

But God

Dear Intercessor

The end of the year is around the corner. On the one hand the country has not changed much. Some feel we have made progress politically and economically and others are very negative about the situation in the country. The World Soccer Cup is almost upon us, there is a lot of interest in the event from abroad and a lot of preparations are being made. It is important that the Church will be part of this process and also earnestly pray for it. We have a new President and a new government. New leaders now need to find their feet in their new positions and learn to do the work and make meaningful decisions. It is our responsibility to pray with great dedication for the government; we are, after all, instructed to do so in **1 Timothy 2:1-3**.

Many who pray grow weary along the way. Many wonder if it really helps to pray, because some of the marriages they pray for are still falling apart, loved ones die and their children turn their backs on God and want nothing to do with Him. Yet it is necessary to encourage each other. Do not give in to the sin of unbelief. Come, stand close to God and trust Him. There are many things we will never understand and what we cannot understand, we can leave to God. He knows what He is doing. But then there are more than enough things we do understand and that we know quite well we need to do. We also understand well enough the many reasons why we should keep on following God. So come, let us live from what we know we should do and what we do understand.

Support in 2009

Thank you so much to all who supported us in 2009. Some gave financial support, others prayed with us or for us. Yet others wrote an e-mail or letter of encouragement or supported us with a telephone call. Thank you for this. Up until now the Lord has provided and has helped us. He has provided month after month for 28 years. I must admit though: I am still somewhat uneasy every time the end of the month approaches and there is just not enough money. And then, when the first week of the month has passed and the bills have been paid, there is always this wonderment that God has, once again, provided. The problem is usually that if it is "my" ministry, it is my responsibility to generate the finances. However, if it is God's ministry or work, God always takes the responsibility to provide.

The person who cares will pray *and* do

There is great misunderstanding about 'praying' on the one hand and 'doing something practical about the needs of others' on the other hand. There are people who do without praying and there are people who pray without doing. Both are equally wrong.

Prayer has become a very cheap word. In fact it has been a cheap word for a very long time. We often try avoiding our responsibility to become involved in people's needs with an "I'll pray for you". This is not the kind of praying I'm talking about. There is a type of praying where you really pray for someone or a situation. First of all it takes your time. And time is something we are not prepared to give. We regard our time as our own and for this reason we will many times at most mention the person's name that we promised to pray for in our prayer and then continue with our own prayer requests. But genuine prayer for others also expects me to go and stand before the throne of God as a priest and intercede for this person, to pray for grace, guidance and deliverance, depending on the problem and need of the person.

It also means that I will go on praying until there is an answer or a breakthrough. When I promise to pray for someone, it more or less means the following: "I will go and talk to God about the matter and I will wait for His answer and stay put before Him in prayer until the matter has been concluded." Thus it is not a cheap 'commitment' that I make when I tell someone I will pray for him or her.

When I pray and speak to God, I have to listen too, because God also speaks to me. It is during these times when God speaks to us that He can tell us what things we should do, where we should become involved, whom we should serve and what we shouldn't do any more. This is the 'dangerous' part of prayer. Prayer that does not lead to action, is prayer where you 'prayed', but did not really listen to God and didn't hear what His answer to your prayer was; and neither heard what He is going to do or expects you to do.

If you care, you will pray. Caring for your fellow human being is to pray. It is to pray for the need of the world, which means especially praying for people. Praying in general for children who have no food is one thing, but praying for a specific child who is hungry, a child with a name and a face is something else. The same goes for a raped woman, a single-parent mother, an unemployed father, a criminal in prison.

When you are praying for someone, pray until you can feel in your heart the need of the person, *and* until you can feel God's heart for the person. Then do what God shows you to do. Then you are being a true Christian.

Focuses for the following three months

In December our focus is on revival. There are 25 short stories on revivals in history. Our generation doesn't know about God's great deeds over the past 300 years anymore. This doesn't mean that nothing happened; we are simply not passing it on anymore. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and into all eternity – therefore we can expect that what He did in the past, He can do again in our day and age, and we believe that He will. In January 2010 we focus on the Word of God. That the authority of the Word will be re-established in our lives, for a new hunger for the Word and that the Spirit of God will break open the Word for us. During February the focus is on the working of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and also in the Church. We trust that you will find the information meaningful and that you will pray with great faith and devotion, because God answers prayer. Sometimes 'he does not answer' because of sin in our lives and sometimes He waits until we are ready to receive the answer. It is always our responsibility to pray, and always God's responsibility to answer. When we pray and live according to His Word and pray the promises from His Word, we can rest assured, He will answer us.

I wish you a blessed Christmas. May Jesus reveal Himself to us during this time as the Son of Man, as Lord and as God.

Eph.3:20

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

What's online:

www.FaithComesByHearing.com

Faith Comes By Hearing produced the short program, which runs less than 12 minutes, to help people engage in the Bible and hear the Easter story in a dramatic, audio format.

<http://www.findabible.net>

Find A Bible, is an innovative and interactive website that gives easy access to Scriptures in more than 3,000 languages, providing the most comprehensive and current database of Bibles and portions in majority and minority languages available.

<http://www.world-bibles.org/>

The *World Bibles* site indexes over 16,000 Bibles. The new *World Bibles* website, just released by *Wycliffe Associates UK*, will help immigrant populations to find Bibles in their own languages. Since the site is an index, it

provides links to existing sites on the Internet, but it does not offer any specific Bibles. In order to help non-English users, the user interface is available in ten languages, and more are being added.

Did you know?

JESUS Film

Every four seconds, somewhere in the world, another person indicates a decision to follow Christ after viewing the *JESUS Film*. That amounts to 21,600 people per day, 648,000 per month and more than 7.8 million per year! Called by some "one of the best-kept secrets in Christian missions", a number of mission experts have acclaimed the film as one of the greatest evangelistic tools of all time. Since 1979 the screening of the *JESUS Film* (based on the gospel of Luke) has resulted in more than 225 million people indicating decisions to follow Jesus. It has now been translated into more than 1,050 languages, with a new language being added nearly every week. (Website: <http://www.jesusfilm.org/>).

Burundi: President commits to God

The President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, says he became born-again in 1997 after receiving a Bible from a rural minister. "I started reading the Bible from beginning to end," he said. "When I finished, I got saved. That's it." He began leading other rebel combatants to Christ and said God spared his life after a near-fatal shooting. He went into hiding for four months without anyone to care for his wounds. When he returned to his troops - miraculously alive - he told them they would have to put God first in their movement if he were to remain their leader. (Website: <http://www.joelnews.org/>).

Atheist father's prayers answered!

Natalie went into labour three months before her due date and found there was "no room at the Inn" for hospital care for the premature baby in her hometown. Efforts by Canadian officials to get the family help had a great impact on the baby's father. "I was an atheist," he said in a phone interview. "Now I'm considering going to church and being a Believer. There's got to be Someone up there who's saving our little daughter." He got up to pray for his daughter and on that very day, he and his wife learned their baby had been taken off the ventilator the day before. "That's enough for me to be a Believer," he said. (*Breaking Christian News*. Email: editor@breakingchristiannews.com).

Non-Christian Iraqis Watch Christian Television

A new survey found that about 5.3 million Iraqis watch Christian satellite programmes on SAT-7, a Christian television ministry created by and for the people of the Middle East and North Africa. As Iraq's Christian community numbers less than 600,000, it's safe to say that most of SAT-7's viewers are Muslims. Approximately 97% of Iraqis have access to satellite TV, and 18.8% watch SAT-7; 2.6 million are watching on a daily or weekly basis. (Source: Church around the world, July 2009).

Quotes

Prayer is self-discipline. The effort to realize the presence and power of God stretches the sinews of the soul and hardens its muscles. To pray is to grow in grace. To tarry in the presence of the King leads to new loyalty and devotion on the part of the faithful subjects. Christian character grows in the secret place of prayer. - Samuel M. Zwemer

Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, 'above all that we ask or think'. Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things! - Andrew Murray

The power of prayer has never been tried to its full capacity in any church. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine grace and power wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let the whole Church answer God's standing challenged: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knows not." - James Hudson Taylor

All great soul-winners have been men of much and mighty prayer, and all great revivals have been preceded and carried out by persevering, prevailing knee-work in the closet. - Samuel Logan Brengle

How do I know that I am praying by the will of God? Every true attempt to pray is in response to the will of God. Bungling it may be and untutored by human teachers, but it is acceptable to God, because it is in obedience to His will. If I will give myself up to the inspiration of the Spirit of God, who commands me to pray, the details and the petitions of that praying will all fall into harmony with the will of Him who wills that I should pray. - E. M. Bounds

Wherever the Church is aroused and the world's wickedness arrested, somebody has been praying. - A. T. Pierson

24-7 Prayer watch focus: December 2009-March 2010

These prayer focuses are to encourage those involved in a 24-7 house of prayer to focus in prayer on the same things at the same time. These are only guidelines and watch coordinators may add their own focuses as the Holy Spirit leads them. Will you not consider **putting up these prayer pointers in your prayer room** in creative ways, or use them in your quiet time? Also inform others and encourage them to pray for these issues during each of the monthly focuses. More information on these issues is available free of charge from our website: www.jwipn.com. Also remember to subscribe to our weekly *Prayer Alert* at cape@jwipn.com, which covers current issues in prayer.

