioncentre.com or e-mail: chrissien@liveschoolsa.org).

Saturday 13 November 2010

Focus on health: Care for HIV/AIDS sufferers

Sparrow was founded by Rev. Corine McClintock (formerly a nurse) in 1992. The needs of those with HIV/AIDS were becoming more evident, so she took in three men who were dying of AIDS. She provided them with care, comfort and support. Since *Sparrow Ministries* was founded, it has grown into an organisation that currently cares for over 225 children and 80 adults. (Website: <http://www.sparrowvillage.co.za/default.aspx?pid=3&stepid=1&oid=3>). Praise God for answer to prayer, in this case for HIV/AIDS sufferers. Pray for more volunteers to help in the hospice for the terminally ill and the Children's Home for those who are homeless because of the death of one or both their parents. Also ask for the spiritual growth of each one in their care and for God's supernatural healing for many of them.

Focus on Bible translation: Papua New Guinea

Bible translation consultants check the work of translators to make sure that the end result is clear, accurate and natural. Consultants need to be experienced translators who have also done extra training. Many of them are still involved in their own translation projects. Thank God with us for these men and women who are willing to take time off from their own work to help others. Pray for their financial support, so that they would be focused on these translations to be completed sooner. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Sunday 14 November 2010

Prayer that brings breakthrough will be painful

He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me" (Matt.26:37-38). Jesus Christ's intercession in Gethsemane was not without suffering and pain. He suffered physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally as He prayed in great anguish. Whilst our prayers and intercession cannot be compared to that of Christ's Gethsemane experience, we still know there are times when God grants us grace to pray and persevere through our own suffering, in order for His purposes and plans to be fulfilled on earth—both for us as individuals and also for the sake of the Kingdom. Prayer brings pain when I have to bring my will in line with God's will. It hurts when God asks things of me that can only be done if I give up my desires, preferences, ambitions and rights. Prayer can sometimes also be painful when I take the prayer burdens that the Holy Spirit gives me. God cares deeply for our wounded world. Jesus had great compassion for the world. He stood weeping at the grave of Lazarus. Not that He couldn't do anything about it, but because of the pain and hurt in the world. Without feeling the pain and the hurt of the world, of other human beings, crying real tears with them, it is almost impossible to be an intercessor. *The spirit is willing, but the body is weak (Matt.26:41b)*. May we receive this word of divine encouragement today and pray even when it hurts; pushing through until breakthrough comes down in the holy fire of God's presence and power. (By Catherine Brown: *Gatekeepers Global Ministries*, with some additional remarks). Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on these thoughts. Pour your heart out before God and ask Him to change your heart so that you may reflect Him more and more.

Focus on Persecuted Church: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)

The IDOP is on the second Sunday in November each year. Then we pray for persecuted Christians and their oppressors worldwide. (Website: http://nationalprayer.org/index.php?Itemid=8&id=14&option=com_content&task=view). According to the *World Evangelical Alliance*, over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied fundamental human rights solely because of their faith. Much of today's persecution still takes place in remote areas of countries often cut off from, or with restricted access to modern communications. Most martyrs suffer and die anonymously, unknown, forgotten, their deaths unrecorded except in heaven. For many, persecution is such a part of life that it hardly dawns on the afflicted to tell the world. (Website: <http://www.persecution.net/faq-stats.htm>). Take special effort at your church, Bible study group or prayer group at work this week to pray for the Persecuted Church. (*International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church*. Website: <http://www.persecutedchurch.org/> and e-mail: prayer@odusa.org).

Focus on Muslims: Hajj (the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca)

Hajj is considered one of the five pillars of Islam and this year falls from 14-18 November 2010. Every year, millions of Muslims from around the world make the journey to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the annual pilgrimage (or Hajj) that each Muslim is required to do at least once in their lifetime. Dressed in similar, simple white clothing to represent human equality, the pilgrims gather to perform rites dating back to the time of Abraham (according to them). For Muslims the Hajj is a reminder of the Grand Assembly on the Day of Judgment when people will stand equal before God waiting for their final destiny. (Website: <http://islam.about.com/od/hajj/tp/hajjinfo.htm>). Pray for millions of Muslims gathering in Mecca this week. Ask for them to have a supernatural encounter with God during this time, revealing to them Jesus Christ as the only Way, Truth and Life to have free access to our heavenly Father's throne on Judgment Day.

Teens-to-pray: How do I pray for myself?

