

# Jericho Walls Prayer Guide: Articles June – August 2009

## But God

### Dear Intercessors

We are halfway through 2009. We have experienced something of **Psalm 46:2-7**: *...though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging ...The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.* God wants to say to us: I am there. There where you are, I am. And God is still on the throne. He still answers prayer. Yes, there are many questions. There are many things we don't understand. There are answers to prayer that we are still waiting for; for some answers we have been waiting for years. And yet, God is not deaf. May I say just this: God is not deaf. *God is not unwilling. 2009 did not catch God unawares.*

### The time in between

These past months I thought again about the life of Abraham and Jacob. How many times do we read in the Bible that God talked to them? With each of them individually, not more than ten times. God talked to Abraham about a child, but it was only 10 years later that He spoke to him again. God talked to Jacob at Bethel and we read in the Bible that only 20 years later God spoke to him again. Abraham reached the age of 175 and Jacob lived up to the age of approximately 130 years, and we read in the Bible of only a few times that God talked to them. Think of Abraham in the desert. He sat in his tent for 10 years. In the dust, in the fierce heat, wind, cold nights, with a wife who did not become pregnant. Nothing happened. And yet he didn't stop believing: *Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promises of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised (Rom.4:19-21).* And it was the same with Jacob. God promised to bless him and that he would have many descendants. Many of the things God promised, Jacob didn't see in his lifetime. In fact there was much suffering and strife.

There are always in-between-times in our lives. The in-between-times are much longer than the times of miracles, great victories and the revelations of God. It is the same with prayer. God makes promises, but the occasions where the answer follows the promise on the same day, or even the following day, are in the minority. It is in the in-between-times that we, like Abraham, need to hold on to the promises. It is during these times that we must read the Bible, be faithful in prayer and believe God more than the circumstances.

Read **Psalm 2** again. It is a conversation between the Father and the Son, most probably even before creation. This promise is already fulfilled in part. It is however not completely fulfilled. There is an in-between-time. What does Jesus do in the in-between-time? He intercedes for us in heaven. He calls on us to pray with Him for the nations. He sends us out to go and work among the nations. The fact that Jesus has already been waiting for thousands, of years for the fulfilment of this promise does not mean that God will not give Him what He promised Him. It will come. But in God the Father's own time.

May these words give you hope. Let us do what we have to do and that is to pray (among other things) and God will do what He promised. He knows best what and how to do it.

### The next three months

In June we focus on the need of young people and children, in July on the need and breakthroughs in our country's prisons. In August and September we pray that God will reveal Himself to Muslims and we ask Him to reveal himself to us as Christians: His character, His being, His work. We know so little about God. We know so much about the world but we do not make a study of God Himself.

We pray, because we know God hears us.

### Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

Eph.3:20

## What, where and when

### International

#### **31 May - 5 June 2009: Call2All Global Congress**

Call2All is a partnership of mission agencies, denominations, and organisations including Christian leaders, all working together and focusing especially on the 639 people groups with a population of over 100,000 who, as far as it is known, have not been reached with the gospel. Leaders from around the world will plan and strategise, considering new methods of reaching and discipling people in the world today. (*Global Christian Network*. Website: [www.call2all.org/hkcongress](http://www.call2all.org/hkcongress) or [www.qcni.org](http://www.qcni.org) or e-mail: Liz: [asianrd@sr21.com](mailto:asianrd@sr21.com) or Tom: [tadleta@sr21.com](mailto:tadleta@sr21.com)).

#### **6-7 June 2009: World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk**

Last year God enabled over 4 million people in 100 countries to pray for the needs of the *Children at Risk* in the world. Join us during this time to pray for our *Children at Risk*, that God through His Spirit will move along the streets and amongst communities, surrounding the children with His love. Ask that His servants will be strengthened both physically and spiritually and grow in number to care for each child. For more information visit [www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org) or e-mail [pray@viva.org](mailto:pray@viva.org)

## What, where & when

### National

#### **June – November 2009: Shalom Ministries**

Lift up in prayer Angus Buchan as he speaks to men all over the country in 2009: 25 July at Rustenburg, 15 August at Bloemfontein, 12 September at Upington, 10 October at Vredendal, 14 November at Worcester. (*Shalom Ministries*. P.O. Box 373, Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal. Tel.: 033 417 1695, fax: 033 417 1343. Website: [www.shalomtrust.co.za](http://www.shalomtrust.co.za) or e-mail: [shalom@futureqtn.co.za](mailto:shalom@futureqtn.co.za)).