December: Spiritual revival in the Church

We belong to a generation that doesn't know much about the great deeds of God over the past 2,000 years. Let us pray that God will reveal Himself to us in the same way that He revealed Himself to the past generations. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (**Heb.13:8**). As you read the stories of how God intervened many times during the past centuries, be encouraged to pray that God will also do it in our time. Let us use December as a time to pray for spiritual revival in the Church.

January: Restoring the authority of God's Word & praying for the government

During January we will focus on the restoration of the authority of God's Word in the Church as the foundation of every Believer's life. We will spend time on studying, praying and proclaiming passages from Scripture, and also encourage you to consider praying through these prayer pointers in your cell or Bible study groups during this month. Apart from this we have felt God prompting us to pray for members of parliament by name before Parliament opens in February. In his letter to Timothy (**1 Tim.2:1-3**), Paul instructs Timothy, urging him to pray for all people, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and reverence. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Our focus is to pray that every heart will be directed by the Holy Spirit in the process of decision making and legislation as Parliament opens next month; also that all will have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and experience growth in this relationship.

February: Understanding the person and work of the Holy Spirit

There are many misconceptions when it comes to the person and the work of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ. During February we ask God to once again reveal the truth about the Holy Spirit to His Church, so that fears,

doubts and criticism may fade in the light of His glory and might. You may consider putting up some of these prayer pointers in your prayer room so others may also benefit from it in prayer.

March: Forgiveness

One of the most difficult and sensitive issues to address is that of forgiveness. All of us are wronged so often. At the same time we wrong other people, whether knowingly or unknowingly. During March we focus on the different issues of forgiveness; forgiving others, forgiving yourself, and also how to reconcile after forgiving someone.

DAY-TO-DAY PRAYER GUIDE - December 2009

Tuesday 1 December 2009

Global health focus: *World AIDS Day 2009*

The focus of *World AIDS Day* 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.

Bible translation focus: Language surveyors needed in 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 in this field 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 or e-mail: Personnel.Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Wednesday 2 December 2009

Evangelism focus: *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 or e-mail: 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).

Thursday 3 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Muslims coming to Christ (1)

Statistics show that more Muslims came to Christ over the past 10 years than in the previous 1,300 years since the founding of Islam in the seventh century. Right now 35-50% of Muslim converts come to Christ as a result of dreams, visions, the appearance of angels or those saying they had personal encounters with the Lord Jesus Himself. In the Middle East people have access to the gospel through many radio stations and several TV stations. A multitude of websites are giving information to Muslims and are in discussion with Muslims. One specific site

receives over 600,000 hits/visitations per day, more than 20 million per month. A remarkable move of God also started amongst the Kabyle Berbers in Algeria in 1990. Through many supernatural revelations many came to Christ over the last 2 decades, approaching 100,000 conversions with many churches being planted amongst the Kabyle. In Egypt many Muslims are coming to Christ. Over the past decade El Jazeera, a Muslim TV station reports that more than one million Muslims became Christians. Some Christian sources however believe that the figure can be higher. Indonesia is the country in the world with the most Muslims. In the beginning of the 1960s there were about 2 million Christians in Indonesia. Today there are some 39 million Christians, between 16-17% of the population.

Focus on children: IWF reports global decrease in child sexual abuse websites

The *Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)* has published its Annual Report 2008 revealing a drop of nearly 10% in the number of international websites with child sexual abuse content. The report warns against complacency, pointing to the serious nature of the images which are often carried on commercial websites. (Website: <http://www.iwf.org.uk/media/news.258.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering many prayers worldwide concerning Internet pornography. Pray that Internet pornography will decrease even more drastically.

Friday 4 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Muslims coming to Christ (2)

In 1990 there were only a couple of hundred Christians living in what is called the Silk Road (a route that carried silk from China to the West centuries ago), but today there are an estimated 140,000 Christians, mainly Muslim background Believers. (Kazakstan Believers: from 100 to 30,000; Uighur Believers: from less than 100 to about 1,000; Uzbek Believers: from about 100 to about 10,000; Kyrgyz Believers: from 20 to about 5,000; Tajik Believers: less than 5 to about 1,000; Turkmen Believers: less than 10 to about 500; Azeri Believers: from 50 to about 7,000; Tartar Believers: from 50 to about 1,000; Karakalpak Believers: none to over 1,000). At the time of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, there were possibly only 500 Shi'ite background followers of Christ. Today, many Iranian pastors suggest there may be as many as one million. More Iranians came to Christ between 1980 and 2005 than during the previous 1,000 years combined. This move is directly linked to the extraordinary number of prayers that was mobilised since 1992. *Praying Through the Window* (I, II, III and IV) mobilised 20-40 million people to pray during October every second year since 1993, and still continue to do so today. Since 1992 an initiative called *30 Days of Prayer* mobilised 2-10 million Christians during Ramadan, the annual Muslim month of fasting. These are just two of many prayer initiatives around the world focusing on Islam. Thank God for this.

Health focus: First promising TB drug in decades

The first new tuberculosis drug in 40 years has successfully treated multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients in a clinical trial in South Africa. *Diarylquinoline TMC207* differs from other anti-tuberculosis drugs by targeting an enzyme called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the agent that causes TB. About half the patients on TMC207 were successfully treated. The drug works on both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB in the laboratory and the implications are that this new drug might shorten treatment time for all tuberculosis patients. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/first-promising-tb-drug-in-decades-say-researchers.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers on finding breakthroughs for TB in South Africa.

Saturday 5 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival in China

In 1951, when Mao Tse Tung came into power in China, there were an estimated 1.5 million Christians in China. During the next four decades the Church went underground. Millions died and many spent years in prison, sometimes up to 20 or 30 years. The governmental head of religious affairs in China says there are 130 million Christians in China today. Senior Chinese leaders inside China believe the figure is much higher. Some 30,000-35,000 Chinese are coming to Christ every day (inclusive of natural growth in Christian families). This growth takes place mainly through establishing house churches. The Church in China is still being persecuted, but is

growing powerfully in spite of this. The Communist government has printed 50 million Bibles over the past 20 years at its official *Amity Press*. The Bibles and New Testaments are distributed at 55,000 distribution points throughout the country. Still many Bibles are smuggled into China because the demand for Bibles is bigger than the availability. Some missiologists say that over the past 30 years China has reaped the greatest national harvest of souls ever recorded. This certainly does not mean that there are not enormous challenges in the Chinese church, but it is clear that God is at work in a most significant way. Continue to pray for Chinese Christians experiencing persecution.

Focus on Thailand: The king

Thailand celebrates the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch today. The king is loved for his devotion to the welfare and development of his people, as well as his understanding and awareness of political and social issues. The king is the 'guardian of religion' and favourable towards Christians' presence in Thailand. (Joseph and Edwina Charles, e-mail: jecharles2003@yahoo.com). Lift up in prayer this monarch, asking God for his salvation. Pray also for the salvation of the Thai people.

Sunday 6 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival and advance of the gospel in other parts of the world

In 1900 less than 3% of the people in Africa would call themselves Christians. Today, 110 years later, more than 50% of all people in Africa call themselves Christians. Many revivals broke out in Africa through the last 100 years; in 1953 in the Congo and amongst the Ovambo people in Namibia. There was the east Africa revival that continued for nearly 50 years, starting in the 1930s, and covered mainly Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, also affecting other nations like Britain and Indonesia. In 1950 only 0.02% of the population of Ethiopia were Protestant Christians. Today 19% are Protestant Christians, about 13 million, and there are over 31,000 churches. In 1960 only about 5% of southern Sudan was Christian. Today the figure is close to 25%. In southern Sudan an estimated 70% of the people are Christians. The number of Christians in India doubled in the last ten years. Right now the Church of Jesus Christ has one of the greatest opportunities in the history of the Church to reach out to 270 million Dalit in India. The Dalit or outcasts, the lowest caste in Hinduism, is busy leaving Hinduism, looking for a 'god' that will love them, give them dignity, grace and acceptance. Most of them say they find that in Christianity. Thousands of these people are coming to Christ daily. The church leaders in India say it is not mass conversion, it is massive conversion. There are simply not enough church planters, pastors, Bibles, books and training available to keep up with the need. In the early 1980s there were only 75 known Nepali Believers and just over 52 (major) unreached people groups. Most of those people groups have churches now. Today there are an estimated 500,000 Believers with some 6,000 churches and house fellowships. More Jews have embraced Jesus/Yeshua as Messiah since 1967 than in all the years between 100 AD and 1967.

The Church of the future: lessons from history

Article by Jurgens Hendriks (shortened)

The preacher wrote in **Ecclesiastes 3:15**: *Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.* There are basic patterns in history that help one gain perspective. From the Old Testament you will recall the 40-year cycles: prosperity and blessing, then a process of degeneration, of a fake religion and external ritual, disobedience; then warnings and eventually ruin (**Deut.8, Judges to Chronicles**). If what the preacher says in **Ecclesiastes** is true, then the secret of the Church of the future can be found in the past. This is ultimately what I want to do.

