

Jericho Walls prayer guide – June 2010

BUT GOD

Dear Intercessor

The Soccer Cup is upon us, tourists are streaming into the country, everyone is suffering from soccer fever and the roads and guest houses are packed. My heart is filled with the expectation that God will do powerful things during this time. When we pray now, it is important to pray in faith and with expectation. God is the God of the impossible, which means that anything is possible for Him.

To see God

We would all so much like to see the Lord, talk to Him and we wish that He would speak to us. However, a problem arises when He reveals Himself to us in such a way that we can see Him, and that we are able to hear Him when He speaks. May I explain in the words of C.S. Lewis: "There comes a moment when the children who have been playing at burglars suddenly become quiet: was that a *real* footstep in the hall? There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion suddenly draw back. Suppose we really find Him? We never meant it to come to *that!* Worse still, suppose He had found *us?*" So we see the problem is not seeking God, but what to do when we find Him!! When God reveals Himself, it's all about God and not about us anymore. Over and over in the Scriptures we read that people saw God. Look what Isaiah experienced when he saw God in the temple (**Isa.6**). What did the apostle John see on the island of Patmos? (**Rev.1:9-20**). Read about Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9**). According to the descriptions in the Bible of occasions where people met God, it is clear that seeing God can often be a most frightening experience. God is our Father, but He is also the sovereign God. Jesus is the Saviour, but He is also the Lord. His words are as the balm of Gilead, but also like a double-edged sword, ripping open and laying everything bare. These past months I read the stories of revivals in history again. There are accounts of people who experienced a genuine revival, who say this was a terrifying experience for many – even for devoted Christians. There are those who say they hope they never experience a revival again – especially not the first phase of revival when God's holiness starts burning among people. Let us draw near to God and ask Him to be merciful when He Himself approaches us.

Human Trafficking

The *Soccer World Cup* has placed a renewed focus on the whole aspect of human trafficking. This is the fastest-growing industry in the world. Billions of dollars are at stake. It is difficult to say what the most evil practices in our community are, but this one definitely falls under the top five. May God touch our hearts about this matter and may tens of thousands of Christians stand up and do something practical about this issue. More information is given about this in our prayer guide. Please encourage others to pray with you about it.

Ramadan

Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, is also the month that millions of Christians all over the world call on God to reveal Himself to Muslims and that they will see Jesus as the Son of God. The Muslims find the concept of God having a Son slanderous. It is through signs, wonders and direct revelations (dreams and visions) of Jesus Himself that great numbers of Muslims are currently being converted. There are millions of converts from Islam annually. A mighty movement of the Holy Spirit among the Kabyle Berbers is reported in Algeria. They live in 2,000 villages and cities in the mountains. The first conversions occurred in 1990. Today there are Christians, and in many cases also churches in literally all 2,000 towns. Every year thousands are converted. The same tendency is seen in other countries. In Indonesia there were only 2 million Christians in 1965; today there are more than 45

million, almost 20% of the population. The same is being reported about countries like Egypt and Sudan. Let us continue praying. God hears and answers prayer. This massive increase in converts started in 1992 when various new prayer initiatives were launched worldwide and millions of Christians started focusing their prayers on the conversion of Muslims.

Think what you are doing when you pray

When we pray we stand before the Most High God, the One who made everything. The One who made flowers and insects and trillions and trillions of galaxies. Too often we limit God and reduce Him to the size of our own problems. We then measure our problems against the greatness of God. Then it is as if there is a wrestling match between God and our problems and the best we can do is hope that God wins. To really pray, we must be able to 'see' God with eyes of faith. We get to know God from His actions and conduct in the Bible. Let us discover God anew in the Bible and appeal to that God who is the same today as the God in the time of the Bible. Call on the blood and the cross of Jesus. Call on the Holy Spirit that the Father gave His church.

We are never ashamed when we stand before God. We stand before a Father who has invited us to come and speak with Him. As somebody once said: Prayer is not something we do to overcome God's unwillingness, but to enable us to call in faith upon God's willingness to help us. May His peace be in our hearts and let us rejoice in the Lord.

Eph.3:20

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

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 challenge: "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knows not." - James Hudson Taylor

When God is about to give His people the expected good, He pours out a spirit of prayer, and it is a good sign that He is coming towards them in mercy. 'Then when you see the expected end approaching, then you shall call upon Me.' Note, promises are given not to supersede, but to quicken and encourage prayer: and when deliverance is coming we must by prayer go forth to meet it. When Daniel understood the 70 years were near expiring, then he set his face with more fervency than ever to seek the Lord (**Dan.9:2, 3**). - Matthew Henry

There is no power like that of prevailing prayer, of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heartbroken with remorse and grief, Jesus in a sweat of blood. Add to this list from the records of the church your personal observation and

experience, and always there is the cost of passion unto blood. Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God. - Samuel Chadwick

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

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

The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came. Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory. - R. A. Torrey

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go. - Abraham Lincoln

What, where and when

National

8-9 September 2010: *Christian Networks Prayer Summit*

The annual prayer summit for leaders of different *Christian Networks* to prayerfully seek God's will for South Africa. Contact Anneke Hanekom at *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* at tel.: 012 365 3213 or e-mail: info@global24-7.org to register as soon as possible.

27 September – 1 October 2010: 9th *Watchman's School of Prayer*

This is your personal invitation to join us for the annual *Watchman's School of Prayer* in Cape Town, South Africa! The past ten years have shown an exponential growth in the 24/7 prayer movement around the world. The purpose of this school is to train individuals who want to start or have already started establishing a 24/7 house of prayer, to build cross-cultural relationships and to learn from each other's experiences. During this full-time school of five days, you will be invited to take a deeper personal walk with God. Time will be spent in worship and seeking His face, while practical sessions will focus on equipping participants with regard to 24/7 prayer. This will include topics such as setting up a creative prayer room, how to mobilise people for a 24/7 prayer watch, how to reach out with prayer into your community, and how to sustain continuous prayer. We can accommodate 150 people and registration is R980 per person (including all meals and accommodation for the whole week). Please register by paying your deposit of R500 as soon as possible to reserve your place. Contact Lizette van Rooyen at tel.: 021 919 7988 or fax: 021 919 3954, website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: cape@jwipn.com.

What, where and when

International

24-26 September 2010: *Hindu Ministry Training*

The *Rethinking Forum* will host a *Perspectives* follow-up course in Pasadena, California, USA. *The Hindu-Christian Interface* is a 15-hour course with two major components: understanding the interface between Hinduism and Christianity and the exploration of culturally relevant ways to make Christ known among upper caste Hindus. The five lessons are: The diversity of India and Hinduism, understanding Hinduism, the Hindu Christian interface, contextualisation and practical responses. Website: <http://www.rethinkingforum.com/> or to learn more contact them at email: info@rethinkingforum.com

Did you know?

Billy Graham's ministry turns 60 – Biblical man walking today

The modern world has never known a more revered or influential spiritual leader than Billy Graham. He has been called the World's Preacher because, for the past 60 years, he has preached the gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history; over 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through his television, video, film and web cast ministries. He has been a confidant and counsellor to every U.S. president in the past 40 years as well as to kings, prime ministers and leaders throughout the world. His face and distinctive voice are recognised around the globe, and he is regularly listed as one of the 'Ten Most Admired Men in the World'. Although he has graced the covers of magazines the world over, he has always preferred that the spotlight focus on the Master he so faithfully serves, Jesus Christ. (Website: http://www.prayerfoundation.org/movies/movie_review_billy_graham_gods_ambassador.htm).