1. Lord Jesus, give me the wish to read the Bible, and give me the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I will understand the Word better (**Eph.1:17**).
2. Lord Jesus, make me a fisher of people (**Matt.4:19**) and a disciple-maker.
3. Lord Jesus, help me not to fear people and give me boldness to be Your witness wherever I go (**Acts 20:24**).
4. Lord Jesus, I pray for my generation of young people who are searching, who experience much hurt and rejection (**Isa.42:3**). I pray that You will make Yourself known to them as their Saviour and Mender (**Matt.11:27**).
5. Lord Jesus, sexual intimacy is portrayed by the media in so many wrong ways, and is portrayed in so many forms in films and advertisements. Help me to recognise and understand Your purpose with sex and to live a sexually pure life. Set me free from every wrong and unbiblical idea of sex and from addiction to pornography (**1 Thess.4:3**). Help me to seek help if I struggle to get victory in this area of my life.
6. Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual power to live in victory over sin, be Your witness and do the work You give me to do (**Eph.3:18-19**).
7. Lord Jesus, help me to see the things in my life that are not in line with the Scriptures. Also show me what to do to put this right, and exactly how You want me to live (**Rev.2:5**).
8. Lord Jesus, help me to see the need of other people around me. I don't want to live a selfish life. I ask that the Holy Spirit will show me what I must do about the needs of people around me (**Jas.1:27**).
9. Lord Jesus, my whole life lies ahead of me. I want to make the best of it. You know the best path for me, because You made me and I know You have a plan with my life. I open myself up to You Lord, that You can show me the way, and I choose to follow that path (**Jer.29:11**).
10. Lord Jesus, I ask that You will bring me the marriage partner you made me at the right time. Protect him/her from impurity and hurt and everything negative and destructive, so that when we get married, we will find joy in each other and that our marriage will be a testimony to others (**Heb.13:4**).

Monday 15 November 2010

Salvation focus: Guest house and hotel owners

Tourism has not been at its best this year. Incidents of violence and reports of foreigners being mugged, assaulted, robbed and dying in accidents, resulted in many groups cancelling their visit to SA. Please pray for those who provide accommodation in SA, that they will have the wisdom to handle cancellations, to be able to keep their staff and put their trust in God with Whom nothing is impossible. Pray that many will surrender their lives to Christ and focus on Him as their Provider, amidst their problems.

Focus on construction industry: Job losses

The civil engineering construction industry employs about 170,000 people. However, due to a bottleneck in the government's R846 billion infrastructure programme, about 34,000 people may be retrenched. Pray for the identification of possible causes for these bottlenecks and wise and cost-effective remedies. Ask for wise management of semi-government organisations like Eskom, Transnet, ACSA, etc. as they put into place strategies to improve the infrastructure. The municipalities and provincial governments have an expenditure of about R300bn on infrastructure. Pray for an intervention to identify and redress the inefficiencies and bottlenecks within the municipal and provincial governments. Pray that this group of professional people will know and honour God as their Creator and the Giver of their intellectual abilities, that they will honour and serve Him. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC), e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

International focus: How to pray when disasters strike

Natural disasters are the one thing we cannot control or prevent. We can prepare for them, but we can't prevent them; we can anticipate them, but we can't accurately predict them. There are numerous instances of earthquakes, storms etc. in the Bible, and their impact on nations; causing them turn either to, or away from God. Several earthquakes have struck the inhabitants of the earth since January 2010. How and what do we pray for when disaster strikes? The following are just a few interesting points on disasters that are listed as occurring all over the world the most often. Let us pray in these times for God's mercy upon the nations of the earth, as the earth urgently begins to moan and groan for the revelation of the sons of God, and the return of our Bridegroom, King Jesus Christ!

Natural disasters in general are subdivided into different categories:

Land movement disasters (avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions); water disasters (floods, tsunamis); weather disasters (cyclonic storms, droughts, hailstorms, heat waves, tornadoes); fire disasters; health and diseases (epidemics, famine); space (Gamma ray bursts, impact events, solar flares, supernovas (explosion of stars) and hypernovas (disintegration of stars)).

1. **Hurricane:** Hurricanes (Atlantic & eastern Pacific Oceans), tropical cyclones (Indian Ocean), and typhoons (western Pacific) are different names for the same phenomenon: a cyclonic storm system that forms over the oceans. *Pray for Christians working at different weather stations to hear God's voice clearly to be able to warn people in advance. Ask for people to take up spiritual authority and responsibility in prayer in this respect in every nation of the earth.*
2. **Earthquake:** An earthquake is the result of a sudden release of energy in the earth's crust that creates seismic waves. The magnitude of an earthquake is conventionally reported on the Richter scale, with magnitude 3 or lower earthquakes being mostly imperceptible, and magnitude 7 causing serious damage over large areas. *Continue to pray for various nations that have been affected or hit by earthquakes this year. Ask for the church worldwide to take up their responsibility to help, care for and support those in need. Also ask for God's mercy on the people where earthquakes occur, that many will testify of His grace and protection.*
3. **Tornado:** Tornadoes are violent, rotating columns of air which blow at very high speeds. Tornadoes can occur one at a time, or in large tornado outbreaks along squall lines or in other large areas of thunderstorm development. *Please pray for God's grace upon crops, livestock and residential areas. Ask that Christians will cry out to God amidst their distress and testify to God's answers to their prayers that will lead many others to Christ.*
4. **Volcanic eruption:** A volcanic eruption releases lava and poisonous gases into the air. Some eruptions form high-temperature clouds of ash and steam that can travel down mountainsides at speeds exceeding that of an airliner. *Lift up in prayer those nations affected by volcanic activity at the moment. Ask that many people will begin to call upon the Lord and surrender their lives to Him alone amidst their circumstances.*
5. **Tsunami:** A tsunami is a series of waves created when a body of water, such as an ocean, is rapidly displaced. Earthquakes, mass movements above or below water, volcanic eruptions and other underwater explosions, landslides, large meteorite impacts, comet impacts and testing with nuclear weapons at sea all have the potential to generate a tsunami. *Pray that people will be wiser in how and where they build houses, especially in areas where tsunamis are known to occur. Also pray that such nations will turn their hearts to the Lord and ask Him for the safety of people inhabiting their coastlands.*
6. **Flood:** *Pray for those who have been impacted by floods this year, that they will be able to rebuild their lives soon. Also ask for the church worldwide to reach out to such communities, and especially for God to pour out His Spirit upon them.*
7. **Wildfire:** Common causes of wildfires include lightning, human carelessness, arson and volcano eruption. Wildfires can also produce ember attacks, where embers carried on by the wind set fire to buildings at a distance from the fire itself. *Pray for people to be watchful and responsible in not causing these wildfires themselves. Ask for God's grace in areas where wildfires break out, that the wind will cease and the fire be put out quickly. Ask that people will cry out to Him to intervene, and for many to turn their lives over to Him.*
8. **Drought:** Droughts can persist for several years and can cause significant damage and harm the local economy. *Pray for regions affected by the El Nino effect, especially central Africa. Ask for God's grace especially upon children that suffer malnutrition and death. Ask that He will also reveal new agricultural methods to Christian farmers in these countries to provide for those in need, and so spread the gospel.*
9. **Avalanche:** Avalanches are one of the major dangers in snow-capped mountains during winter. As avalanches move down the slope they may entrain snow from the snow pack and grow in size. *Pray for communities to be on the watch for these avalanches, to warn one another and be able to escape safely. Also ask for Christians in such areas to stand in prayer before the Lord for the safety of their region.*
10. **Landslide:** Landslides can be caused by an earthquake, volcanic eruptions, or general instability in the surrounding land. Mudslides or mudflows are a special case of landslides, in which heavy rainfall causes loose soil on steep terrain to collapse and slide downwards. *Lift up in prayer those who suffered the loss of a loved one due to a landslide this year. Ask for Christian scientists to have favour from the Lord to find scientific ways to spot possible landslides before they happen. Pray for communities vulnerable to landslides to stand before the Lord in prayer for the safety of their area.*