In his book *The rise of Christianity*, the sociology of religion scholar Rodney Stark (1997: 6-7) discusses the reasons for the Church's remarkable growth between the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the year 350 A.D. From its approximate 7,000 persecuted Believers in the time of **Acts 2**, the Church grew 40%

per decade over 300 years, until they numbered approximately 33 million of the total population of 56 million in the Roman Empire ... 33 million out of 56 million!

Stark says the secret for the growth of the Christian church lay in the social networks and intimate interpersonal relationships and loyalties that they had formed, without becoming exclusive and closing their ranks. Their loyalties to Jesus Christ surpassed all other loyalties (Stark 1997: 3-27).

- 1. *The Christians lived differently to the world.*** The evangelical method of the early Church, their mission work, was not done by special preachers, mission organisations or evangelical expeditions. It was simply the testimony that the many small home congregations transmitted (Meeks 1983:77). Their love for each other and for others, their disposition and relationships were based on an entirely different ethos than that of the world around them.
- 2. *Christians cared for each other and for others out of love.*** In the period of 300 years, there were two unbelievably great epidemics in the Roman Empire. From 165 to 180 A.D., approximately a quarter to a third of the population of the Roman Empire, sometimes up to 5,000 people, died per day. During this period, the Christian survival rate was much better than any other group because they cared for each other and for the sick. After each epidemic, the percentage of Christians, as part of the total population, was much higher and large numbers of people joined the congregations. For the Church in Africa, there is no greater opportunity for testimony than the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- 3. *Christians arranged their marital and family lives according to Biblical principles.*** The sexual morality of the Roman Empire, particularly in and around Rome, the large cities and among the elite, was rife with perversity. Homosexuality, abortion, prostitution and the concomitant marital and family degeneration was shocking. Abortion was so common that infant corpses were one of the causes for the blockages of the sewage systems. In the Roman Empire, despite all the wars, there were 100 women to 131 to 140 men, because so many baby girls had been killed after birth. In the Christian faith communities, people helped to establish a stable marital and family life. This had two consequences: the Christians had a much higher birth rate than the rest of the population and, in Christian congregations there were always more women available for marriage.
- 4. *The Christians strongly condemned racism and classism.*** The Roman Empire globalised because of political, economic and social reasons. The marital and family degeneration, as well as the epidemics, caused the implosion of the populations in parts of Italy. Consequently, people from over the known world of that time had to be lured with incentives to key areas. This resulted in people of all races, nations and languages living in all the large cities. Thus, the potential for cultural and racial conflict was high. Differences in status are common in all communities, and the Roman Empire was no exception. The early Christian congregations addressed these issues with passion.
- 5. *Christians were trustworthy and hardworking – one could rely on them.*** I was truly surprised to discover how often the New Testament letters mention this. Christians were reliable, honest and hardworking. They were sought after in society at large. Ultimately, in 313, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, exempted the Christian religion from all forms of persecution (Stark 1997:11) and he also accepted this faith. His motive: it is impossible to rule an empire without reliable people, and Christians were reliable people. He wanted to benefit their case, because they would benefit his case.

The statistics indicate how today's established churches are losing their market share, how they are declining and dying. The statistics also indicate two other tendencies: One, the birth process of a whole series of churches that contextualise in the new time. Secondly: the Independent African Churches that joyfully contextualise in the rich African culture and form. The Church will always have a future. This I believe, because I believe in the resurrected Lord Jesus who received all power in heaven and on earth. The Church of the future follows Him on his crucifixion road, which, paradoxically, is both a way of suffering and a way of victory.

Monday 7 December 2009

Salvation focus: Receptionists

They answer the phones at big companies, help you at the entrance of buildings and receive you at the dentist, doctor, attorney etc. Often they have to face difficult customers who seem to have no manners at all. Please pray for receptionists at work everywhere in our country. Ask that they will have opportunities to really also encounter Christ from the lives of Believers crossing their path. Pray for them to be open and receptive to words of love and encouragement to follow God.

Focus on stewardship: 7 -18 December 2009 - Conference on global-warming and climate change

The conference in Copenhagen is the 15th conference of parties (COP15) in Framework Convention on Climate Change. The recent meeting in United Nations Climate Change Conferences was held in December 2007 in Bali. The conference in Copenhagen 2009, attended by representatives from 170 countries, starts today. The focus is to re-think for implementation worldwide strategies. Of these windmills to produce climate friendly electricity would be one. (Website: <http://www.erantis.com/events/denmark/copenhagen/climate-conference-2009/index.htm>). Please pray for God to reveal to those meeting how to practically steward the environment according to His will and purpose as given to Adam and Eve in Genesis.

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Children in revival

In nearly all revivals, children, aged 4-14, played a major role. A remarkable move of the Spirit took place in 1930 in South India when 100 of 130 boys in a boarding school professed conversion characterised by a brokenness, and conviction of the Holy Spirit. The Christian staff hardly knew how to manage. It was later discovered that for weeks, three boys under 12 years of age had been going into the jungle to plead with God for their fellow students. During the revival in SizaBantu (1966 and onwards), in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, a 4-year-old Zulu boy went from kraal to kraal to preach to adult Zulu men. Strangely enough they listened to him, came under conviction of sin and accepted Christ as Saviour. One of the most remarkable moves of God started in the beginning of the 1990s. All over the world, thousands upon thousands of children became involved in prayer, interceding for their friends and family, the unsaved, their communities and the unreached nations. Since 1989 for example, Father Anton Cruz took children from the rubbish dumps (the lowest in the caste system in India), educated them and taught them to pray. During the past two decades the number of children grew to about 8,000. Signs, wonders and conversions regularly take place when they pray. Something similar is starting to happen in an informal settlement called Orange Farms, just outside Johannesburg in South Africa. A pastor started to teach and mobilise children to pray for their community. Within two years the number of kids involved grew to over 4,000. As they pray for their community, changes begin to take place. Families are healed and restored, parents are converted and different prominent evils (e.g. childrape) in the community are decreasing.

Morality focus: Sex shops

Two Southern communities in America are demonstrating what people can do to shield themselves from sexually oriented businesses. Rules on sex shops are tightened by limiting the amount of pornographic material they can own. (Website: <http://www.citizenlink.org/CLNews/A000009223.cfm>). Continue to pray about this industry, that many individuals will be set free from the bondages and addiction to pornography; that these shops will close down due to lack of interest as whole communities turn their lives over to Christ.

Wednesday 9 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The place of young people in the revival in Wales, 1904

Young people played a major role in the revival in Wales in 1904. One evening in the spring of 1903, four young men, eighteen years of age, were found on the mountain having a prayer meeting. They had been doing so every night for several months, with one objective: To pray for revival. Soon the news became public and the whole

Church was moved by the thought that her condition was intensely felt by those who were so young. Soon others joined them and as the numbers increased, so did the fervour. The whole Church was touched and all swept up into a vision for revival and passion for souls. It was not long before the whole neighbourhood was passionate and every church in town commenced revival prayer meetings. On Sundays as many as six meetings would be held in one church alone with up to thirty souls coming to know the Lord each Sunday. Eye-witnesses testified that it was an unforgettable experience. It was a time of unspeakable joy. For six months they continued in prayer every night with such joy and expectancy until they were submerged with the overflow of the general revival which flowed across Wales. (*Rent Heavens; R.B. Jones, pp. 51-52; The Awakening in Wales, Jessie Penn-Lewis*).

Missions focus: Pro-Christo joins Operation Mobilization (OM)

Pro-Christo Global Missions in Southern Africa merged with *OM*, joining forces to mobilise the Church in that area to bring the gospel to the unreached peoples of Southern Africa and the rest of the world. The ministry has approximately 130 African missionaries serving in Malawi, Tanzania, Botswana and Zambia. With the addition of *Pro-Christo*, *OM* in Southern Africa has now grown by 130 workers. Please pray for the transition of *Pro-Christo* and *OM* in Southern Africa as they merge. Pray for all the practical details involved and also much grace for all personnel. Ask for the wisdom of the leaders as more opportunities are created for ministry in Southern Africa. (*Global Prayer Ministries, OM USA. Website: www.omusa.org or e-mail: info@usa.om.org*).

Thursday 10 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The "Jonathan Edwards revival" in the colonies in 1734 (I)

The *First Great Awakening*, referring to the first 'worldwide' revival, started more or less in 1734 in what was known in those days as the colonies. In America the *First Great Awakening* is always mentioned together with preacher and theologian Jonathan Edwards. There was a marked decline in the religious life of the community where Edwards was the minister. Morality was deteriorating amongst the young people. Parties went late into the night and many sinful things were taking place. Jonathan Edwards gave himself to prayer and forceful preaching of the Word for eight years. Then suddenly the fire fell. Conversions began to take place throughout the town. One of the first was a young girl without any concern for eternity or her soul and also an enthusiastic party-goer. She became humble, was totally transformed and people were amazed at the change in her life. The news of this conversion spread like wildfire. Conviction of sin started to pierce hearts and lead to the conversion of multitudes of people. By early 1735 Northampton was literally saturated with the presence of God. In nearly every house parents rejoiced over their children. In churches many tears flowed as people were convicted of sin, followed by wonderful joy when they understood that their sins were forgiven and that they had received the gift of eternal life. The Bible was the 'new book'. Taverns were emptied and people spoke about God in the streets.