Military BibleSticks a hit in the military!

Faith Comes By Hearing, an *Audio Bible* ministry, has designed and deployed nearly 22,000 *Military BibleSticks* to chaplains in Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo, and Afghanistan and requests for more are coming in. The *Military BibleStick* is a small, digital audio player that is pre-loaded with the *Audio Drama New Testament*. This *Audio Bible* fits easily into uniform pockets and is rugged enough to withstand unpredictable weather. (Website: <http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bibles-designed-and-deployed-us-troops>).

What's online?

Website: Information on Islam and Muslims

<http://www.answering-islam.org> / <http://www.morethandreams.tv> / <http://www.isaalmasih.net> / <http://www.kalimatullah.com>

Website: www.WorldBibles.org

This website lists an amazing 14,000 web locations where Bibles can be found in over 4,000 world languages. Many Bibles are free downloads.

Website: www.pray-ap.info

If you would like to pray for the nations of the *Arabian Peninsula (AP)* you will find helpful information on this website.

Website: <http://www.resource-international.info>

Free resources for those ministering to Muslims can be found here. This website was created for expatriate and national believers who are ministering to Muslims in the Arab world and seeks to provide a comprehensive on-line database of information and critique of print and audio-visual resources for church planting ministry use.

Website: www.Easybibles.Com

EasyBibles is printing and posting, free of charge, gospel booklets to the world's poorest nations, particularly in Africa, for field-testing and feedback before printing larger quantities to post. These booklets will be sold to the poor at very low prices. Recent languages include Broa from Cambodia and Kelabit from Borneo, Malaysia.

Website: <http://www.go2southasia.org/resource/evangelism/>

Free downloadable *Hindu Evangelism Resources* are now available in English, Bengali, French and Hindi Languages. These free print-ready tracts are designed for tri-fold use to print at your church or on your home

computer. The tract is designed to make witnessing to Hindus simple. The *Vedic Bridge* and *Truth that Triumphs* are contextual gospel tracts ready for you to download and print in PDF format.

Monthly prayer focuses: June – September 2010

The prayer focuses are to encourage those involved in a 24/7 house of prayer to focus on the same things at the same time in prayer. 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. Remember to subscribe to our weekly *Global Prayer Alert*, which covers current issues in prayer, by sending an e-mail to cape@jwipn.com

June: Youth and Soccer

Children and young people are severely pressurised by the world to conform to the world. There are direct physical attacks on their lives and exploitation of children by adults to enrich themselves. Human trafficking destroys especially the lives of children. The sex industry destroys millions of young girls before they are twenty. Drugs, unemployment, domestic violence and child labour are some of the enormous challenges that young people face. Let us pray with deep compassion for the children and youth of our nation especially in view of the upcoming *World Soccer Cup*.

June/July: World Soccer Cup

As Christians we have a responsibility to cover the nation in prayer before, during and after the *World Soccer Cup*. Evil forces stand ready to destroy the lives of people through this event, but it is also an opportunity for the church to reach out to people visiting our country and also the millions of unsaved and 'unreached' people in the country. Let us ask the Lord to have mercy on our nation and make us a blessing to the nations of the world. There are many prayer initiatives around the Soccer Cup. Get your own prayer group and local church to participate in intensive prayer during that time. The country will face many challenges in that period and we need to ask God to help us.

August/September: Ramadan

Ramadan is the month of fasting for Muslims worldwide. Hundreds of millions of Muslims will fast during the day for the full month, but eat during the nights. In doing this, they fulfil one of the five pillars of Islam. Over the last 18 years, millions of Christians united in a special prayer effort to pray for Muslims to experience the love of God as He reveals it in Jesus Christ. Over the past 20 years an astonishing number of Muslims were converted to Christianity, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. There is a definite escalation in the number of Muslims coming to Christ. Very encouraging stories are told of what God is doing in Algeria, Indonesia, Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula to mention just a few. Let us join hands to pray for all Muslims.

Tuesday 1 June 2010

Focus on child protection

In South Africa 407,937 orphans and vulnerable children and 53,607 child-headed households have been identified and receive government services through the *Home Community Based Care programme*. (Eighty20 Fact-a-Day. Website: www.eighty20.co.za or e-mail: fact.a.day@eighty.co.za). Pray today for children in distress, that they will come to know God, and when they cry out to Him, to experience Him answering their prayers in very real and practical ways. Give thanks to God for those who are cared for through programmes like these.

Focus on Swaziland: Living with TB and HIV/AIDS

According to the international medical aid organisation *Doctors Without Borders (MSF)*, 80% of TB patients in Swaziland also have HIV/AIDS. This double epidemic of HIV and TB means that life expectancy in Swaziland has fallen to under 32 years. With 80% of Swaziland's population living in impoverished rural areas, getting healthcare services to families is extremely difficult. (Website: <http://health.iafrica.com/features/2020822.htm>). Pray that God will send labourers into this harvest very soon to meet needs on a practical and spiritual level. Pray for the people of Swaziland to cry out to the Lord and for them to see God's hand on their nation.

Wednesday 2 June 2010

Focus on Christian broadcasting: *Trans World Radio SA*

Trans World Radio (TWR) is producing an exciting drama and discussion programme called *Choose Life*, based on the needs of women between 18-25 years, especially those studying at universities and colleges in South Africa. It was aired the first time in February this year. Please pray that this programme would bring many students to Christ and help them to make the right choices at a very important and sensitive stage of their lives. (*Trans World Radio-SA*. Tel.: 011 974 2886 or fax: 011 974 9960 or cell: 083 387 3037. Listen to *TWR* on DStv radio channel 155. Website: www.twr.org.za or e-mail: ddupreez@twr.org.za).

Salvation focus: *OM Tanganyika*

OM Tanganyika is planting churches in unreached villages around the lake. Polygamy, prostitution and immorality are part of the culture there. The understanding of marriage and Biblical family structures is shallow. Marriage is a game and it is routine to marry and divorce. Men don't care about family life, some having 10+ children from different mothers. Pray for salvation for these people and that they will come to understand the true purpose of marriage. (*OM Tanganyika, Good News II Ministry*. Tel.: +26 0977 199 322. Website: www.ltprayer.org or e-mail: gnews2@gmail.com).

Thursday 3 June 2010

Focus on unemployment in SA: R17 billion worth of income lost

Unemployment increased from 23.6% of the labour force in the second quarter, to 24.5% in the third quarter of 2009. The expanded definition of unemployment, which includes those who have given up looking for work, increased from 32.5 to 34.4% in the same period. This means that 4.702 million South Africans are now without work, way above the levels in any comparable country. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/footer/2184820.htm>). Please pray for each individual job seeker who has lost heart to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, to keep in mind the hope of their calling, and see God bring about a breakthrough for them in a significant way.

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Salvation

Pray especially for breakthroughs in salvation for those visitors from closed countries that may not have many opportunities to hear the gospel again. Ask for God's Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation to show them the message of Jesus Christ in a spectacular way that will draw their hearts into surrendering their lives to Him.