(In this article, factual material is used from *Wikipedia* articles: Natural Disasters. Prayer requests and conclusions are those of the writer of this article).

Tuesday 16 November 2010

Focus on construction industry: Engineering training

In line with the steady shrinking in expenditure, the number of engineering students graduating from universities have halved from about 1975 to the year 2000. However, due to the need to upgrade and build new infrastructure projects there are insufficient engineers to cope with demands. With the downturn in the global economy many engineers who emigrated overseas are again looking for employment in South Africa. Pray that these people with engineering skills may find opportunities where they can make a difference. Praise God for the training initiatives that the private sector has taken to train engineers. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the *SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)*, e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

Focus on Bible Translation: Progress in Bwaidoka: Papua New Guinea

Ladai and Joshua are two Bwaidoka men of Papua New Guinea who are involved in translating the Bible into their own language. For various reasons the work is progressing quite slowly. Please pray for them so that they can spend more concentrated time on translation. Ladai has been working on James and Titus, while Joshua is doing Matthew and Luke. Please remember these men and their families in your prayers as they persevere with this important task. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Wednesday 17 November 2010

Focus on evangelism: Alpha South Africa

Alpha Courses have touched the lives of thousands over the years, leading many to Christ. Give thanks to the Lord for their enduring efforts in congregations, the workplace, prisons etc. Pray for more *Alpha* courses to start around the country and the *24/7 Prayer vision* to involve many churches to cover our country in prayer. Ask for God's provision for projects as well as strong, humble regional leaders to help with *Alpha's* work countrywide. (*Alpha South Africa*, P.O. Box 656, Newlands, 0049. Tel.: 012 998 8144 or fax: 086 518 6263. Website: <http://www.alphasa.co.za> or e-mail: inform@alphasa.co.za).

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: North Korea

In first position on the *World Watch List (WWL)* 2010 is again North Korea. Even though the North Korean regime is slowly and steadily losing her iron control of North Korean society, North Korea is desperately trying to control society through mobilising every resource of power in order to eradicate Christian activities and demolish the street market system. Many Christian believers were exposed during North Korea's strict searches. (Website: <http://opendoorsusa.org>). Please pray especially for secret Christians who have been found out due to these searches. Ask for their endurance during torture, and for God's power to witness Christ to their oppressors. Give thanks for opportunities for the gospel now for those in cities in nearby China.

DID YOU KNOW?

Focus on skills development: Prison labour

Inmates may be compelled to do manual labour in the future if Prisons Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula has her way! A review will now be done to see whether the old system of regular labour for inmates could be brought back. Watching TV all day is not enhancing the skills and social consciousness of locked-up criminals. "Inmates should understand and appreciate, like all of us, that it is important to wake up in the morning and do some work. Besides other jobs, they should cook for themselves, so we don't pay these millions for catering," she said. (Website: <http://news.iafrica.com/sa/2322901.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for comments like these from government's side! Please pray for the implementation of these proposals soon, that inmates will really be equipped and shaped to live responsible lives whilst still in prison. Ask for Christian organisations to form part of these projects, and bring the gospel to them as well.