Salvation focus: Sila people of Vietnam

Approximately 700 Sila live within Vietnam's borders, while more than 19,000 live in Laos. Life is hard for the Sila in northwest Vietnam with a maximum life expectancy of about 40 years. Sila houses contain four rooms and the ancestral altar is the most important part of the home. Pray that God will send workers to this harvest soon to tell them about Him. Pray that they may come to have a clear understanding of who Jesus Christ is, and of His love for them. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org*).

Friday 11 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The "Jonathan Edwards revival" in the colonies (USA) and the sermon "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" (II)

Months before the revival started in Enfield, Edwards composed his now famous sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God". He first applied every sentence of the sermon to himself. Broken and humbled, he entered the pulpit in Enfield, New England in 1741. With a lantern in one hand and the sermon in the other hand, he started to read the sermon in his usual undemonstrative manner. When people entered the house of God that day, they were apathetic, their faces expressionless. They had come to church simply because it was tradition to do so.

Some people were gossiping and barely conducted themselves with common decency. As Edwards began to read his sermon, the people became solemn and soon the whole assembly began to bow their heads in awful conviction of their sin and danger. There was such a breathing of distress and weeping that Edwards was obliged to speak to the people and request silence so that he might be heard, but it was impossible. The Word of God was having such a powerful effect on the whole congregation that many of the hearers were seen unconsciously holding themselves up against the pillars and the pews, crying: "I am slipping into hell! Save me, O save me." (*In the Day of Thy Power*, Arthur Wallis).

Reconciliation focus: *Mercy Ministries SA (MMSA)*

The vision of *MMSA* is to see people reconciled and living Biblical truths according to God's original purpose, resulting in healed and transformed communities where unity and peace prevail. Thank the Father for many people who were healed during 2009 from all kinds of pain and hurt of the past, for reconciliation between people from different ethnic groups, and for His strategy to have meaningful follow-up sessions. Pray that He will send people from all groups in SA to have representative teams at workshops. (*Mercy Ministries SA*. P.O. Box 2148, Rensburg, 1439. Tel. 079 516 5428 or fax: 086 647 1522. Website: www.mercy.givengain.org or e-mail: mercyminsa@lantic.net).

Saturday 12 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The Cambuslang revival (1)

In 1741 Scotland was hit by severe windstorms, famine and fires. A drought followed in 1742 in which about 2,000 people starved to death. Cambuslang (southeast of Glasgow) was a small town with about 4,000 residents. The spiritual climate was cold and dead. Prayer groups (called 'prayer societies') stopped meeting. There was absolutely no sign of revival or any kind of spiritual life in the community. The congregation sank deeper and deeper into a quagmire of sin, spiritual death and apathy. The local pastor, William M'Culloch, was a man of God. He was not a very good preacher, but he was a man of prayer. M'Culloch was given information about a revival under the ministry of Jonathan Edwards, and longed for the same spiritual awakening to take place in Cambuslang. With renewed passion he started reading to his congregation the accounts of what God was doing in the USA and then led his people in prayer for Scotland. The number of prayer meetings started to increase and more and more people attended the prayer meetings. A small stream of conversions started flowing. The Sunday church meetings began to overflow. During 1741 the well-known minister, George Whitefield, held services in Cambuslang for 5 consecutive days. Due to the extreme circumstances in the country, many were deeply touched by God's Word. In January 1742 two congregants took a petition through the town, requesting the minister to start having mid-week services. M'Culloch also started printing a prayer guide to enable the congregation to pray in unity for the same situations. These focused prayers were called 'concerts of prayer'. Within a few days the hunger for God and His Word increased so dramatically that M'Culloch needed to have services every day of the week. Within 2 months, 300 people could testify of salvation. The church was packed, there were services every night of the week, and people from other towns started paying attention to what God was doing. They came to listen and watch and their hearts were touched. Some services continued right through the night. Other ministers in the area had to come to Cambuslang to help M'Culloch, and through them the revival spread quickly to the Scottish lowlands.

Focus on Israel: Hanukkah

Hanukkah (meaning 'dedication') is a feast Jesus celebrated (**John 10:20**) and it falls on 12-19 December this year (2009). It commemorates the victory of a handful of Israelis 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 cleaned and rededicated. Pray for the people of Israel and Jews worldwide during this feast. Pray 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.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Sunday 13 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The Cambuslang revival (II)

By July 1742 this revival had taken on enormous proportions. George Whitefield was asked to return and conduct more services in Scotland. Everywhere people called on God. Groups often prayed through the night. Gradually hundreds of the prayer societies (small prayer groups) were planted all over Scotland. Young people started praying with passion, and thousands of salvations followed. In July 1742 Whitefield preached to crowds of up to 20,000 people in Cambuslang. (Keep in mind that the population of the town was only 4,000!) Multitudes came under conviction and would fall on the ground, weeping and confessing their sins. Whitefield returned in August for more services. About 30,000 arrived daily for his meetings. Whitefield wrote of these meetings: "Such a thing I have never witnessed before. The power of God was present from one end of the crowd to the other like lightning flashing from one end to the other; you might have seen thousands bathed in tears, some wringing their hands, others almost swooning, and others crying out and mourning over a crucified Saviour." During October 1742, John Erskine wrote that the Cambuslang revival was only the first fruits of greater things to come. Many people called Cambuslang the "small cloud" of **1 Kings 18:44**. They expected a greater outpouring, and it came. In 1744 a number of ministers met and decided to implement the Cambuslang prayer model across the nation. The entire nation was organised, co-ordinated and mobilised in a giant prayer movement. They believed this would ensure the greatest impact. The prayer groups were asked to meet at least once a week, and for all the groups to congregate in a large church at least once every quarter for prayer (meeting together as churches). They focused on two things in prayer: a) Revival in the Church of Jesus Christ, and b) the extension of the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth. (*George Whitefield* by Arnold Dallimore; *The Power of Extraordinary Prayer*, Robert O. Bakke, 2000; *Breath of Heaven*, Ken Terhoven)

Monday 14 December 2009

Salvation focus: Newspaper sellers

They are out from before 6am in the morning at every street corner in our country, or on a bicycle busy delivering the newspaper of the day. Many add to their income in this way, and for many others it is their only income for the day. Please pray for every person who sells or delivers newspapers; that they will have opportunities to encounter Jesus in the lives of others. Ask that they will come to know God very personally and that they will trust Him wholeheartedly with their lives.

Salvation focus: Bedik people of Senegal

They live in caves, far from Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Members of Bedik secret societies make and wear elaborately decorated masks for ceremonies that they believe will bless their harvests. The Bediks are Animists who worship nature spirits, but they are aware of the existence of Islam, the main religion of the neighboring Fulbe people groups. Ask God to send faithful workers to reach out to the Bedik people group. A few Bediks have been won for the Lord in recent years. Pray that they will be trained and empowered to give the message of salvation to their people group. Ask that these Believers will be an economic as well as a spiritual blessing to the Bedik people. (*Global Prayer Digest*. E-mail: GPDMOD@wciu.edu).

International issue: How to pray when natural disaster strikes

If you have not experienced it yourself, it is pretty impossible to imagine what goes through the hearts and minds of people facing a sudden natural disaster. The number of natural disasters worldwide is more frequent than ever before. How do we pray about disasters and for those in need? The following are a few guidelines on how to pray for victims of a natural disaster whether it be a flood, fire, earthquake, mudslide, tsunami, etc. Disasters can be

critical spiritual turning points for people. Some may turn to God while others might turn away from Him completely, and this is why we must pray in great earnest into such situations.

Pray for the Church:

- ✚ For Believers everywhere to consciously and practically prepare themselves to be ready, should any disaster have a direct influence on them, their loved ones or their community.
- ✚ That they will have such an intimate and established relationship with the Lord that they will not feel overwhelmed, but have a clear understanding of exactly what to do to help and support others in need.
- ✚ For churches to consider strategies to manage in times of disaster as part of normal ministry, as well as to prepare their congregation on how to minister to and help people both practically and spiritually in such a situation.

Ongoing prayer strategy:

Pray for Believers to acquire a greater awareness of where in the world disaster has struck and to pray focused and effective prayers into such situations, keeping themselves updated on the progress made and new needs of people as they arise.

Practical prayer for issues on ground level:

- ✚ Pray especially for victims who lost a loved one to be able to find rest and comfort in God. Ask that non-Christians will be able to meet someone who can share the gospel with them, and that they will be really open and receptive.
- ✚ Pray for those who have lost a home, possessions and because of destruction, their job.
- ✚ Ask for God's grace upon communities, that strong Believers will arise and play a significant role in portraying God's hope for the future and encourage people to stand together in rebuilding their communities.
- ✚ Pray for sufficient medical supplies and personnel to be deployed to disaster areas within a very short while and for as long as it is necessary.
- ✚ Pray for search companies, for God's guidance to find people trapped under rubble, mud, etc. and to be able to safely and quickly remove them from difficult situations.
- ✚ Ask for the quick arrival and effective distribution of food and clean water to disaster victims. Pray that food and water will be provided for as long as necessary.
- ✚ Pray for God's grace and protection against any outbreak of viruses or sickness among people, animals or crops just after a disaster. Ask that suitable cures for such tendencies will be developed and be ready for application in every situation.
- ✚ Pray for the necessary financial aid towards a disaster-struck area for the rebuilding of infrastructure and livelihood.