#### **28 September – 2 October 2009: The 8<sup>th</sup> Watchman's School of Prayer**

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Watchman's School of Prayer* is an opportunity for every Believer who has a burden to see their church and community covered with night-and-day prayer & worship. This is a full-time school of five days focusing on:

- Entering into a deeper prayer life
- Experiencing different forms of individual and corporate prayer
- Receiving practical tools on how to establish a 24/7 prayer watch in your local church or community

We are inviting you to be one of the 140 delegates expected to attend this school, which takes place in the unique setting of the Rocklands Conference Centre in Simon's Town, south of Cape Town. Together we will seek the Lord in prayer and worship, learn from one another's experience, and trust Him to establish and strengthen the foundation of night-and-day prayer in every church and community. Accommodation is available for 120 people only, at **R950 per person**. Last year we were fully booked, so please register as soon as possible with Lizette at tel.: +27 21 919 7988 or e-mail: [cape@jwipn.com](mailto:cape@jwipn.com)

## Did you know?

### **UK: The many shapes of 24/7 prayer**

24/7 is in fact a movement, 'moved' by God Himself. From its accidental start in Chichester, England, in 1999, there has been a wild explosion of prayer, mission and justice that spread to more than a third of the nations on earth. In the mafia-run walled city of Boys Town, Mexico, one lady is praying with women and men caught up in cycles of prostitution, poverty and drugs. She knows that prayer is a dangerous, risky business, but she's modelling Christ's love, mercy and justice and lives are being changed. The same is happening in Spain. In the area surrounding Leipzig, East Germany, atheism and unemployment prevail as the lasting legacy of Communism. A truly radical modern-day, monastic community has moved into the picturesque village of Ramsdorf. They pray five times a day, renovated a derelict school, play football and offer free art-classes for the locals. "Our neighbours just call us 'The Christians' because we're the only ones they've ever known," says Markus Laegel. "It's scary, because the way we live will define Jesus to them." (Source: Joel News, January 2009) .

## What's online

### The *Online Bible*

Website: <http://www.online-bible.com/winonlinebible.html>

All new releases of the *Online Bible* programming will give you the ability to copy the *Online Bible for Pocket PC* program as well as the Authorised Version (KJV) Bible, Easton's Dictionary, TSK, Greek and Hebrew Lexicons. This includes all the basic material required to give you a very useable Bible study program on your *Pocket PC* at no cost. For more details: *Windows Pocket PC Online Bible* – website: <http://www.online-bible.com/winpocketpc.html>

### Get the chronological Bible Video Free

#### Websites:

<http://theglorystory.com/html/videos.htm>

[http://theglorystory.com/html/free\\_pictures.htm](http://theglorystory.com/html/free_pictures.htm)

<http://www.brigada.org/2008/10/8-chronological-bible-video.html>

*The Chronological Bible in pictures*, free for church groups & missions. The *10 Minute Bible* video is now available at <http://theglorystory.com/html/videos.htm>

To download pictures and re-create the *10 Minute Bible* go to [http://theglorystory.com/html/free\\_pictures.htm](http://theglorystory.com/html/free_pictures.htm)

There are no copyright restrictions on these images.

### Ellel Ministries

Website: [www.em365.org](http://www.em365.org)

*Ellel 365* could be a unique tool that will enable many more people to be trained in healing and discipleship at a very low cost, in fact as low as the average price of a daily newspaper! In due course it will also be available in many languages so that most people in the world would be able to do the training in their own language!

## Quotes

A godly man is a praying man. As soon as grace is poured in, prayer is poured out. Prayer is the soul's traffic with heaven; God comes down to us by His Spirit, and we go up to Him by prayer. -Thomas Watson

I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach. - J. H. Jowett

Groaning which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused. - C. H. Spurgeon

If you cannot pray, go and read God's Word until it burns in your heart - then pray. - Jessie Penn-Lewis

I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working. - James Hudson Taylor

The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched the angel. - Thomas Watson

Pray often; for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. - John Bunyan

That which begins not with prayer, seldom winds up with comfort. - John Flavel

The depth of a revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the spirit of repentance. - Frank Bartleman

## 24/7 Prayer watch focus: June-September 2009

The prayer focuses on this page 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](http://www.jwipn.com). Also remember to subscribe to our weekly *Prayer Alert* at [cape@jwipn.com](mailto:cape@jwipn.com) which covers current issues in prayer on a weekly basis.