Friday 4 June 2010

Focus on unemployment: Loss of more than 700,000 jobs

During the first three quarters of 2009, 716,000 workers lost their jobs, resulting in a loss of at least R17 billion worth of income per year. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/footer/2184820.htm>). Ask that each of these workers will cry out to the Lord and experience Him in a very personal way. Pray for many to testify of God's supernatural provision for them in spite of their circumstances. There are many reasons for people losing their jobs and it is important to deal with bitterness, resentment and any type of sinful reaction.

Focus on children: *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk*

Millions of children are at risk every day in situations of poverty and deprivation. *Viva* has facilitated the *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk* since 1995. They partner with many prayer ministries and networks, and literally millions of people join together in prayer each year to pray for and with vulnerable children. Ask the Lord how your congregation can partake in praying for these children this weekend and on Sunday morning. See if there is something practical you can do for children in need in your community. (Website: www.viva.org/pray.aspx or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, some 224 children in Kisumu Kenya joined to pray together for other children at risk. For most of them it was the first time they prayed and many cried as they did so. In El Salvador a boy with a hearing impairment conducted a prayer at a gathering and as the interpreter communicated his prayer, 69 children gave their lives to Christ.

Saturday 5 June 2010

Focus on unemployment

Government's promise to create 500,000 employment opportunities is faltering. About 73% of those currently unemployed are under 35, and the recent entry of over a million school leavers without a Grade 12 or any other qualifications and virtually no possibility of a proper job, adds to the problem. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/footer/2184820.htm>). Let us continue to lift up this situation to the Lord in prayer, asking for many new businesses to be started, for entrepreneurs to plan carefully, and steadily employ people as their businesses and foreign investments grow. Pray that employers and entrepreneurs will not become greedy and enrich themselves at the cost of others.

Focus on children: *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk*

Some of the goals of *Viva prayer network* are to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. Please pray for these projects, that many people will become involved in this initiative. Consider asking your church leadership to spend a few minutes in prayer for children at risk during tomorrow's church service. (Website: <http://www.viva.org> or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

One lady brought her seriously ill son into the place where Christians were praying in Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria, asking them to pray for him. As they prayed for the boy he was completely healed. The news circulated quickly as this boy had been seen as a 'hopeless case'!

Sunday 6 June 2010

What is the fear of the Lord?

For many Christians the 'fear of the Lord' indicates an angry God who expects us to do what He says or pay the consequences. The fear of the Lord is often misinterpreted as 'servile fear' (the fear of getting into trouble) when it should be understood as 'filial fear' (the fear of offending someone whom one loves). The 'fear of the Lord' is one of the 'Seven spirits' of the Holy Spirit, (**Isa.11:2-3**) also known as wonder and awe. Proverbs describes the fear of the Lord as the beginning or foundation of wisdom and also the "discipline" or "instruction" of wisdom. (**Prov.1:7, 9:10, 15:33**). Fearing God is more a matter of wanting to be like Him, treading carefully not to jeopardise that personal connection of right standing you have with Him, covering you like a blanket. One encyclopaedia explains that this gift "fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread, above all things, to offend Him."

Food for thought: How do you see and especially experience the fear of the Lord emotionally? Do you feel His love covering you like a blanket? Ask Him to reveal Himself to you as the One who loves you personally. Wait in His presence and do not feel uncomfortable when there are moments of silence when you pray. Always remember: His plans for us is for our good, and not to harm us.

Prayer: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, teach us the fear of the Lord through the Holy Spirit.

Focus on children: *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk*

Pray for churches to join in praying for children at risk today, and especially for children who are born today to grow up in healthy circumstances and be cared for properly. Ask that thousands more couples will consider adopting at least one child per family in the future. (Website: <http://www.viva.org> or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

A spiritual breakthrough came during our prayer time in June when a little boy who was adopted from Haiti came forward to pray. He was deaf and walked with leg braces on both legs. His mother interpreted his prayer for them and everyone in the room was deeply touched. *Little did they know what would happen just six months later in the nation of Haiti. Let us not be silent and slack in crying out to an Almighty God!*

Monday 7 June 2010

Salvation focus: Security guards

Security guards are often at risk due to the nature of their jobs. Pray for them to be able to find Christ among them in their work and life's challenges. Especially pray for them to grow spiritually by spending time with God's Word when they have the opportunity. Pray that they themselves will not get involved in criminal activities, but will be honest and dependable.

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Transport

Lift up in prayer all forms of transport in our country during the World Cup. Ask for people's protection from accidents, crime, hi-jacking and mugging. Ask that there will be no strikes that may jeopardise public transport in any way.

Tuesday 8 June 2010

Prayer focus on Haiti: Restoration and rebuilding

Let us continue to hold up in prayer the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the terrible devastation caused by the earthquake that hit just 17 kilometres from the capital, Port-au-Prince, on 12 January. The estimated death toll was about 230,000, although it will be impossible to ever know exact figures. Pray for focused rebuilding and rehabilitation projects to be successful in this poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Pray for the many orphans who have been affected by the earthquake, and for children orphaned as a result. Ask for many to be adopted by families to take care of them.

Focus on missions: *OM Ships International*

Please pray for *OM Ships International's* ministry in five key areas: for sufficient crew to serve on board the ship and enough qualified deck and engineering officers to bring the ship from port to port. Also pray for those who visit the ship, to experience God's love as they step on board. Ask for open doors for the crew to serve people in many different countries as they go ahead to prepare for the arrival of the ship. (*OM Ships International*. Website: <http://www.omships.org/> or e-mail: info@omships.org).

Act-Up Prayer Network for those caught up in drug addiction and the occult

Leah's story starts when her youngest son became addicted to heroin and involved in Satanism. "The reality of my faith and whether I really believed when I prayed was suddenly challenged. In July 2000 I clearly experienced that God was going to set drug and Satanism captives free. In September that year, five families started praying over weekends for each other's children. Parents began to contact us and asked if they could also become part of this prayer chain. Within one month, more than 200 people signed up. All was so new to me and I went to see Bennie Mostert to ask for counsel and wisdom on what to do next. God really strengthened my faith and brought more clarity for us on how to continue to invite people to pray. I was so worried about my son; was he guilty of the unforgivable sin? Then God answered me through a picture where I saw my son on his knees in a ploughed field and a bright light shining down on him. I then knew that God's favour was towards him and that he would be saved.

In June 2003, my son's girlfriend, with whom he was living then, phoned to say that they could not wake him up. They tried everything to resuscitate him, but finally the doctor wanted to certify him dead. I knew he was still involved in Satanism and definitely not saved. That was not the promise I had received from God. So I sat down at his bedside and prayed, reminding God of His promise to me. Tests showed that my son had already had a heart attack 8 hours before they found him. But my God raised my son from the dead. During the next week in hospital, his organs were all restored 100% and today there is nothing wrong with him at all. He surrendered His life to Christ completely, and today he serves the Lord."

What is *Act-Up*?

Act-Up consists of families who have problems with substance abuse, dependency of any form, problems with gender-identity, or anything that hinders them in their relationship with the Lord. The purpose of *Act-Up* is to support the family members and friends who are praying for those who struggle.