Pray for Spiritual work done in a disaster area:

- ✚ Ask for opportunities for aid workers and Believers who might be victims themselves, to encourage, befriend and share the hope of Jesus Christ with disaster victims.
- ✚ Ask for the corporate local church in a specific disaster area to take up responsibility in helping, feeding and teaching people amidst the situation.
- ✚ If there are no active prayer groups going, pray for prayer groups to be established right after disaster strikes. Also that these groups will grow as people gather before the Lord to cry out to Him for help and the salvation of the people in their community.
- ✚ Pray for the Church worldwide to become more visibly involved in the long-term assistance of people who suffered natural disasters.

Tuesday 15 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival in Hermassburg, Germany, reaches the ends of the earth (1844-1846)

Louis Harms was appointed assistant pastor in Hermassburg, Germany, in 1844. His preaching focused strongly on righteousness through faith, and systematic house visits. Soon a spiritual revival started and the church became too small for all those who came to seek deliverance and a deeper relationship with God. People even gave up their cultural practices which were un-Biblical. Another consequence was that a passion for reaching the lost was sparked not only in Germany, but also in Africa. A Bible School was established to train and send out missionaries worldwide. A prophecy was brought in the church that the light of the gospel would go out in Europe, but that missionaries from Africa would bring it back to Europe. So the community built a ship and sent missionaries to Africa who eventually settled in Northern KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. That is how the Hermassburg mission started in 1854 in Natal. It also spread to Australia, India and the USA. This prophecy is also being fulfilled in our day. In the late 1960s a revival started in Northern Natal on the KwaSiza-Bantu mission's base, and thousands of Zulus came to the Lord. Teams of these converts went back to Germany and brought the gospel there with great fruit. Currently many churches are planted every year in Europe by people from Africa. Actually some of the largest European churches are those being planted by Christians from Africa.

Bible translation focus: Translating the Bible into sign languages

Praise God for the *Translating the Bible into Sign Languages* workshop held recently in the UK. Over 70 attended, including 31 deaf participants. Pray that as deaf team members take new ideas back to their countries, others will be envisioned. Pray that God will guide them as they continue, or in some cases begin the work of translating the Bible for the deaf in their communities. Ask for God's provision for qualified deaf presenters* for the next conference in 2011. *A deaf person (physically deaf and using sign language as preferred means of communication) who has sufficient experience in linguistics or translation of the Bible into sign language and is a good presenter. (Jan Crowell, Editor, Prayer Coordinator, *Wycliffe International*, e-mail: jan_crowell@wycliffe.net).

Wednesday 16 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival in Prisoners of War Concentration camps (1899-1902)

During the Anglo-Boer war in South Africa (1899-1902), many South African soldiers were sent to 'prisoner of war' concentration camps. One such camp at Fort Amednagar in India received 1,000 prisoners from South Africa. A reverend from South Africa started a series of meetings in the camp. Suddenly hundreds of young men became converted. Many of these young men were trained as missionaries after the war. The same happened in the camps at Bhimtal and Shahjanhapur (India) and Ceylon. In Shahjanhapur there were 2,000 prisoners. One night, after a bitter quarrel between two prisoners, they got together and were reconciled. They started to pray for the camp and the salvation of people. In a very short time about 1,000 people came to the prayer meetings every evening. There were large numbers of conversions. Revival accounts were also received from St Helena and Bermuda where large numbers of prisoners were sent. Nearly always the story was the same: the ministers that went with these prisoners started to preach the Word very powerfully, prayer groups started, large numbers of young men got converted and eventually significant numbers of these prisoners became missionaries after the war. (*Die wonder van herlewing, M.W. Retief, pp.77-89, 1976*)

Day of Reconciliation

Today is celebrated as a day of reconciliation in South Africa, focusing on overcoming the conflicts of the past. Many people from different languages and tribes will gather for celebrations today. Please pray that God will pour out His Spirit upon all people in South Africa, so that above all else, each will have a revelation of the reconciliation with our heavenly Father, which Jesus Christ made possible for us. Ask that unconditional forgiveness will enter into the hearts of people of every tribe in our country towards each other and that many will turn their hearts to follow God.

Thursday 17 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival through the fires of persecution in Uganda in the 1970s and 1980s (I)

When Idi Amin came into power in Uganda in the 1970s, it became a very dark place – a country of shame, hopelessness, fear and terror, with immense suffering. In 1973 all churches were banned and the country was declared an Islamic state. Christians were persecuted and churches closed down. The Christians started house prayer meetings. The police and military cracked down on these meetings and more persecution followed. Then the Christians went into the forests to pray. They spent whole nights in prayer and went to work during the day. They were hunted down by the police. But they went still deeper into the forests. Many left their homes and went into 'exile' into the forests, some for up to two years. They simply prayed till the government of Idi Amin was overthrown. Revival broke out in the churches. They were crying, weeping and some came back after two years, physically disabled because of their intense times of intercession, but with the glory of the Lord on their faces. Revival spread countrywide.

Prayer focus: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for all staff members of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network*. Pray specifically for their physical health and safety from disease, calamity and spiritual oppression. Pray that God will open new doors to promote prayer as a lifestyle in different spheres of life, inspiring ordinary people to cry out to God. Continue to pray with us that prayer material does not get lost in the post, especially 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 or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Friday 18 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival through the fires of persecution in Uganda in the 1970s and 1980s (II)

Two or three years of peace followed after revival in Uganda, peace without prayer. The church stopped praying and all the previous problems started again. Here and there people were being killed and robberies increased. It started slowly. Christians talked about all these things, but they didn't pray about the situation. Then persecution broke out again under the rule of Milton Obutu, Idi Amin's successor. Under his rule things were worse than in the time of Amin. Whole villages were massacred and set on fire. Women were being stopped everywhere and their babies killed because they didn't have identity cards. Pregnant women were cut open and the unborn babies were pulled out. Christians were being killed and tortured. Some were never seen again. Then a student from the university had a week of evangelistic meetings in the city square, also addressing the injustices in the nation, fearlessly bringing God's message to the people. By the end of the week the police simply shot him in front of everyone. The Church was alarmed and that night some 10,000 came together, crying out to God to help them. One old pastor got up to walk to the pulpit when a young man cried out, "Pastor, where is the Almighty God that you preached about all these years? Where is the God of Elijah?" No one could preach because of the wailing, crying and sighs of the people. A decision was made: back to the forests and back to prayer. Women were praying during the day and men prayed after they finished their day's work. Then God sent revival. The police came into the prayer meetings to arrest the leaders of these meetings, but when they entered the churches it was as if they stepped into another realm, moving through a veil into the presence of God. They would lay down their weapons and accept Christ as Saviour. People just came from all over to the churches. Nobody invited them and there was no advertising. They simply came and surrendered their lives to Christ. This time they prayed for one year and Obutu's rule was overthrown. After a few years of peace and revival, the church once more stopped praying... (*An eye witness account given by John Mulinde in 1998*)

Health focus: HIV/AIDS in Swaziland

The population of Swaziland currently stands at 947,000 of which 95,000 are AIDS orphans. It is estimated that, by 2015, the population will have gone down to 800,000 and the number of AIDS orphans will have risen to 250,000. If this continues, it is estimated that the whole population of Swaziland will have been wiped out by 2040. (*Petra College News 2008:2, p3. Becky Barends, Training Team Leader, OM, South Africa. Website:*

www.omsa.org.za). Let us cry out to the Lord for a turn of events in this nation. Please pray that God will send workers to this harvest who will bring the gospel in a way that will turn the hearts and lives of the people to follow Jesus Christ and for this nation to be healed.

Saturday 19 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The beginning of the 1949 revival in the Hebrides, on the island Lewis (I)

Several months before revival broke out in the Hebrides, people were praying, and the numbers increased. In some of the towns the lights were put out later and later and lit again earlier and earlier as people spent more time in prayer. Minister James Murray MacKay and a few Believers made a solemn covenant with God to pray for revival and for people to come into the fullness of salvation and His glory. They prayed three nights a week, right through the night. In the first month nothing happened. Then one night seven men were together praying in a barn. One stood up and read from **Psalm 24:3-4**: *Who will ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and pure heart.* Then he said, "I think it is humbug if we pray for revival and live with sin in our own hearts." Immediately all seven of them were on their faces, on the ground. They understood that there could not be revival without holiness. Somehow at that moment God's power was let loose in the community – no one could explain it, but they all knew it was there. Something changed in the spiritual realm. Two old ladies, Peggy Smith, 84 and basically blind, and her sister Christine, 82 and bent double by arthritis were also praying three nights a week. Precisely the same night that the seven men had the breakthrough in the barn, God met with them in their cottage and by 05h00 in the morning they saw in a vision churches filled with people. They called on the pastor, told him what had happened and told him to send a telegram to Duncan Campbell to come and conduct a series of meetings for 10 days. The pastor did so, but Duncan Campbell said he could not come right away but would do so in six months' time. When the pastor brought the telegram to Peggy Smith, she simply said, "This is what a man said, but God said something different to me. He will be here within a fortnight. Send him another telegram." Within ten days Duncan Campbell was on the island of Lewis. He started to preach immediately and revival broke out in Barvas. (*Duncan Campbell, a biography, Andrew Woolsey, chapter 8*)

Word focus: Precept Ministries S.A.