### **June-August: 90 Days of Blessing**

Every year after the *Global Day of Prayer* at Pentecost, the Church is encouraged to reach out to communities in practical ways, showing the love of the Lord Jesus in practical ways for 90 days. This year the focus is to reach out to those living in 'noteworthy and neglected places'. Please pray with millions all over the world and find a way how you can become practically involved. The prayer pointers of every day during this period include practical tips to help you reach out to those who are forgotten. As the Church we have two main tasks: The great commandment and the great commission. The great commission is to take the gospel of salvation to those that live in sin and alienation from Christ. The great commandment is to love God and our neighbour as ourselves. In **Lk.4:18-19** and **Isa.61:1-2** we read more about what it means to love our neighbour. Amongst other things it includes putting into practice loving, feeding, caring, housing and bringing emotional and physical healing to them. This is what the *90 Days of Blessing* is about.

### **June: Focus on Children at Risk**

There is so much violence against children. Neglected children are seen even at rubbish dumps. We see the 7 million street children in Brazil, child soldiers with lifeless eyes, and children living with their parents through the traumas of war. Then there are child prostitution, child slavery and child labour. May we find time this month to sit down and just think about the needs of children. And may it be that God will give us tears to cry for these children. May our hearts be broken by the brokenness of the children. And may God be gracious to us so that we will pray with faith and tears and also do what our hands find to do. Let us pray as if they are our own children. Let us remember that they are made in the image of God and need the love of God. Jesus said: "*Let the children come to Me*". This means that we need to take the children to Him – which also means that we need to bring them to Him in prayer.

### **July: Focus on prisons in SA**

God is certainly doing something in many prisons in South Africa. He is raising up people who pray in prisons, dozens of prayer watches in many prisons in most of the provinces, strong evangelistic outreaches in prisons, new workers that reach out to prisoners with various initiatives to take care of their emotional needs. During July we are focusing on the prisons in this nation. When prisons change, the nation changes. The present feedback from work done in prisons, shows that prisons are not places without hope. Let us pray with faith.

### **August: Proclamations of God's character and works over SA**

We pray about so many things: needs, sins, challenges, demonic attacks, family, pain and many personal things. In the process, though, while we are praying to God, we often lose sight of God Himself. The first 21 days of August we will take time to worship God, focus on Him and pray for ourselves and our nation based on the character and the works of God. Let us ask God, through the mighty working of the Holy Spirit to draw us deeper into Him and to give us a new understanding of His character, so that through prayer we may know He is 'more than enough' in all situations.

### **September: Ramadan**

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for millions of Muslims runs from 21 August until 20 September 2009. During this time Christians all over the world are praying that God our Father will show Muslims His love and also bring about salvation through Jesus, His Son. We are praying that God will reveal Himself in divine ways to millions of Muslims that are seriously and honestly seeking God and want to live to please Him alone. Pray with love. Do not pray with fear or an attitude of superiority. Let us humble ourselves as the Body of Christ for neglecting to love Muslims as Jesus loves them. Let us join millions of Christians all over the world for this period of focused prayer for Muslims.

### **Testimony: Eight-year-old Kickstarts House Church**

A father in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, tells this story of his eight-year old son Matt: "Last year he became really friendly with a kid in his school and as they chatted, Matt asked him if he'd given his heart to the Lord. Jamie said no, and that he wanted to do that. Matt's mother felt it wise to consult with Jamie's mom and indicate that Jamie was 'interested in spiritual things'. To our delight she agreed and said she'd invite some friends (to hear more). That was six months ago. Now God has birthed a thriving house church where several people (about 30) have been saved, both kids and adults. Probably the most rewarding thing of all for us is to watch Jamie and his mom, dad, and sister delighting in the life that Jesus has brought into their home as they now all serve Him. Kids have a far greater ability

than adults to open up the hearts of unbelieving families. It took so little for this miracle to happen!" (Source: *Joel News International*, JNI 672, January 28, 2009).