How can you become involved in *Act-Up*?

The main focus is prayer. Therefore supporters of this initiative will commit themselves to pray at least one hour per week according to our prayer list. There is also a ten module course available for supporters of those who are addicted, laying a foundation for them on inner healing and prayer support. Once a year we gather to share testimonies and diaries that were put together during the year. We also help parents in crisis situations e.g. when children become aggressive and out of control, are reported missing etc.

There are currently more than 20,000 people who take time to pray for victims of substance abuse either on a daily or regular basis. You can become involved by submitting your details to us, and committing to a prayer slot of one hour per day or at least twice a week. You will be praying with many others at the same time. Contact Leah Grobler at P.O. Box 73664, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, tel.: 082 718 1176 or fax: 086 688 1404. Visit the website: www.actup.co.za or e-mail: editor@actup.co.za

Wednesday 9 June 2010

Focus on church planting: *Church Planting Alliance*

The Church Planting Alliance exists to network, train and mobilise leaders to plant disciple-making churches within easy access of every person. Please pray for the quarterly workshops planned in Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Western Cape to effectively equip church planters to multiply healthy churches in these provinces and beyond. (*Church Planting Alliance*, Rev. Karl R. Teichert. Tel.: 011 794 8004 (work), 011 678 3711 (home), fax: 011 794 800, cell: 072 477 2950. Website: www.cpa-sa.org or www.ocafricasa.net or e-mail: teichert@attglobal.net or skype: kteichert).

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Venues and host cities

The country will have free primary healthcare at official venues, 24-hour emergency medical services and international and local surveillance measures for disease outbreaks. Lift up in prayer the 10 venues and 9 host cities during the World Cup. Ask for believers from every city to take up their responsibility in persevering in fasting and prayer prior to, during and after the World Cup for protection against any expected or unexpected influx of evil, sickness and plagues from other nations. Pray that the presence of God in the hearts and lives of believers will stay this attack.

Thursday 10 June 2010

Focus on children: AIDS orphans

In South Africa the estimated number of orphans due to AIDS, aged 0 to 17, is 1.4 million. (Eighty20 Fact-a-Day. Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/databases/index.cgi> or e-mail: <mailto:fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za>). An increasing number of couples adopt orphans across cultural barriers in South Africa. Please pray for many more to join them in this selfless act of love, and that those children who are adopted will have opportunities to meet the Lord Jesus Christ.

Focus on the nations: The Macedonian project

Every year during August –September numerous prayer teams will visit various European cities as well as an ancient Bible city to pray for the nations living there to be saved. Please pray for the safety of these teams, for strength and energy, and to clearly hear the voice of the Lord as they pray at the different places. Ask that God will release many workers to the harvest as a result of their prayers. (*The Macedonian Project*. Tel.: 012 997 3195 or fax: 086 630 3193. Private bag X07, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Website: <http://www.macedonian.org.za> or e-mail: info@macsa.co.za).

Friday 11 June 2010

Focus on unemployment

Apart from the global economic crisis; race, gender, age, location & schooling serve as the key attributes defining and explaining unemployment rates in South Africa. (Website: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPHAGRO/Resources/Bhorat_Unemployment_SouthAfrica.pdf).

Continue praying about each of these factors as the Holy Spirit leads you. Ask God for new businesses to start and grow steadily to provide jobs for those who have become unemployed, especially over the past two years.

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Matches commence today

Lift up in prayer the opening and kick-off of the *FIFA World Cup* in South Africa today. Ask for Christians to take up their responsibility in prayer and cry out to the Lord for His kingdom to come on the earth as it is in heaven for the duration of this tournament, and for many thousands to come to the Lord Jesus. (Website: <http://www.fifa.com>).

Saturday 12 June 2010

Focus on children: World Day Against Child Labour 2010

Lift up in prayer today the millions of children worldwide who are engaged in child labour, often depriving them of adequate education, health and leisure. Of these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labour including work in hazardous environments, slavery or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities such as drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. Spend time to pray as the Holy Spirit leads you through each of these issues. (*World Day against Child Labour*. Website: <http://www.ilo.org> or e-mail ipec@ilo.org).

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Airports, borders

Some R1.5 billion is invested in upgrading the ports of entry and preparations for the 2010 *FIFA World Cup*. Immigration procedures are being improved for the smooth entry and exit of people in and out of the country. Lift up in prayer all those entering our country, that none will be able to enter carrying any drugs, pornography or other illegal items. Pray especially for security personnel, that they will hear God's voice and be successful in shutting down worldwide drug & pornography networks. Ask for safe transport to and from airports and all flights to be on time and to arrive without any accidents occurring.

Sunday 13 June 2010

What is the fear of the Lord?

The Lord is very zealous in His love for us, and desires to remove everything that might separate us from Him! When we do something that goes against His character or is contrary to who He is, it damages our relationship with Him. It is a fearful thing, it will hinder communication between God and me. That is called sin. The only way to get reconnected with God is to confess our sin, be truly sorry about these things, to tell Him that, and pledge our love anew. Oh, the joy when the Holy Spirit cleanses us from sin through the blood of Jesus to be in right standing with our Heavenly Father once again!

Food for thought: Do you sometimes feel disconnected from God? Ask Him to show you if there is a reason why you feel like this. When the Holy Spirit shows you something, bring it before the Lord. Ask Him to remove any hindrances between you and Him. Remember also that 'vague' guilt feelings does not come from God.

Prayer: Father in heaven, please forgive me for resisting Your love when I do things that are not in line with Your character. Teach me the fear of the Lord.

Monday 14 June 2010

Salvation focus: Head boys and girls

Lift up in prayer all head boys and girls of schools countrywide. Pray for their salvation, that they will not seek the approval of teachers and their peers, but above all, that of Jesus Christ as Lord and Master of their lives. Ask for their testimony to also draw others into God's kingdom.

Focus on health: Breast cancer

Scientists announced a major breakthrough in the battle against breast cancer after discovering a faulty gene involved in half of all cases of the disease. The gene - called NRG1 - is also implicated in 50% of bowel and prostate cancers and a quarter of cancers of the ovary and bladder, and provides vital information about how some cancers spread. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=iol1254813758908C526). Give thanks to the Lord for this revelation. Ask that scientists will continue to gain understanding of these diseases and how to treat them. Remember to pray for cancer patients to have opportunities to embrace Christ as their Saviour. Pray for miracle healings, that God in His mercy would stop this flood wave of cancer. Pray that these healings will become a testimony of God's power and His ability to do the impossible.

Men-2-Pray: When my wife and I misunderstand each other!

This must be one of the most sensitive topics a person could broach! Yet it is such a fundamental reality in many marriages. Sometimes two people are almost constantly at cross purposes, so much so that they don't even want to talk to each other, let alone pray together; they don't know what to pray anymore! How do I pray when my wife and I have reached this point? The following guidelines might help you disentangle yourself from this mare's nest.