Precept Ministries is a ministry that has been raised up by God to equip people in studying His Word. *Precept Ministries SA* wants to provide opportunities for troubled and poor African nations (spiritually and otherwise) with inductive Bible study resources. Please pray for doors to open continuously to make this mission possible. (*Precept Ministries S.A. P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836. E-mail: info@precept.org.za*).

Sunday 20 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The beginning of the 1949 revival in the Hebrides, on the island of Lewis (II)

When Duncan Campbell arrived in 1949 on the island of Lewis, he immediately went to give a short message to 300 people waiting for him in the local church. A young deacon stood in the isle in the church and started to pray: "Lord, you are a covenant-keeping God, You dare not deny us." Suddenly there was a loud cry from this young man. People were pouring into the church and at midnight there were about 600-700. It was quite simply the power of God that drew them. Some young people were at a dance in a place not far from the church. Suddenly the music stopped and somehow they all went to the church. People even sat on the steps of the pulpit! Duncan Campbell began to preach but stopped after ten minutes as he couldn't hear his own voice in the midst of people's sobs and cries for mercy and confession of sins. The next morning 200-300 people spontaneously gathered at the local police station, deeply distressed about their sins. Women were found behind a pig sty, confessing their sins and making their lives right with God. People were found praying at the roadside, under deep conviction of sin. These were mostly young people. This continued for about five weeks. Four things marked this revival: deep conviction of sin, a consciousness of man's need for salvation, preaching that called people to repentance and didn't mince words, calling sin by its name, and an extraordinary, tangible sense of God's presence.

Monday 21 December 2009

Salvation focus: Petrol station workers

It sometimes seems as if they never go home, they are always at their post, especially at 24-7 petrol stations. They often travel a number of hours to get to their job on time and seldom have quality time with their families. They are always friendly and always help you with everything you need. Pray for every person working at a petrol station to find the Lord Jesus in a very personal way, to grow spiritually and develop a hunger for the Word of God. Remember to minister the love of Jesus to them at every opportunity. Enquire from one of them about his personal needs – pray for him and offer help as God leads you.

Morality focus: China shuts down porn sites

China has extended a crackdown on electronic porn to the country's cell phones, after shutting down 1,250 websites because of their explicit content. Over 40 people have been detained for spreading porn on the Internet, and over 3 million "items of online information" have been deleted. (Website: http://www.news24.com/Content/SciTech/News/1132/5a99cf54f15f4a76810fe14c44546f9e/21-01-2009-10-32/China_shuts_down_porn_sites). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers concerning pornography on the Internet. Continue to pray for those addicted to pornography, to realise and admit their addiction and get help. Ask that they will find Jesus Christ as the one who can set them free.

Tuesday 22 December 2009

Revival testimonies: Revival in the Hebrides (III)

Duncan Campbell went to the village of Arnol to preach, but many of the people remained untouched and careless. He then called for a night of prayer in an old farmhouse. Some 30-40 people came. At about midnight John stood up and started to pray. Then he stopped in the middle of his prayer and said, "O God, You made a promise to pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground, and Lord, it is not happening." Then, after some silence, he cried out, "O God, Your name is at stake, and I now challenge You to fulfil Your covenant engagement and do what You have promised to do!" At that very moment the house shook, dishes even rattled in the kitchen and waves of God's power swept over them. Some of them thought it was an earthquake. A second wave of revival came to the small island of Berneray. One night while preaching in a certain place, Duncan Campbell felt much spiritual resistance. He stopped and asked a young man to pray. He referred to **Revelation 4:1** in his prayer (which speaks of a door that is standing open in heaven). Then he started weeping. The next moment God's presence swept over the congregation and many fell prostrate on their faces, crying and sobbing, asking God for mercy.

Salvation focus: Ngai people of Vietnam

The Ngai minority group is one of the smallest officially recognised by the Vietnamese authorities, numbering about 1,500. Their chief location is on the island and coastal regions of Quang Ninh Province in the north. The majority live on small boats. They worship the goddess of fishermen and honour the spirits of the fish, whale and sea-dragon. There is no Scripture available in their language and no known Christian communities among them. Pray for openness to the gospel among the Ngai and that any contact Christians have with them will be characterised by the love of Jesus. Also ask for Scripture to become available in their language soon. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Wednesday 23 December 2009

Revival testimonies: John Hyde and the Sialkot revival in India (1904-1910) (I)

God always use people as His instruments in revival. Sometimes He uses preachers more prominently, other times intercessors. John Hyde is known as one of the most remarkable prayer warriors in the history of the Church. He was deeply involved in India during the decade of revival (1904-1910) that was experienced in many nations around the world. In the Punjab (today part of Pakistan) where John Hyde worked, the first stirring of

revival (Sialkot revival) started in 1904. Pastors, leaders and church members were encouraged to sign a form where they agreed to consider the following five questions: (1) Are you praying for a quickening in your own life, in the life of your fellow workers and in the Church? (2) Are you longing for greater power of the Holy Spirit in your own life and work, and are you convinced that you cannot go on without this power? (3) Will you pray that you may not be ashamed of Jesus? (4) Do you believe that prayer is the great means for securing this spiritual awakening? (5) Will you set apart half an hour each day as soon as possible after noon to pray for this awakening, and are you willing to pray till the awakening comes?

Focus on children: North Korea

Countless North Korean children have been orphaned; many are enslaved, abused, homeless, starving, sick, or living in dangerous circumstances. Please pray for all North Korean children to be rescued from the powers of darkness and for God to bring about a mighty deliverance so that this entire generation will live, have hope and a future and know His love, and for each of these vulnerable children to be completely healed and blessed through the power of Jesus Christ. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se or Intercessors.Network@Telia.com).

Thursday 24 December 2009

Revival testimonies: John Hyde and the Sialkot revival in India (1904-1910) (II)

John Hyde was part of the *Prayer Union* right from the beginning. This prayer union saw that the field was "white to the harvest" and they began to focus on the unchangeable promises of God in His Word. They believed that to receive this spiritual awakening, they had to pray for it. While hundreds were praying for an awakening, three men among them set themselves apart for extraordinary and extended times of prayer. For 30 days, night and day, these men waited on God in the days before the Sialkot Convention. When the convention started, there was deep conviction of sin, honest confession of sin, and many found new freedom from sin. During the spring of 1905 the *Prayer Union* met again and renewed their pledge to pray for revival and the next Sialkot Convention that would take place in the fall of that year. During that convention John Hyde was in the prayer room almost night and day. One night during the convention, those in the prayer room were filled with unspeakable joy. When John Hyde went into the hall to preach he could only utter the following words, three times in Urdu and three times in English: "*Ai Asmani Bak*", (O Heavenly Father). It was as if a great ocean came sweeping into that assembly; God's love being poured out through one man's obedience. There were confessions of sin with tears that soon changed to joy and then to shouts of rejoicing. Some went to bed early, some prayed for hours; some prayed all night long, some went into the prayer room. Some prayed, some praised, some sat praying, some kneeled, some lay prostrate before God, just as the Spirit led them. In this way the revival spread in the Punjab and wider.

Salvation focus: Yao people of Vietnam

The Yao originated in China, where more than two million still reside. About 550,000 Yao live in the high mountains of northern Vietnam. More than 3,000 are confirmed to have come to Christ in Vietnam after hearing gospel radio broadcasts in their language. Pray that God will protect them and work through their lives to bring many more Yao to Him. Ask for more breakthroughs and whole communities to come to Jesus at once. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Friday 25 December 2009

Revival testimonies: John Hyde and the Sialkot revival in India (1904-1910) (III)

During the Sialkot Convention of 1908, John Hyde asked the Lord to give him one soul a day for the next year. During the next year he saw more than 400 people come to God. During the 1909 convention he laid hold of God and asked Him for two souls per day. God granted him his request. And during the 1910 convention he wrestled with God till he had the assurance that God would give him four souls per day. The people who knew him and saw his life, testified to the cost involved in praying for the salvation of these souls, for the awakening to continue and spread, for the lives of the pastors and leaders and for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the Punjab.

Here we see a revival birthed in prayer and sustained in prayer. We see the influence of the prayer life of one man that knew how to lay hold of God and the effect it has if someone is willing to wrestle with God and persevere till the breakthrough is there – and then continue in prayer and not stop when the first breakthrough is experienced.

Christmas day: The Word became flesh

Today most Christians in the Western world will celebrate Christmas Day. Let us declare the plan and purpose of God the Father through His Son for every tribe, tongue, nation and people, in South Africa and the rest of the world. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Word of God, He is the creator of all things, He is life and He is light. Lord Jesus Christ, we declare today that You are the Living Word of God, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life (**John 14:16**). Heavenly Father, we pray that today many people will realise the miracle of the Word that became flesh. We specially ask for the salvation of those caught up in the different religions of the day to have a personal encounter with You as the light of Your truth shines into their darkness.