Thursday 18 November 2010

Focus on construction industry: Loss of skills in local and provincial government

Numerous studies have shown that only a handful of municipalities are financially viable. One of the major causes is the lack of personnel with the required technical knowledge to manage and maintain the water, sewer, roads, and electrical services. The result is the loss of 'corporate knowledge' for maintaining these services. Pray for the members of the *South African Local Government Association (SALGA)* and their objectives to support municipalities in delivering on their core mandate. Pray for the following interventions: (1) That the political leadership recognises the importance of employing competent municipal engineers and staff. (2) That skilled staff may be recruited from retired engineers and or seconded from the private sector. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the *SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)*, e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

Focus on Bible Translation: Eastern Arrernte: Australia

Work on the Eastern Arrernte Bible translation project has proceeded slowly over the past years because one of the main translators has been heavily involved in administration in the organisation for which he works. In March he was relieved of other responsibilities so that he could concentrate on finishing the translation. The New Testament is expected to be finished in 2-3 years. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Please cry out to God for favour upon this project so it might be finished even sooner. Ask for other dedicated workers to be added to this team, as well as for the necessary technical equipment to back up their work.

Friday 19 November 2010

Focus on construction industry: The importance of *General Domestic Product (GDP)* expenditure

The capacity of the total available economic infrastructure in South Africa (i.e. roads, rail, airport, harbour, electricity, dams, etc.) has been run down to levels last seen in 1965, due to neglect such as inadequate maintenance and very little expansion. As a nation we now have 30 million more people and an economy probably 30 times larger. In order to sustain and support an economic growth of 5-6% per annum, the amount needed to spend on infrastructure is 25% of *GDP*. Praise God that the Government has recognised the need to spend more on maintenance and upgrading the ailing infrastructure and that expenditure levels are close to 20% of *GDP*. Pray for wisdom to balance the need to spend on social support and on improving the infrastructure that has long-term benefits for all. Ask that political leaders may realise that the only way to expand the economy and create permanent employment opportunities is through greater economic investment in our infrastructure. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the *SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)*, e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Iran

This year, Iran ranked higher and now holds the second position on the *WWL*. Most of the Christians that have been arrested were mistreated in prison. The majority of them have been released, but court cases are still pending and they can be sentenced at any moment. Iranian authorities closed some churches during 2009, primarily because of the attendance of many newly converted Muslims in their services. Islam is the official religion in Iran. Under the judicial interpretations of Sharia law, any Muslim who leaves Islam to embrace another religion faces the death penalty. (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org). Please pray for new converts to grow spiritually in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Ask that many will escape the eyes of the secret police and continue to share the gospel.

Did you know?

Simbiti hunger for God's Word in Tanzania

Praise God for this report from Pastor Wayne, Simbiti Bible translator: "To reach the Simbiti villages I must board a ferry. Once I arrived in the village, a large group of people gathered to hear the reading of the Word. As soon as we broke for morning tea, they immediately wanted to get their own copy. The scripture portions are selling for 400 shillings. The cost of morning tea was also 400 shillings. Everyone chose to buy the scriptures and go hungry that morning rather than buy food. That's how strong their hunger for God's Word is." (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Saturday 20 November 2010

Focus on the media: *Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)*

Pray for the appointment of Christians to the council of *ICASA* as new councillors will be selected this year. There are a number of Christians among the nominees. Ask for favour towards Christian broadcasting nationally, especially with so many people watching international programs, like *God TV*. Praise the Lord for an open door for Christian broadcasting in most of Southern Africa. Pray for openings in Botswana and Zimbabwe. (*Association of Christian Broadcasters of Southern Africa (ACB)*, c/o 30 St Helier Rd., Gillitts, 3610. Tel.: 031 767 0825, fax: 086 516 2407. Website: www.acb.org.za or e-mail: info@acb.org.za).

Focus on Bible Translation: *Mandara New Testament* celebration

The *Mandara New Testament* safely arrived on Simberi Island (Papua New Guinea) in May. Give thanks to the Lord for another people group that now has access to the Bible in their own language. Please pray now for a hunger and thirst among Mandara people to read and study the Word of God and to grow spiritually. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*. Website: www.wycliffe.net or e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Sunday 21 November 2010

Prayer that will bring breakthrough is persevering prayer

An angel from Heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:43-44). It is my firm conviction that the Father heart of God is supremely evident at Gethsemane. God released an angel to come and minister to His Son; God gave the gift of endurance to Christ to pass through Gethsemane and reach Golgotha. Endurance is perhaps something we associate with athletes, as they work hard in training to prepare to compete in athletic events; or perhaps we associate endurance with passing through a trial or temptation of some kind. Indeed, both applications have spiritual comparisons regarding prayer. We too, are continually being trained by the Holy Spirit in the ways of God. We also are led through the valley into victory on the mountaintop as we pass through seasons of change. We are pressed down, and in the pressing we become more like our Beloved. Paul instructed his spiritual son Timothy to "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (**2 Tim. 2:3**), and went on to speak of the athlete's crown of victory attained in competition, and the hard-working farmer being first to receive his share of the crops. All of these allegorical comparisons point us to the benefits of endurance—we receive a crown of glory because Jesus bore the crown of thorns; we share in the harvest rewards because Christ is Lord of the Harvest. (By Catherine Brown: *Gatekeepers Global Ministries*, with some additional remarks). Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on these thoughts. Pour out your heart before God and ask Him to change your heart so that you may reflect Him more and more.