1. **Don't defend yourself!** One thing that never works is hurling arguments, 'proof' and 'logical reasoning' at each other. Keep quiet and wait, but remember there's a vast difference between a brooding silence and simply saying nothing and waiting. This is most probably the most difficult of all – not defending yourself and not pointing out your partner's faults to her all the time. Arguments don't work; they simply rehash old patterns that you are both only too familiar with. Pray and ask the Lord to help you keep quiet – long enough for you to hear your wife's heart and emotions through everything, and not only the words that come from her mouth. Only the Holy Spirit can show you this. Don't decide for yourself what is in her heart and what she should be experiencing emotionally. Allow her to express herself in her own way and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand her.
2. **Learn to say you're sorry sooner!** One of a man's greatest challenges is to say we're sorry. We normally think once we do that our wives are going to start ruling over us. Actually just the opposite happens if we do it the right way. If your wife experiences the way you behave towards her in a certain way, your intention is not important. If you want to do things the right way, you must focus on how she experiences your behaviour. It is in cases like these that you should explain very clearly to her that you are sorry she experienced it in such a way. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you specifically what it is you do that make her misunderstand your intentions. Make sure your intentions are pure.
3. **Allow her to lean on you.** Don't try to change your wife into someone you want her to be. God made her unique. Don't begrudge her the privilege of being her own person. Ask the Lord to show you how to support her. Support her in the things she dreams about, and become involved in a practical way to help her achieve what is important to her. Ask the Lord what things you should pay attention to and what things are important to her.
4. **Crucify the 'self' in you.** A big stumbling block in a marriage is our so-called 'rights'. We men readily argue that we also have the right to do this or that – golf, rugby, watching the news and other things we enjoy doing. Often however this is at the expense of our wives and the rest of the family. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out to you the things in your life that are so important to you that you see them as a 'right' and won't budge an inch, no matter what the consequences on the relationships in your family. If you can't first die to yourself, how can you expect your wife to do it?
5. **Bless her.** When there is conflict between the two of you, don't ask God to show your wife everything she does wrong. Simply start blessing your wife. It sounds like a hopeless task and something that can't really change anything. But simply start praying and say, "Lord I bless my wife." And keep it up. Go and pray it there where you are alone. Pray over and over again until you can pray it with all your heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you.
6. **Don't complain to God about her.** When the sins of our wives are very obvious, we can tend to 'bring charges' against them to God. We tell Him everything they do wrong, or rather what we think they do wrong. As priests it is not our task to blame and accuse our wives, but to plead with God for grace and mercy for them. If we do this only to make life easier for us, our motives are wrong. Pray for your wife for the sake of your wife.
7. **First put your own house in order.** In times of conflict it is best to first of all ask God to show you, through His Holy Spirit, any sin and any thoughtless act from your side. You will find (almost) without exception that there are also a number of things in your own heart that you will have to put right.

8. **Ask for God's love for you and your wife!** Ask the Holy Spirit to pour the love of God into your heart so that you may love your wife with God's love. God's love is love that loves in spite of what the other one has done, love at your own expense and to the other person's advantage.
9. **Set your judgment aside.** Don't appoint yourself as judge. God is the judge. Do not condemn. The judgment is God's. Your task as husband is firstly to love unconditionally, as priest to kneel in supplication before God for your wife, to bless her and to call out the Name of the Lord over her (**Num.6:24-26**).
10. **Patience!** Read **1 Pet.3:7**: Be patient with your wife. Very patient!

Only when we worked through all these issues in prayer, we are ready to enter into a meaningful discussion with our wife.

Tuesday 15 June 2010

Focus on children: Teens reach out to help orphans

A Colorado youth ministry has raised more than \$200,000 to build seven orphanages in Uganda and Kenya. Teens did this by taking on odd jobs and second jobs to raise money for the project. (Website: <http://charismamag.com/index.php/news/23391-teens-help-build-homes-for-african-orphans>). Praise the Lord for young people reaching out to help children. Ask that many others will join them in this effort and become involved in helping children for the rest of their lives. Pray that children will have opportunities to receive Jesus as their friend and Saviour.

Focus on the illiterate: Banjara of India

About 70% of the people in India are illiterate. Only 12% of Banjara men and 4% of Banjara women can read. *Faith Comes By Hearing* focuses on reaching the world's poor and illiterate people with God's Word in audio in their heart language. The 6 million Banjara people are considered one of the least-reached people groups in the world and are spread throughout India with only 1% being believers. Most live in deep poverty either in rural villages or city slums. (ASSIST News Service (ANS). P.O. Box 609, Lake Forest, CA 92609-0609 USA. Website: www.assistnews.net or e-mail: assistnews@aol.com). Cry out to the Lord for workers to this harvest, for open hearts and for the Holy Spirit to intervene supernaturally in these dreadful circumstances.

Wednesday 16 June 2010

Focus on the youth: Youth Day

Thousands of young people will gather at meetings today for *Youth Day* celebrations. Let us pray for their safety. Specifically pray that parents will raise their children with the awareness that they have a God-ordained mission in life. That they will help their children to determine their God-given gifts, talents, and abilities, and talk with them about their passions to help guide them toward discovering that mission. Pray that parents will choose against divorce and so spare themselves as well as their children a lot of pain.

Focus on persecution: Forced conversions in Saudi Arabia

"I have witnessed several Catholic or Christian Filipino migrants accept Islam under duress," said a Filipino Catholic nurse working at Riyadh hospital. Because of high unemployment levels in the Philippines, more than ten million Filipinos have left to seek jobs abroad. Every day, about 3,000 leave the country. Recently, the majority has gone to Arab countries. "After some months, employers give you an ultimatum, telling you to become Muslim to keep your job," she said. "For us, it is hard to make such a choice, but if we don't, we become the victims of abuse." (Intercessors Network, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linkoping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se). Please lift up in prayer this situation, asking God to provide deliverance for Christian believers.

Thursday 17 June 2010

Focus on children: Pneumonia

It is estimated that more than 5 million children over 6 years could be saved if a comprehensive plan to tackle pneumonia is adopted worldwide. Pneumonia kills over 4,000 children every day, making it the most common cause of death in under-fives. Death due to childhood pneumonia is strongly linked to malnutrition, poverty, and inadequate access to healthcare, meaning that children already at risk from these things are particularly susceptible. Pray for *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* and the *World Health Organisation (WHO)* as they launch and begin to implement this plan to tackle pneumonia. Pray for the target countries, that national leaders would welcome the plan to save the lives of as many children as possible. (*Children at Risk Prayer News*. Website: <http://www.viva.org/> or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Technology

Pray for all satellite, teleport and telecommunications infrastructure for the World Cup which will support a transmission capacity of 40 gigabytes per second and will be used after 2010 to provide broadband services. Ask that this new equipment will be in working condition at all times so that contracts with other television stations may be met. Also that it will be used with integrity and to God's glory after the World Cup.

Friday 18 June 2010

Focus on unemployment: Micro-finance

Micro-finance (meaning development finance, not consumer lending) provides training, practical know-how, follow-up and finance for needy people to start, maintain and grow their own businesses. Thousands of poor people have been helped this way the past 20 years. There are currently 15 *Development Finance Institutions* in SA providing access for more than 200,000 clients to enterprise finance and finance for asset building. Give thanks to the Lord for thousands of small businesses that started in the rural areas of South Africa the past few years. Pray for more people to become part of these and new projects, to maintain and grow their businesses with success, giving all the glory to the Lord. (*Resolve Africa*, website: www.resolveafrica.com or e-mail: info@resolveafrica.com).