Saturday 26 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The effect of small prayer cells (prayer groups, 'prayer societies', home prayer cells, prayer triplets) (I)

Revival never just happens. There is always a time of preparation preceding it, and the preparation always includes prayer. Dr. James Edwin Orr, a renowned scholar of revival, said that basically every revival can be traced back to anything from one to 8-10 people starting to pray for revival. Throughout history small prayer groups proved to be one of the best, simplest and effective strategies to bring renewal and revival in the Church. The following are a few examples of the use of prayer groups through the past 350 years. The use and multiplication of small prayer groups is still the most effective way to saturate towns, cities and a nation with prayer and to mobilise prayer for revival. In **Acts** the early Church gathered and **prayed "from house to house"**. With the mighty outpouring in **1859 in Ulster, Ireland**, there was a steady increase of prayer in the months before revival came. Prayer groups sprang up everywhere. Many of them were amongst the young people. When revival broke out, there were 104 prayer groups in Ulster that were praying for revival. **R.A. Torrey went to Australia in 1905** for a series of meetings. When he came to Melbourne, Australia, there were already 2,100 prayer cells with 20,000 people praying in home prayer meetings. Those meetings had the atmosphere of revival and there was a remarkable harvest. But for 11 years before 1905 a band of ministers and laymen came together on Saturday nights pleading with God for a 'big revival'. Before the worldwide revival in **1904 which started in Wales**, there was a period of 7-8 years where the thrust of prayer began increasing all over the world in dozens of countries. In Wales itself Jessie Penn-Lewis reports that since 1897 there was suddenly an increase in prayer, a hunger for revival and a deep concern about the state of the Church. Especially since 1902 prayer intensified. More churches started to pray: more prayer meetings were established with more people attending the prayer meetings. In the first months of 1903 four young men, only 18 years of age, started to hold a prayer meeting every night for two months on a mountainside. They continued for two months. Dozens of people joined them, resulting in an awakening in their church.

Health focus: UN launches polio drive in West Africa

According to the *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* 53 million children are being targeted by a mass immunisation drive against polio in eight West African countries. More than 162,000 people were mobilised to administer the oral vaccines to under-five-year-olds. The campaign is aimed at stopping the spread of polio following an outbreak in Nigeria that reached into six African countries. Some 844 polio cases were reported in the eight countries in 2008, 95% of them in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. The disease is transmitted via contaminated food, water and faeces. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=31&art_id=nw20090228151052295C775445&newslett=1). Pray for this project to succeed in its purpose, but especially that those running it will be Believers spreading the gospel and showing God's love to children while doing their work.

Sunday 27 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The effect of small prayer cells (prayer groups, 'prayer societies', home prayer cells, prayer triplets) (II)

In 1902 people at the Keswick Convention in Britain (with some 5,000 attending) heard about the home prayer cells in Australia. It sparked a fire. Tired of organising and labouring, people decided to follow the same principle of *home prayer cells, small groups of 2-3* or more coming together to pray for revival in Britain and also for worldwide revival. In about 1680 Philip Jacob Spencer encouraged 'prayer societies', *small prayer groups*, where people could gather for prayer and Bible study. The result of these prayer societies prompted a remarkable surge of ministry. Jonathan Edwards, known as the leader in the 1741 revival in Northampton and New England adopted the concept of *prayer societies or prayer groups*. Already during the decade 1730-1740 *prayer societies* were multiplied throughout many towns and congregations throughout New England. Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf and the influential Moravian prayer and missions movement adopted the concept of *prayer societies* for spreading the gospel message. William Carey, also called the father of modern missions, who did remarkable work as a missionary in India, was deeply affected by the concept of *prayer societies*. The Cambuslang revival in Scotland in 1742 was built on the concept of *prayer societies*. The same method of *multiplying prayer groups* was used in the Netherlands and Germany. John Wesley heard of the concept of *establishing prayer groups* in as many places as possible in communities, and promoted it. In 1989 Brian Mills used the principle of *prayer triplets* (three people in a prayer group, each person praying for three unsaved people) to prepare for the 1989 Billy Graham Crusade in London. More people were saved by means of the *prayer triplets* that were meeting for months before the crusade, than by the people that responded during the crusade itself.

Monday 28 December 2009

Salvation Focus: Restaurant owners

Restaurant owners often suffer losses when there are electricity blackouts, a taxi strike, when personnel steal money or consume food at the owners' expense. Please pray for all restaurant owners, also of fast food restaurants. Ask that those not knowing the Lord will encounter clients who really minister Christ to them in a way that will cause them to consider turning their lives over to God. Pray for their protection from fraud and for God's favour so that they will be able to continue their business and provide jobs for their personnel.

Global health focus: Malaria

Researchers have created the first global map of malaria infection rates in more than 40 years, in an effort to help inform policy and monitor progress in fighting the disease. Researchers used data from nearly 8,000 surveys of how many people were carrying the parasite in their bloodstream in malaria-prone areas in 2007 to map malaria risk. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/world-malaria-map-could-guide-control-policy.html> or <http://www.plosmedicine.org>). Continue to pray for wisdom for researchers and scientists to find a cure and an effective solution for the spreading of malaria soon.

Tuesday 29 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The impact of the 1858-1862 revival in South Africa on the community (I)

Before the 1858-1862 revival, spiritual life was at an all-time low in the established churches and on the mission fields. Religion was very formal, prayer meetings were poorly attended and sin abounded in communities. When the revival came, the community changed. The way people behaved changed and people busied themselves with things that were not part of their lives before the revival. In basically every place where revival broke out, there was deep conviction of sin. Strong men were crying out to God and wept about their sins. Notorious sinners repented and started to follow the Lord. In many places deep anxiety and terrible fear of God were experienced. Large numbers of people got converted in every community. Often people came under deep conviction of sin without attending any church service or anyone speaking to them. In some areas people were unaware of the

revival and suddenly they became concerned about their souls and started to seek God. Extraordinary scenes were witnessed in those days. Heart-rending testimonies of conversion were heard. Visions were seen and troubled dreams dreamt. In some cases people got converted in their own homes, in other cases even behind bushes and rocks, on mountains and in ravines. Men, women, the elderly, children, gentlemen, servants – all were bowing down before the King of kings, crying for mercy. This was not just emotion. The converts from the revival were lasting converts. Very, very few backslided over the next decades.

Thanksgiving focus: *World Mission Centre*

This year marked the 20th birthday of the *World Mission Centre*. We thank the Lord for His goodness, grace, supply, open doors, favour and much more! Thank you for all your prayers, they bore much fruit. (*World Mission Centre*. Tel.: 012 343 1165, cell: 083 300 2567. Website: <http://www.worldmissioncentre.com/> or e-mail: chrissien@liveschoolsa.org). Give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness passed on in this report from *World Mission Centre*. Continue to pray for every individual involved in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ on grass roots level in Africa and other nations.

Wednesday 30 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The impact of the 1858-1862 revival in South Africa on the community (II)

People started in 1858 to attend prayer meetings, often into the early hours of the morning. Joseph Jackson, a Methodist reverend that worked in KwaZulu-Natal testified: "...the Spirit fell upon them in such an overpowering manner that they could not depart, but continued in prayer till the break of day." In Worcester, Montagu, Wellington and Stellenbosch, people prayed at all hours of the day, especially during the nights. A new joy and freedom were present in the lives of the converts and they immediately had a concern for the lost, and started to pray for their salvation. Church attendance grew dramatically. Large numbers of people attended church services, in many cases every day. There was a remarkable unity amongst church leaders and also between Believers in the churches. Financial generosity increased. Everywhere people were talking about God. Even non-Christians were talking about God! In many towns there was an unexplainable presence of God. People got converted daily and were added to the church community. People were not ashamed to testify about their salvation. There was a concern for the lost and an increase of people who wanted to go to the mission field. The most glorious result of the 1860 revival was the post-revival missionary drive that travelled as far as Zambia and Zimbabwe (then known as Rhodesia) to preach the gospel and establish mission stations. The Holy Spirit made Believers aware of their Christian responsibility towards their domestic servants and farm workers and they responded actively by giving liberally for outreach programs. *Per Capita*, South African Christians gave more to missions than any other country in the world during that specific period. Within 10 years, 12 mission stations were established in and beyond the Cape Colony, in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, up to as far as the Sudan.

Thanksgiving focus: Record despite recession

Funding for *United Nations* aid operations worldwide has reached record levels so far this year despite the economic recession. The good news is that despite the global recession, funding from governments has at least been maintained for humanitarian needs, despite the increased needs. Needs have risen substantially since the beginning of the year due to unexpected crises like the displacement in north-western Pakistan. Kenya's needs have also risen due to the combined impact of drought and the growing flow of refugees from neighbouring Somalia. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/worldnews/1813323.htm>). Give thanks to God for providing for practical needs of people in distress. Pray that this money will indeed be applied to the benefit of those in need. Also that people will have opportunities to hear the message of Christ and that they will accept Him as their Saviour and King.