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Maldives

In the archipelago of the Maldives, (5th on the *WWL*), Islam is the official religion of the state and all citizens must be Muslims. Persecution of Christians in the Maldives is systematic: legislation forbids the practice of any religion except Islam; the government regards itself as the protector and defender of Islam; churches are forbidden; importing Christian materials is prohibited; and the average Maldivian agrees with the prohibition of any religion other than Islam. In the country – one of the least evangelised countries on earth – there is only a handful of indigenous Christian believers who practice their faith individually and in extreme secrecy for fear of being discovered. (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org). Pray for significant changes in this country very soon; for open doors for the gospel and an openness among citizens to receive it when it comes.

Prayer story: *Youth With a Mission (YWAM)* celebrates 50 years of God's favour

"Suddenly, I was looking at a map of the world. Only the map was alive, moving! I sat up. I shook my head, rubbed my eyes. It was a mental movie. I could see all the continents. Waves were crashing onto their shores. Each went onto a continent, then receded, then came up further until it covered the continent completely. I caught my breath. Then, as I watched, the scene changed. The waves became young people - kids my age and even younger - covering the continents. They were talking to people on street corners and outside bars. They were going from house to house. They were preaching. Everywhere they were caring for people..." This is the story that's still as fresh in the heart and mind of YWAM leader and founder Loren Cunningham, as it was that day in 1956 when God showed it to him. YWAM was eventually founded in 1960 and this year celebrates its 50th birthday, honouring God for thousands

of souls added to His kingdom, thousands of prayers answered, lives restored, as well as signs and miracles that are too many to write down.

The 1970s: Two hotels, a shipwreck, and a vision

From December 1969 to the summer of 1970, YWAM held its first school, the *School of Evangelism*, with a total of 36 students. The students' lodging and classes took place in a newly renovated and leased hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, which they purchased at the end of that year. Later that decade, a school that would focus on Biblical foundations and character development as well as missions, started. The school, the *Discipleship Training School (DTS)*, added an outreach phase to the program. This format: three months of lectures followed by two or three months of outreach, is still used in most Discipleship Training Schools today. Then a vision came into port. Loren envisioned a ship for ministry to port cities around the world. That vision was to be the vessel for some hard lessons to the growing YWAM family to never value the tools of God's work above God Himself. Ten years later the *Anastasis* was launched as the first in a fleet of YWAM Mercy Ships.

YWAM today is an international volunteer movement of Christians from many backgrounds, cultures and Christian traditions, dedicated to serving Jesus throughout the world with a simple purpose; to know God and to make Him known. YWAM has a decentralised structure that encourages new vision and the exploration of new ways to change lives through training, conveying the message of the gospel and caring for those in need. They are currently operating in more than 1,000 locations in over 150 countries, with a staff of nearly 16,000. Let us give thanks to the Lord who did so much more than could ever be thought or prayed, through the obedience of thousands of people the past 50 years.

YWAM now has major centres on every continent but Antarctica! A large proportion of their number hails from Brazil and South Korea. In the next few years, YWAM leaders expect to see an explosion of missionaries from China to other parts of the world. Along with their colleagues, these Chinese YWAMers may be witness to unprecedented growth in both numbers and persecution, if prophetic words to the mission's leadership are well-founded. These twin surges in fruitfulness and hardship would indicate the continued need for this missionary movement to be adaptable, creative and willing to go to the places, to do the things for which few others are prepared.

If you feel God speaking to you, there is an opportunity for you to get involved. YWAM offers an exciting range of short and long-term opportunities, whether you want to go on a mission trip or embark on a lifetime's missionary career, whether you think your daughter might enjoy a 6-month discipleship course or would want to get her Bachelor of Arts at YWAM's university. For more information contact Miranda at YWAM SA, P.O. Box 330, Muizenberg, 7950. Tel.: 021 788 73 45. Website: www.ywam.org or e-mail: ywamafricom@gmail.com or blog: <http://commsteamafrica.blogspot.com/>

Monday 22 November 2010

Salvation focus: Fishermen

Changes in quotas granted to fishermen, especially along the West Coast, have resulted in many falling short of their daily necessities. Since, there has been an increase in illegal harvesting of lobster and abalone. Please pray for fishermen, that God will show them how to provide for their families, to refrain from illegal activities and put their trust in Him. Ask that many will come to Christ through the testimonies of others who choose to live in righteousness.

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Afghanistan

To be a Christian in Afghanistan (6th on the *WWL*) is still extremely difficult, particularly because the constitution is based on Islamic principles. The Taliban threatens expatriate workers, Christian aid workers and local Christians. Local people who don't hide their Christian conversion often receive threats of violence and even death. Pray for God's peace that surpasses all understanding to rest in the hearts of believers in Afghanistan. Ask that they will have favour with their oppressors, and be able to clearly hear God's voice to share the gospel boldly at His prompting. (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org).

Tuesday 23 November 2010

Focus on youth: *Eagles Rising Ministries*

Every year *Eagles Rising* takes in a number of young people from less-privileged communities and assists them with basic training and Christian input which enable them to apply for and find a job. Give thanks to God for His provision to train and equip them with love and skills to minister to their own people. Pray for those who finish the programme, to remain strong in the Lord, resist temptations and set a new example of God's hope to their families. (*Eagles Rising Ministries*. Tel.: 021 856 4486. Website: www.eaglesrising.org.za or e-mail: office@eaglesrising.org.za).