Focus on health: Cholera vaccine

A more affordable cholera vaccine is getting closer to international distribution after proving safe and effective in a large clinical trial in which about 67,000 people living in cholera-prone Kolkata, India were tested. After two years, a two-thirds reduction of cholera was seen in vaccinated people being equally effective in all age groups with no serious side effects. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/affordable-cholera-vaccine-closer-to-reality.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for breakthroughs like these. Pray that this vaccine will become available soon for worldwide distribution.

Saturday 19 June 2010

Focus on children: Street children

The worldwide population of street children is estimated at 150 million, with the number rising daily. Ranging in ages 3-13, about 40% are homeless (as a percentage of world population). The remaining 60% work on the streets to support their families. They are unable to attend school and are considered to live in "especially difficult circumstances". (Website: http://www.pangaea.org/street_children/kids.htm). Lift up in prayer street children to the Lord. Especially pray for breakthroughs for those who are the defenceless victims of brutal violence, sexual exploitation, chemical addiction, hopelessness and neglect.

Salvation focus: Kohistani peoples of Pakistan

The new Karakoram Highway in the Swat Valley of northern Pakistan may provide an opportunity for the Kohistanis to hear the gospel. The Kohistanis are among many people suffering from Taliban fighting raging in this area. None of the Kohistani tribes has the Scriptures in their language. Pray that this new highway will aid

labourers willing to invest in long-term service on behalf of the Kohistanis. Pray for the Word to be translated into their language. Pray for God to send medical teams and humanitarian workers to minister to the Kohistanis. (Global Prayer Digest. E-mail: GPDMOD@wciu.edu).

Sunday 20 June 2010

What the fear of the Lord is not

It is not a superstitious fear, e.g. a black cat crossing your path. It is not carnal fear, e.g. fear of man (**Matt.10:26-31**). Carnal fear is EXCRUCIATING, this “fear involves torment”. (**1 John 4:18, NKJ**). The Greek word for torment is sometimes used in the context of what is experienced in hell (**Matt.25:46**). Hell involves fear. Carnal fear is DESTRUCTIVE. It prevents you to do what God called you for. The disciples, caught up in the power of fear, were fitter to flee than to pray (**Matt.26:56**). The fear of the Lord referred to in **Heb.12:21** down below, is a divine fear, which is reverence and adoration for God’s holiness, and a willingness to subject ourselves to His sacred inspection. When God’s glory began to shine out upon the Mount, Moses said, “I exceedingly fear and quake!” (**Heb.12:21**). Those who approach God’s presence disrespectfully and worship Him in a crude, careless manner do not have the fear of God that the Bible talks about.

Food for thought: Are you so superstitious that you almost see superstition as something holy? Furthermore, are you afraid of God, fearing He is going to harm you in some way? Do you sometimes literally feel disabled to do what you know God has called you to do? Ask the Holy Spirit to speak clearly to you, that the truth about the fear of God will be clear to you. God does not want you to be bound by any ungodly fear. He wants to set you free, so that you may love, trust and obey Him wholeheartedly.

Prayer: Father, I confess that I harbour many fears in my heart and that, because of this, I have misinterpreted the fear of God. Please forgive me. Teach me true fear of the Lord.

Focus on refugees: Refugee Sunday

Today is *Refugee Sunday* and *Refugee Week* will be celebrated from 20-26 June. Today congregations are invited to explore refugee experiences across the continents and initiate activities such as exhibitions, film screenings, and spend some time to pray for refugees worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes in order to escape persecution or war. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net). Ask the Lord how you can be involved in mobilising prayer for refugees worldwide.

Monday 21 June 2010

Salvation focus: Witchdoctors and practitioners of witchcraft

Pray for all these people to have a very clear and personal understanding of the power, love and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ask for their complete deliverance from evil and their testimony to turn many hearts to also follow Christ.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Remember to pray for the young refugees around the globe. Pray for refugee communities of people who have lost everything; that they may be made to feel welcome in a safe haven. Pray that refugees may experience God's tangible love and presence in their lives and receive healing from the emotional trauma of their circumstances. Pray for their practical care daily. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Tuesday 22 June 2010

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Visitors

Pray for every tourist visiting SA for the World Cup, that God will touch their hearts even now. Also pray for numerous South Africans to hear and accept the gospel during outreaches that will take place. Ask that many lives will be turned around and bring glory to God.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Pray for law-makers and administrators of the nations, that they have the courage to open the doors to those seeking refuge, and to offer generous resources for the care of refugees in other countries. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Wednesday 23 June 2010

Focus on children: Teenager expelled from school because of his faith

Chen Le is an example of someone who has been expelled from high school for his Christian faith. He was found by the *Bazhou Public Security Agency* to have engaged in Christian gatherings. The school was notified to persuade him to "mend his ways". Although he does not regret signing the *Notice of Expulsion* document and refusing to renounce his faith, he has now been barred from taking the mandatory college entrance exam. Praise God for Chen Le's resolute belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and his refusal to renounce his faith. Pray for other young people to be encouraged to also stand firm like he did. (*Barnabas Fund* Prayer Focus update. International Website: www.barnabasfund.org or e-mail: info@barnabasfund.org). Pray that God will miraculously open doors for him and others to have access to adequate education.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Pray specifically for organisations and individuals who support refugees around the world and help them to rebuild their lives, that they will have wisdom on how to also minister God's love to those they help and rescue. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Thursday 24 June 2010

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: God's testimony

Ask for Christians sharing the gospel with visitors and those attending matches, to do so with great love, care and without condemnation, pride and haughtiness – as the Holy Spirit guides them. Ask that the fear of God will rest upon everyone sharing the gospel that they will do so with great respect, even growing in their own relationships with the Lord Jesus at the same time.

Focus on global economy: G8 Summit in Huntsville Canada: 25-27 June 2010

Canada is hosting the 2010 *G8 Summit* in Huntsville. The *G8* is an informal group of eight of the world's leading economic powers: Canada, France, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, and Italy. The annual summit is a chance for the leaders of the *G8* countries to meet face-to-face and develop common solutions to urgent challenges facing the world. Four areas will be discussed: global economy, climate change, development and democratic governance. (Website: <http://www.icad-cisd.com/content/pdf/CivilSocietyParticipation/G8-Platform-civil-society-EN.pdf>). Please pray for delegates, that the Spirit of the sovereign Lord will come upon them as they gather and rest upon them to hear and yield to His voice. Please pray for many of them to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Pray for the refugees, that in the midst of crisis they will be open to the gospel in their lives. Ask that God will meet them in visions and dreams, revealing Himself to them. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Friday 25 June 2010

Focus on children: Child mortality

In South Africa infant and child mortality has increased, primarily as a result of the country's high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. According to the *2009 State of the World's Children* report, the under-five mortality rate in South Africa was 59 per 1,000 live births in 2007, while the infant mortality rate was 49 per 1,000 live births. The main causes of under-five mortality are AIDS (representing 35% of all deaths of children under the age of five), neonatal causes (30%), diarrhoea (11%), pneumonia (6%), injuries (5%) and others (13%). (Website: <http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/children.html>). Pray for strategies to improve primary health care and care for pregnant women to be effective in reversing this trend. Continue to pray for children to have opportunities to give their lives to Christ at a young age.