Thursday 31 December 2009

Revival testimonies: The impact of the 1858-1862 revival in South Africa on the community (III)

The conduct of people, not only those of new Believers, changed remarkably. People started to live holy lives. Family relationships were restored. Husbands took up their roles as fathers and the Biblical order was restored in families. There were many testimonies of reconciliation in families. Stories abounded of long-standing quarrels being settled, people living with hatred and unforgiveness being reconciled with their neighbours, families and people in the business community. People from different races were reconciled, they worshipped and prayed together and accepted one another in love. Businessmen stopped unlawful practices and were doing business with honesty and sincerity. Working conditions and the quality of work changed for the better. Juvenile crime and sexual immorality stopped. Drinking and cursing stopped. Slowly the prisons emptied. Criminals got converted. Old debts were paid. This revival touched KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, Free State, Western Cape, and many mission fields up north in the country. It touched isolated communities and bigger towns. People could not escape the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. In Stellenbosch, a church bulletin read: the whole of society has been changed, yes, turned literally upside down!

Salvation focus: Cong people of Vietnam

The Cong speak five different dialects and are known by a host of ethnic names. They live in the extreme northwest province along the Black River, bordering Laos and China. Other speakers of the same language live in Laos and Thailand. Ancestor worship is dominant among them. There are no known Cong Christians. Although there is a significant Christian presence in southern and central Vietnam, very few parts of northern Vietnam have been touched by Christianity. Ask the Lord to send workers into this specific harvest field. Pray the Cong will hear and fully understand the truth about Jesus and put their trust in Him. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Men-2-Pray: Men can say no

(This article is equally applicable to women, but we focus here on men)

Men who live pure and holy lives are urgently needed in our society today. The problem is not really just with non-Christians. Sad to say, it is unfortunately true that so many Christian men live impure lives. The appeal to people to live pure and holy lives is quickly brushed aside, accompanied by reproaches that you are quick to judge, that you are hypocritical, that you should not think you are better than others and also, who are you to judge?

This is however not about one person who judges another. The Scriptures make it very clear that we must live pure and holy lives. When men live pure and holy lives, according to God's standards, it is reflected in their marriages. It makes their families holy, it spills over into the congregation and influences their workplace and ultimately also society. In **1 Thessalonians 4:7** we read: *For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life*. Holiness destroys immorality and impurity. The opposite is also true. Jesus explains in **Mark 7:21-22** what things make us impure: evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

Pure lives lead to the restoration and preservation of marriages, prevent divorce which then drastically reduce the violent influence of divorce on families, and especially children (**Mal.2:16**). A pure life sets a spiritual standard in the community – it makes a choice against the impure things mentioned in **Mark 7:21-22**. And it is when we live like this that peace settles in our hearts, our homes, workplaces and the country. It sets us free and blesses other people. And it starts with men who choose to live pure lives. Men *can* say no to impure relationships. Men are not 'victims' of their urges and of women who tempt them to become involved in impure relationships. Men make their own choices and become impure by getting involved in extramarital and sexually impure relationships, pornographic reading matter, visiting pornographic web pages and watching films showing nudity and sexually provocative scenes. Men can choose not to do impure things like the ones Jesus mentions in **Mark 7:22**.

In our society today we are seeing more and more households devastated by violence, and here we are not referring to violence from outside. The violence is from the inside, and a result of divorce. Malachi 2:16 says that God hates divorce and that it is nothing but violence. If we as Christian men feel strongly about God's Word and want to put an end to the violence resulting from divorce that is destroying our children's lives, we will have to start by obeying God's command to live as holy men.

How do I, a man, achieve a holy life? The following are a few guidelines and thoughts to consider:

- **Confess your sins.** Read **Mark 7:22**, **Galatians 5:19-21** and **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out specific sins to you and write them down. Divide the different time periods in your life into sections: preschool, primary school, high school, after school, university, married life, etc. When you have confessed these sins and put them into writing, destroy the page(s). Plan to spend time to stand before the Lord daily and ask Him to show you the things that have to be confessed. Don't go digging for sins – allow the Holy Spirit to show you. Carry on with this until there is nothing more to confess. Afterwards, before you go to bed you can ask the Lord to point instances out to you where you behaved in an impure way.
- **Choose a lifestyle that keeps you from temptation and sin.** Find one or two people that you can be accountable to. People with whom you can share things in your life, whose help you can ask and who can speak to you when they see things in your life that are impure and not according to the will of God. Make an agreement with at least one person you can trust to ask you on a regular basis if you are still living a pure life in your contact with other women (as far as your conversations go and also what is going on in your thoughts).
- **Be wise.** Don't travel somewhere by car alone with your secretary or another woman (and if it can't be helped, find someone else to go along.) Don't counsel or help other women behind closed doors. Try to put a glass panel in the door in your office so that anyone can at any time see what is going on inside. However, as far as possible try to maintain an open door policy. When the 'guys' start telling dirty jokes that belittle women, leave, or make it clear that it is not acceptable to you (normally it then stops immediately). Don't make remarks to women that can be misunderstood and/or discuss your domestic and emotional problems with another woman. Some of the things mentioned here may seem impractical to you, unheard of and even ridiculous or absurd, and yet they will protect you against a myriad of temptations. It is exactly in these situations that many men have been tempted and have sinned (**Eph.5:15**). Our lives should be examples to those watching us (children and non-Christians) and be of good reputation to the Christian faith.
- **Be pure with things and money.** Reflect before the Lord on your attitude towards money, things in your business that are not 100% in line with the laws of our country or that God could see as fraud or theft, any slander or pride in your heart. Ask the Lord to help you make practical arrangements that will help you avoid every one of these snares.
- **Choose to follow God radically.** Take your Bible and start underlining all the *commands* God gives us and make sure your life is in line with these instructions or commands. Start with the New Testament – it is sure to give you a good foundation.
- **Stand up for who you are in God.** Don't compare yourself with others and reason that this or that person does or does not do a specific thing. Only the Word sets your standards. Nothing else.

(Also see article for teens focusing on social media).

DAY-TO-DAY PRAYER GUIDE – January 2010

Friday 1 January 2010

Prayer for government: Lift up in prayer President Jacob Zuma and Deputy President, Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe, together with their cabinet, to have discernment to make wise decisions from the counsel they receive from members of parliament and other leaders.

Surrender your life to God

It remains vitally important to intentionally surrender our lives to the Lord at the beginning of each year. He graces us with another year, and our time is in His hands. Will you not consider spending time in His presence today? The first commandment, namely to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength remains valid in 2010. There will be numerous temptations to give in to worldly desires. Ask the Lord today to help you this year to walk in uprightness before Him, in holiness and with a pure heart.

Focus on children: The railway children of North India

Serving In Mission (SIM) works among the children who live in the slum areas of North India and who have made the railway lines and stations their homes. Pray for their work to provide intellectual and spiritual education, counselling, medical assistance, feeding programs, and vocational training and discipleship to those who are unable to attend school. (Website: www.sim.org or e-mail: sim.australia@sim.org.au).

Saturday 2 January 2010

Prayer for government: Lift up in prayer Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Petterssen and Deputy Minister, Dr. Pieter Mulder. Pray for this department for understanding and wisdom to successfully manage natural resources.

Word watch: The Bible was written by human beings for human beings through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, revealing God the Father's will and purpose for all of His creation and the restoration thereof through His Son Jesus Christ on Golgotha. It is through the written Word of God that millions over the ages have found their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Word petition: Father we ask that the written Word will again be restored in the Church to its original intent.

Word declaration over the Church: The Word of God is the heart of God revealed to all mankind towards their salvation and restoration, their reconciliation with God the Father through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 3 January 2010

Pray for government: Lift up in prayer Minister of Arts and Culture, Lulu Xingwana and Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashatile. Ask that this department will enjoy God's favour and insight in order to influence and take wise decisions that would benefit this industry.

Word watch: The fear of the Lord (true religion and godliness prescribed in the Word, reigning in the heart, and practised in life) is clean, will make us clean (**John 15:3**) and cleanses our ways (**Ps.119:9**). It endures forever; it is an everlasting commitment and can never be cancelled. Every time the Israelites were told the stories of the exodus from Egypt, they again clearly understood why God was to be feared. The fear of God upon us causes us to respect Him, walk more carefully in our daily lives and watch over what and how we say and do things. We become intensely aware that God's eyes are indeed watching our every deed (**Heb.4:13**), and we learn it from studying God's Word.

Word petition: Father, we ask for the 'fear of the Lord' to return to the heart of the Church. Help us as Your Church to realise you are our Friend, Father and Helper, but not in any way our equal whom we can disrespect, give orders to or manipulate so that we are given anything we want, unless it is within Your sovereign goodwill. Stir up our hearts to study Your Word and to learn how to fear You.

Word to proclaim over the Church: *Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes (2 Chron.19:7). The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding (Job 28:28). It is clean, enduring forever (Ps.19:9), the beginning of knowledge (Prov.1:7), it is the Believer's treasure (Isa.33:6) and a fountain of life to turn one away from the snares of death (Prov.14:27). In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge (Prov.14:26).*

Monday 4 January 2010

Pray for government: Lift up in prayer Minister of Women, Youth, Children and the Disabled, Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya. Ask for this department to play a significant role in bringing about change for people in need.

Salvation focus: Hindus in SA

South Africa ranks 9th on the top ten list of countries with the highest Hindu populations in the world, an estimated 1,078,667 (Top ten of everything 2008, p.69). Most Hindus in our country live in KwaZulu-Natal among the Indian community. Please pray for the Church to hear the call and reach out to the Hindu community in our country. Ask that they will have wisdom on how to witness to them the love of Christ.