Focus on sending Bibles: Earthquake survivors get solar-powered Bibles

One group is sending solar-powered audible Bibles, called the 'Proclaimer', to Haitians that can broadcast the Holy Scriptures in Haitian Creole to 300 people at a time. It is designed for "poor and illiterate people" and can play anywhere. The audio Bible can bring "hope and comfort that comes from knowing God has not forgotten them". (Website: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/earthquake-survivors-get-solar-powered-bibles/story-fn3dxity-1225821184929>). Give thanks to God for these opportunities to spread the Word. Pray for the continued existence of these devices, and for literally millions to have an opportunity to listen to the Word of God in this way.

Wednesday 24 November 2010

Gospel focus: *Every Home for Christ Anglo Africa (EHCAA)*

EHCAA, partnering with the *Disciple Nations Alliance*, is committed to serve the church in restoring God's glorious vision for the nations and to help the church take a Biblical world-view and live according to it. Also to help the church practise ministry that provides tangible demonstrations of Christ's love to broken people. (Contact: Hein van Wyk, *EHCAA/Hope for Africa*, P.O. Box 9463, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 665 0343, fax: 012 665 0381, cell: 082 349 8465. Website: <http://www.ehcaa.co.za> or e-mail: hein@ehcaa.co.za). Please pray for ministries like these, that they will be effective in their work and efforts. Ask for a hunger and a thirst for the Word of God in people's hearts and that crying out to Him night and day will form the foundation of these ministries.

Focus on Israel: Rain in season

For a few consecutive years Israel had little rain during their rainy season and the levels of their main water resource, the Sea of Galilee, are dangerously low. The new rainy season starts at the end of October. Please ask the Lord to send rain in season, to open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; to make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. That once again the trees of the forest will flourish in the wilderness. Also pray that many souls will recognise God's provision, give Him praise and embrace the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. (**Isa.41:18-20**). (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

FOCUS ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE IN FAMILIES: 25 NOV - 10 DEC 2010

To be able to pray effectively about these issues, we need to understand better what abuse and violence entails. Emotional abuse is e.g. the unseen fallout of all other forms of abuse: physical, mental, verbal, sexual, and even spiritual abuse. People often minimise the importance of emotions. Yet with deeply wounded people, their feelings can be the driving force behind their choices. Emotional abuse strikes at the very core of who we are, crushing our confidence and eating away at our sense of worth (**Prov.17:22**). Will you not join us in prayer in every sphere of influence God has granted you, to mobilise others to pray for our men, women and children who are either responsible for or victims of different forms of abuse, asking for their healing, restoration and for them to come to radical conversion, surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ. (Some of the notes used in these prayer pointers were taken and adapted from: *Biblical Counselling Keys* by June Hunt).

Thursday 25 November 2010

Focus on construction industry: Loss of skills in local and provincial government (cont from 18 Nov)

Numerous studies have shown that only a handful of municipalities are financially viable. One of the major causes is the lack of personnel with the required technical knowledge to manage and maintain the water, sewer, roads, and electrical services. The result is the loss of 'corporate knowledge' for maintaining these services. Pray for the members of the *South African Local Government Association (SALGA)* for the following interventions: (1) For

effective leadership development and training with appropriate coaching and mentorship programs. (2) For viable private and public partnerships that could increase the service delivery in municipalities. (Henk Langenhoven, senior economist at the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC), e-mail: hpl@safcec.org.za).

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Yemen

Yemen still holds position 7, but a higher 7 than before. There was an increase in seizure of Christian materials in 2009/10. Government allows expatriates some freedom to practise their faith, but Yemeni citizens are not allowed to convert to Christianity. Converts from an Islamic background may face the death penalty if their new faith is discovered. Proselytising of Muslims is prohibited. (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org). Pray for God's protection, especially concerning the discovery of new believers and the confiscation of Christian materials. Ask that new doors will open to distribute Bibles that will not be found out.

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Emotional abuse is any ongoing, negative behaviour used to control or hurt another person. Emotional abuse ranges from consistent indifference to continual belittling of character. *Ask that God will open the eyes of everyone who emotionally abuses a member of their family or friends. Ask that they will suddenly become aware of every form of abuse they partake in whether it be emotional, verbal, mental, physical, spiritual, or sexual; any behaviour that damages a person's sense of dignity and God-given worth (Prov.18:14).*

Friday 26 November 2010

Focus on Precept Ministries (SA)

Precept Ministries (SA) has a burden to reach the previously disadvantaged areas in South Africa with the Word of God through the inductive Bible study method. Pray that God would continue to open doors for us to reach everybody, everywhere, any time, any place, any language and any age. Pray that we would help many people to discover God's truth for themselves and that they would disciple and encourage others. (*Precept Ministries SA*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836. Website: www.precept.org.za or e-mail: angelag@precept.org.za).

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Emotional abuse or 'psychological mistreatment' scars the spirit of the one abused. After extended periods of emotional abuse, many victims lose hope, feeling that life is not worth living (**Prov.13:12**). *Pray for victims of emotional abuse over long periods of time, to have a breakthrough, to rise up and ask the Lord Jesus to pick them up and heal them.*

Saturday 27 November 2010

Focus on unemployment: R5bn retrenchment plan

More than R5 billion is to be set aside in 2010/11 to benefit at least 700,000 workers who lost their jobs during the recession. R42 billion in *Unemployment Insurance Fund* contributions and R23-billion from the *Compensation Fund* was to be invested with the *Public Investment Corporation (PIC)* in major government and private sector projects that would create jobs. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/features/2352800.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers concerning this issue. Please pray that the money will be correctly spent and truly benefit those in need and those it was intended for. Ask that projects creating jobs will grow and become self-sustained as a result of proper leadership and management.