Focus on global economy: G8 Summit in Huntsville Canada: 25-27 June 2010

One topic that will be discussed is how to prevent the deaths of women and children. Each year more than 500,000 women, including adolescent girls, die from pregnancy-related causes, and 9.2 million children die before they turn five years old. The major causes of maternal and child mortality are well understood and the means of tackling them, through simple and affordable interventions, are well known. Pray for its practical application. (Website: <http://www.icad-cisd.com/content/pdf/CivilSocietyParticipation/G8-Platform-civil-society-EN.pdf>). Please pray for godly wisdom for delegates and simple implementation strategies as they tackle these issues this week. Continue to pray for each individual to have a revelation of the Lord Jesus.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Pray for refugees in the overflowing camps in countries such as Sudan, Pakistan, Iraq, DRC and Sri Lanka, that they will be able to understand the people and culture into which they have fled. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Saturday 26 June 2010

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Matches

Pray for godly order in crowds before, during and especially after every soccer match. Ask that God will grant security guards prominence and favour in the eyes of the people, so that no accidents, incidents of violence or crime will take place. Pray that all criminals will be caught red-handed.

Focus on global economy: G8 Summit in Huntsville Canada: 25-27 June 2010

Another issue that will be discussed is the *transformation of the global economic and financial system*. The impact of financial crisis on the developing world is devastating: an additional 46 million people are living on less than \$1.25 per day; export growth is slowing rapidly, and foreign direct investment has retreated, forcing both the devaluation of local currency and a rise in the price of imports. It is estimated that 28 countries already have external debts in excess of 60% of GDP (gross domestic product). (Website: <http://www.icad-cisd.com/content/pdf/CivilSocietyParticipation/G8-Platform-civil-society-EN.pdf>). Please pray for godly insight for Christian delegates today. That through their presence, God's voice and strategy on handling these issues will be heard and His Name be glorified.

Prayer focus on Refugee Week: 20-26 June 2010

Also pray for countries receiving refugees; that their capacity to purposefully care for refugees will increase. Ask that they will be able to understand their cultural differences and welcome strangers into their congregations and fellowships with an openness, willingness and preparedness to serve them. (Website: www.refugeehighway.net or e-mail: info@refugeehighway.net).

Sunday 27 June 2010

The fear of God drives out all other fear

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:18-19). When we consider that He is our Creator and holds our lives in His palms it puts our hearts to rest amidst difficult situations. One who fears God, does not tolerate the fear that this world brings. God's fear in us deals harshly with ungodly fears; it expels and blots out those fears. Godly fear reassures us about complete peace and trust in Him. Fear of God in us makes war upon the fears of this world.

Food for thought: Do you struggle with fear during the day as certain situations occur? Or do you wake up with thoughts of fear? These are worldly fears that the cares of this world impose on us. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you godly fear. The fear of the Lord will literally deliver you from the worldly fears attacking you in your heart and mind.

Prayer: Father of love and peace, I bring all my fears before you. Forgive me that I am so often knocked sideways by the cares of this world. Please baptise me with Your Holy Spirit, and with Your perfect love, with the fear of the Lord that casts out worldly fear.

Focus on global economy: G8 Summit in Huntsville Canada: 25-27 June 2010

Climate change was a priority agenda item last year as well. On the table for discussion is to significantly scale up support for renewable energy and energy efficiency and also to try to reach the goal of developed countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in aggregate by 80% or more by 2050. (Website: <http://www.icad-cisd.com/content/pdf/CivilSocietyParticipation/G8-Platform-civil-society-EN.pdf>). This issue remains the cause of much argument. Please pray for unity in the meeting when this issue is discussed, and that practical solutions will be found and sincerely be considered by all countries present.

Women-2-pray: I am the stepmom, what now?

An estimated one-third of children will live in a stepparent home before the age of 18. About 50% of all people will have a stepparent at some point in their lifetime and about 75% of those who get divorced, will eventually remarry. If it was a case of divorce, we are reminded of what Scripture says about it: that God hates divorce, because of the violence involved. Violence bears long term consequences, after a divorce children may carry scars for a lifetime. If you are saying today: 'I am the stepmom', remember there was a child that was hurt and without being involved in the divorce, also have to say: 'I am the stepchild'.

What can you as a Christian stepmom do for your stepchild? You can pray. You should pray. Here are a few thoughts and guidelines.

1. **Stepfamilies are formed because of loss** and therefore nearly always carry pain, rejection and resentment into the newly formed family. It is of the utmost importance that each family member needs to deal with his/her loss, pain, rejection, bitterness, resentment, etc. Much prayer is needed. When a parent dies or gets divorced, it is likely to cause insecurity and fear in a child's life. Many Christians falsely assume that a stepfamily formed due to the death of a parent is easier on the children than remarriage after a divorce. The pain and loss is the same, however. There is mourning in both cases. Kids who are grieving often display frustration, depression, or rebellion. *Pray for God's grace for stepmoms and to have patience to embrace the children in the throes of their frustration, depression or rebellion. Ask for her to have favour with the children and the ability to ease any anxiety by showing them love and acceptance.*

2. **Children need Dad!** It is wise to encourage your husband to spend time alone with his kids. When Dad remarries, a child may automatically feel scared and unsafe and therefore view the new relationship as a threat and might not want to share him with the new wife. *Pray for stepmoms to initiate and support activities between Dad and his kids and gradually integrate activities that they can take part in together as a stepfamily. Also pray for wisdom for stepfathers to reach out to your children. Ask for wisdom for both parents in cases where there are children from two families in one new home.*
3. **The marriage relationship is important.** About 30% of people remarry within a year after a divorce. If a marriage is to survive, the relationship between husband and wife must be nurtured. *Pray for you as the parents not to neglect one another; to give priority to your marriage, but never at the expense of the children. Ask for wisdom to know how to address difficult situations as a team, so children will not take advantage of situations. Also ask that any division that may come between you as husband and wife as a result of a misunderstanding due to children, be resolved quickly.*
4. **Love unconditionally.** Many stepmoms face step-kids who are difficult, even aggressive. It is important to remember that people who are hurting, hurt others. Remember **Mal.2:16**. Make sure you lay the house rules down, but always exercise discipline with love and compassion. *Pray for stepmoms to have God's grace to learn to love her husband's children even if they do not return that love. Ask that God will grant stepmoms the gift of sacrificial love necessary for any family to survive.*
5. **Be patient.** One of the most common misconceptions about stepfamilies is that everyone will (hopefully) bond quickly and smoothly. The average stepfamily, however, can take up to seven years to integrate. And some never does. Rushing or forcing relationships in a new family will create tension and put unnecessary stress on the marriage. *Pray for stepparents on both sides to be patient and consistently address difficult issues until their families settle in their new environment. Ask for children to adapt quickly and feel safe and secure within their new family and settle in new relationships.*
6. **Mistakes are unavoidable.** The only way to deal with mistakes is to acknowledge them to your spouse and the children that have been hurt in the process. *Pray for every root of bitterness, resentment, pain and rejection to come into the light, and for a way to deal with this in your own life and that of your family and/or your stepchildren. Jesus is the Healer and also heals emotional pain. Pray for each person in the stepfamily to understand God's healing power and the importance of forgiveness (to extend and receive forgiveness). Ask that you as parents, who need to take the lead, will at all times persevere and not give up on any of the children, and to treat all of them equally, with fairness and compassion.*

Monday 28 June 2010

Salvation focus: Mayors of cities/towns

Find out the name of the mayor of your town/city. Pray for him/her to have an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord, Saviour and Master of their lives. Also pray for their council members to turn over their lives to Jesus Christ and serve Him alone.