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Mauritania

The situation in Mauritania (8th on *WWL*) deteriorated gravely in the past year due to a Christian aid worker being murdered (June 2009), the arrest and torture of 35 Mauritanian Christians (July 2009) and the arrest of a group of 150 of Sub-Saharan Christians (August 2009) for having their own church meeting. Government limits freedom of religion by prohibiting the printing and distribution of non-Islamic religious materials and the proselytising of Muslims (convincing Muslims to convert to another faith). (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org). Cry out to the Lord to supernaturally open doors for the gospel in this nation despite increasing resistance. Pray that He will pour out His Spirit upon the few known believers, that they will perform miracles in the sight of their persecutors, winning them over for His kingdom.

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Emotional abuse can be passive-aggressive, a means of indirect, underhanded control. **Passive-aggressive abusers** express their anger through non-assertive, covert behaviour. In an attempt to gain covert control, they often use manipulation as a means of placing themselves in a position of dependence. Then, with underlying anger, they become faultfinders of the people on whom they depend. *Pray for **victims of passive-aggressive people** who feel perplexed and dismayed at their inability to handle life on their own, as well as their friends who try to comfort them. Pray that they will have wisdom to handle these situations.*

Sunday 28 November 2010

Prayer that brings a breakthrough is prayer that questions

Take this cup from Me (Mark 14:36). By asking His Father to take the cup from Him, Jesus raised the question of the possibility of not having to drink the cup of suffering. Jesus was an obedient Son and understood His destiny. Still, even Christ asked the Father if it was possible for the cup to be taken from Him. At Golgotha, Christ again called out to His Father with a question that seemed not receive an answer: *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani?* which means, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Mark 15:34b)*. There are times in our lives that we call out to God when our hearts are filled with pain, with questions that have no answers. I recall such a situation some years ago as well as the comfort I received when I realised that our dear Lord died on the Cross with an unanswered question. Jesus can empathise with us in every situation. He is the Light at the end of the tunnel and the Light in the middle! He is beautiful in every situation and brings peace to our troubled souls. May we rest in His sovereignty and in His ability to meet us in the place of pain and help our transition to healing and wholeness, so that we may be used to pray life-changing prayers that flow from His heart. (By Catherine Brown: *Gatekeepers Global Ministries*, with some additional remarks). Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on these thoughts. Pour out your heart before God and ask Him to change your heart so that you may reflect Him more and more.

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Emotional abuse can be either overt or covert rejection. **Overt rejection** conveys the message that a person is unwanted or unloved, as when one is belittled. **Covert rejection** takes place in subtle ways that may or may not be intended to cause harm by the perpetrator, as when one is ignored (**Phil.2:3-4**). *Pray for people to recognise these behaviour patterns either in themselves or their loved ones/friends. Ask for the Holy Spirit to lead them to confess this behaviour and turn away from their wicked ways, giving God the glory.*

Monday 29 November 2010

Salvation focus: Civil engineers

Please pray for civil engineers. Many having their own business struggle to have contracts approved or get paid for work that has been done. Ask that they will put their trust in God and surrender their lives to Christ as they hear testimonies of others who serve Jesus wholeheartedly.

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Verbal abuse is a form of overt, emotional abuse (maltreatment). A skilled woodsman wields his weapon carefully, chopping repeatedly on a precise spot until the targeted tree falls. This lumberjack takes pride in controlling himself and his weapon, never striking a careless blow. Likewise, a verbal abuser uses his tongue as a weapon to hack away at another person. This abuser is skilled in his ability to strike a blow—wielding words that caustically cut heart and soul (**Ps.52:4**). *Pray for God to open people's ears so they can hear the manner, attitude and way in which they speak to others, convicting them of what they do wrong without a word from their victims. Ask for the Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of those who verbally abuse others back to their Heavenly Father, making right their lives with Him and their victims.*

Children-2-pray: Victorious prayer

Why is prayer such a big deal? If grownups believed in prayer, then why are they so worried? Can I really trust God to answer my prayers? How should I speak to God? How often should I pray to have a good prayer life? These are all questions we will try to answer this month and so encourage you to pray!

MONDAY: What is prayer? Prayer is talking to God, as well as listening when God speaks to us! We talk often with our friends and family. God is our friend and our heavenly Father. He wants to talk to us. *Heavenly Father, I love You and want to speak to You more often. Please remind me to speak to You right through the day! In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

TUESDAY: Why should we pray? There are many reasons for praying: To give the Lord our thanks and praise, to confess our sins, to ask Him for help with our problems, to ask His help for others, and just to talk with our Father. *Heavenly Father, thank you for my life, and that I can tell you anything that happens in it. Help me remember to speak to You about my problems until they disappear, so that others can also come to know You are real. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: How should we pray? You can close your eyes, bow your head, kneel down or fold your hands to pray. This position shows respect. But, you can also pray while you walk to school, sit in the bus or taxi, or when you wake up in the middle of the night and feel scared. Remember to pray in Jesus' Name, because Jesus told us to ask or pray in His Name and through the cross and His blood that was shed, we have free access to the throne of God (**John 16:23b**). *Lord Jesus, teach me how You want me to talk to you. Help me remember at any time and place that I can talk to you and that you are never far away. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

THURSDAY: When should we pray? Men and women in the Bible have taught us that we can pray anytime. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** tells us to "Pray without ceasing". There is never a bad time to pray. *Heavenly Father, thank you that You are always awake and listening to my prayers; that You never get tired and are available to help me day and night! Remind me to pray all the time. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

FRIDAY: Where should we pray? You can pray anywhere. The Bible says that God is everywhere, so you can be in any situation, place or any kind of trouble, and when you pray He will hear you and answer your prayer as He knows best how to answer it. *Thank you Heavenly Father, that You are with me, even when I am scared or something bad happens to me. Thank you that I can always cry out to you, day or night. I put my trust in You alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Tuesday 30 November 2010

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Indoctrination refers to systematic, forcible indoctrination that puts pressure on prisoners to relinquish their beliefs and accept opposing beliefs. Unfortunately, you don't have to be in a prisoner of war camp to be brainwashed. Your captor could be a significant member of your own family or a new set of acquaintances. In whatever circumstance indoctrination occurs, it systematically wears away your sense of self-worth and confidence, causing you to distrust yourself and even to lose touch with reality (**Gal.4:17**). *Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of both victims and perpetrators of indoctrination to realise what is happening. Ask for the fear of the Lord to urge perpetrators to turn from their ways, leading them to godly sorrow before God and their fellow human beings.*

Top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Uzbekistan

The religious freedom in Uzbekistan (10th on *WWL*), has deteriorated during the year. Many Christians were arrested and fined. Many Christian leaders were interrogated and physically and mentally harassed at police stations, where they were held for varying lengths of time. Furthermore, relatives of Christians used physical abuse to pressure Christians to convert to Islam. Another sign of the changing situation is that the authorities used the media to slander Christians. This resulted in an active anti-Christian promotion. Praise God that despite persecution, the church in Uzbekistan continues to grow. Pray for Christians who are actively looking for ways to reach others with the gospel facing obstacles, as singing and preaching in the Uzbek language is prohibited. (Website: www.opendoorsusa.org).

Wednesday 1 December 2010

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Indoctrination can take on different forms, verbally and emotionally. Examples of **verbal indoctrination** are: — Intimidation: Implying that your failure to comply with all demands or to adopt all the abuser's attitudes or beliefs will result in severe consequences. — Indoctrination: Repeatedly implanting messages contrary to your presently held values or beliefs. — Discrediting: Belittling your 'outside' family and friends who disagree with the abuser. —

Degrading: Engaging in name-calling, insults, ridicule, and humiliation, and —Labelling: Claiming that your thoughts are childish, stupid, or crazy (**Ps.35:20**). *Pray for yourself or someone you know as you recognise some of these patterns in their or your own behaviour. Ask for the Holy Spirit to reveal to all who are guilty of indoctrination the heart of the heavenly Father, to convince them of His love, so they would want to turn away from these ways and make restitution with those they persecute.*

Focus on health: World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day, observed on 1 December each year, is an important opportunity when governments, national AIDS programs, faith organisations, community organisations, and individuals around the world bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic and emphasise the critical need for universal access to essential care. Christian organisations have a special responsibility in this regard towards people living with, or affected by HIV, or those who are vulnerable to infection. (Website: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/world-aids-day/>). Continue to pray for Christians to become involved in helping HIV/AIDS victims in South Africa, especially through starting children's homes for children left destitute due to HIV/AIDS.

Thursday 2 December 2010

Focus on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence in families: 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2010

Indoctrination can take on different forms, verbally and emotionally. Examples of **emotional indoctrination** are: —*Isolation*: Depriving you of all outside sources of emotional and social support. —*Induced exhaustion*: Keeping you up late, interrupting your sleep, causing sleep deprivation, wearing you down physically or emotionally. —*Excessive compliance*: Militantly enforcing trivial demands. —*Ignoring*: Withdrawing emotional support but later denying the withdrawal. —*Forgetting*: Intentionally failing to keep promises and agreements. —*Exploiting*: Using you or someone close to you for selfish interests or gain (**Ps.143:3-4**). *Pray for yourself or someone you know as you recognise some of these patterns in their or your own behaviour. Cry out to the Lord on behalf of those who abuse others in any of these ways, to have a revelation of what they are doing, and of how much different the heart of God's love is towards them than what they themselves portray to others. Ask for godly sorrow as they turn their hearts to God and put right what they have done wrong.*

Focus on Israel: Focus on Hanukkah

Hanukkah (meaning 'dedication') is a feast Jesus celebrated (**John 10:20**) and falls on 2-9 December this year. It commemorates the victory of a handful of Israelites over the Greek empire occupying Israel in early history. Jews were forced to abandon their faith and burn the *Torah* (5 Books of Moses). A pig was slaughtered in the Temple and a statue of the Greek god Zeus was erected there, desecrating it. A small band of men stood firm in their faith (167 BC) and launched a counter-attack. Three years later the Temple was cleansed and rededicated. This feast is still celebrated. Pray for Jewish people worldwide that God, through His Spirit will reveal Jesus, Light of the world who came as Servant and will return as King. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).