Salvation focus: Overpopulated Mumbai

Mumbai is the fastest growing city in the whole world. It is estimated that about 10,000 people are migrating to the city every day. This is posing a great challenge to the city developers and to some of the wealthiest people who live in the city. About 70% of the people in Mumbai are slum dwellers. Please pray about this situation, that city developers will be able to accommodate those streaming in, and that poverty will not continue increasing. Also lift

up in prayer the city and slums with a population of 16 million (2001 census), asking for workers to this vast harvest. (Church Planter. E-mail: ecichurchplanter@gmail.com).

Tuesday 29 June 2010

Focus on children: Only 4% of rapists are convicted in SA

For every 100 cases of child rape in South Africa, only four rapists are convicted and imprisoned. Only 57.2% of suspects are ever arrested or asked to appear in court, and in adult rape cases, the incidence decreases to 45.2%. This results in 42.8% and 54.8% respectively of suspected rapists walking away from the crime without ever being as much as charged. (Website: http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920_53170.asp). Let us continue to cry out to the Lord about this situation, asking that people involved will be willing to testify, so that perpetrators can be convicted. Also pray that God will supernaturally intervene in their pursuit of raping children and women and convict them of their sin and reveal to them who He is.

Focus on global economy: Mirasi People in Pakistan

"Come here my child and be my wife." The wealthy imam's eyes follow the seductive dance of the 10-year-old girl, Dara. He has already paid a sum for Dara's childhood and virginity. The imam will use her for a while and then when he becomes tired of her, she will be discarded. Dara is of the Mirasi caste. She was highly valued at birth for being a girl. Dara and her sisters are the main support of the family. If Mirasi girls do not please their clients, their families may go hungry. Pray that Mirasis will find freedom and genuine love from the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Also that the Mirasi community may be freed from the invisible chains of caste and know love, acceptance and value as children of God. (Global Prayer Digest. E-mail: GPDMOD@wciu.edu).

Wednesday 30 June 2010

Prayer focus: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for all staff members (and their families) of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network*. Pray specifically for their physical health and that they will be kept safe from disease, calamity and spiritual oppression. Pray specifically for the salvation of all their family members. Pray that God will open new doors to promote prayer as a lifestyle in the different spheres of life, inspiring Christians 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*. Pray for those working hard - doing research, compilation, translation and editing of the contents of the 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).

Focus on mothers that pray

Moeders in Gebed (Mothers in prayer) is an organisation in the Netherlands that aims to encourage mothers, grandmothers, aunts and everyone with a passion for children, to pray for their children at school. They have prayer pointers based on four steps: Praising God, confessing sins, thanking God and interceding for the children and the school, basing their prayers on relevant Scripture verses. (Website: www.moedersingebed.nl). Pray that these women will, according to **Lamentations 2:19**: *Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children who faint from hunger at the head of every street.*

Thursday 1 July 2010

Focus on the Soccer World Cup: Volunteers

Pray for those (estimated to be 250,000) volunteering to help at the different soccer matches, that they will be upright in their conduct with ticketing, money and be able to help spectators at matches who are in need of medical or other aid. Pray also for their safety.

Focus on missions: *Live School*

Praise the Lord for the church planting project through *Live School* in northern Mozambique where over 30 churches have been planted in the last three years as a result of many praying faithfully. Continue to pray for the planned outreach in September that will focus on starting new *Swahili Live Schools* in the province, for effective literacy training for the new converts that cannot read or write and for helpers with the leadership development aimed at the pastors and leaders. (Contact Chrissie Naude, tel.: 012 343 1165. Websites: www.liveschool.org, www.worldmissioncentre.com or e-mail: chrissien@liveschoolsa.org).

Friday 2 July 2010

Focus on health: HIV testing increases among men

The *Second National HIV/AIDS 2009* survey showed that HIV testing among men has increased considerably over the last 12 months, (24-60%), which is mainly attributed to awareness campaigns and programs. Most men and women believed cheating on their partner was the norm. Stable relationships were uncommon for younger men, with alcohol being a big problem, as when people got drunk, they didn't worry about HIV. The idea of being faithful to one partner is uncommon. (Website: http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/health_and_hiv_aids/hiv_testing_increases_among_men.html). Pray especially for a new awareness among men about their responsibility as fathers and that this understanding will awaken a responsibility in them to be faithful to one partner and behave responsibly. Give thanks to the Lord for a greater public awareness about HIV/AIDS. Please pray that God will reveal His heart about marriage to both men and women in our country, so that many will turn to the Lord Jesus.

Focus on prayer: *ROOT 52* prayer campaign

A year-long prayer campaign is travelling across the United States to reclaim the nation's Christian roots. *Root 52*, the 52-week prayer strategy, will pray from state to state in the order these states entered the union in history, with local intercessors fasting and praying for government leaders and for that specific state to return to its original 'roots' in God. Give thanks to the Lord for this prayer initiative of this nation that is taking up their responsibility in fervent prayer, fasting and repentance. (Website: <http://www.generals.org/prayer/rpn/root-52/>). Ask for God's favour on them as they pray through their country and for many breakthroughs for the gospel as a result.

Saturday 3 July 2010

Focus on the *Soccer World Cup*: Final matches

As the final matches take place during the next 2 weeks, please lift up in prayer all players and audiences in stadiums and those watching television. Ask for God to touch and change their hearts during the sport events. Ask that no violence will break out in any of the stadiums before, during or after matches and that people will accept the judges' ruling. Also pray specifically for the safety of the referees and their families.

Focus on nations: Haiti devastated

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of the 9 million populations living under the poverty line and 54% in abject poverty. Roughly half of Haitians practise voodoo, which is derived from African spiritualism and witchcraft. The earthquake in January was the island's worst in 200 years. (NewsBytes - January 2010. E-mail: newsbytes@yahogroups.com). Let us continue to pray for the rebuilding of this nation. Most of all, cry out to the Lord that this event will continue to turn the hearts of Haitians to the Living God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday 4 July 2010

The fear of God is intermingled with LOVE (Ps.145:19-20)

There is a difference between fearing God, and being afraid of God. The believer fears God as a child does his father. The wicked are afraid of God as the criminal is of the judge! A faithful spouse fears to displease his/her partner, because they love one another. This is where fear and love operate together.

Food for thought: How do you experience your relationship with God? Do you miss His presence in your life because of something that happened? Perhaps you suffered deep disappointment like divorce or the death of a family member? God truly never disappoints, but the broken world we live in does. Take time today to cry out and speak to Him about these matters. Ask Him to renew that first love you felt towards Him.

Prayer: Father of glory, please heal and restore my heart. Help me to let go of past hurts. I desire to love You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Teach me the fear of the Lord.