### **Children-2-pray: How to pray for someone who is a Muslim**

**Who are they?** About 3,700 of the 10,000 people groups in the world who have not yet heard about Jesus are Muslim. A people group is a group that speaks the same language, lives the same way, and believes the same things.

**Where are they?** Muslims live mostly in West and North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, and Indonesia.

**What do they believe?** Muslims believe in one divine being which they call Allah. Allah (or god) is not the same God we serve. Our God is three-in-one, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Allah was made known by a messenger called Mohammed. Muslims believe that Jesus was just a good prophet, not the Son of God, but they also believe that He will come to earth again. They believe they have to earn their way to heaven by doing more good deeds than bad deeds.

**Why must we pray?** We pray for them because they do not serve the Lord Jesus Christ who is the only way to our heavenly Father.

#### **How can I pray?**

**Monday:** Father, help Muslims know that You forgive sins and that salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by works (**Psalm 130:3-4, Ephesians. 2:8-9**).

**Tuesday:** Father, bless and keep all Muslims who become Christians and are driven out of their villages and rejected and persecuted by their families. Help them to stay strong and rejoice because You have saved them. Please protect them from harm or being killed (**Matthew 5:10-12**).

**Wednesday:** Father, will You reveal Yourself to Muslims through dreams and visions so that they will believe that Jesus is the Son of God (**Joel 2:28**).

**Thursday:** Thank you Father for every missionary working in a country that is not friendly towards Christians like Afghanistan, Israel, Albania, North India, Pakistan, and Indonesia. Bless them for risking their lives. Please protect them every day and help them to stand firm in their faith and to be strong and courageous (**1 Corinthians 16:13**).

**Friday:** Father, as Muslim children hear Your Word on Christian radio or television broadcasts, we pray that they will clearly understand the truth about Jesus Christ and believe it with their whole heart (**Isaiah 55:10-11**).

### **National prayer focus: How do we pray in these difficult economic times?**

People are often able to handle many things, but when there is a shortage of money they quickly become panicky. Currently the economy is under great pressure worldwide and we also experience that in South Africa. The situation is grim and hundreds of thousands of people's lives are being influenced very negatively because of this.

#### **How do we pray in these times? The following are a few guidelines:**

1. Don't allow yourself to give in to fear. Fear is not fitting in a Christian who knows that God made heaven and earth and has everything in His hand. God takes care of the birds in the sky and the wild flowers. He will take care of you also (**Matt.6:25-33**). Go and stand before the Lord and look at God until you can see Him better than the economy and until you see that God's omnipotence is bigger than your fear.
2. Jesus said, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*" (**Matt.6:33**). Make a decision to believe His promise more than the circumstances you see around you. Ask God the Father what it means in your case to first seek of God.
3. Greed is one of the main causes of the current economic situation of the world. Be content with what you have. Open up your heart before God. Ask Him to show you every form of greed and discontentedness in your heart. Ask Him to show you anything you covet that you don't need. Ask Him to show you why you want it and also why you are discontented. Thank God for what He gives you. Paul writes: True religion with contentment is great wealth ... so if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content (**1 Tim.6:6-8**).
4. The deepest roots of greed are fear and selfishness. Go and stand before God and ask Him to take care of you and confess every form of selfishness. Selfishness is rooted in our inability to understand God's unconditional and sufficient love for us. We then try to be self-sufficient. Ask the Father to reveal His love to you: This will drive out fear and it will help you to stop focusing on yourself only (**1 Tim.6:9-10**).

5. One way in which to break the hold greed has over us, is to start giving cheerfully. Ask the Lord Jesus to show you people in need and be the answer to their prayers. People are inclined to become tight-fisted toward the needs of others. As Christians we should not be like this.
6. You must give your tithe. That money belongs to the Lord. Don't bargain with God about this. Don't question the principle. God says we must test Him: If we give our tithe, He will give to us, in abundance. Even if you think it doesn't make sense to give your tithe in difficult times, God's Kingdom works differently. God is no one's debtor: Let us do what we must do and God will do what He promised to do.
7. Pay your debt, all of it. You are the one who got into debt and you are responsible to get out of it. Even if it means you must do without other things in order to be able to pay your debt, you must do it none the less.
8. Do not steal. Don't make private calls or photo copies at work without paying for these. Don't steal time by leaving early or arriving late for work. Pay your taxes: Everything you owe. Ask the Lord to show you if there are things you do that do not please Him and confess them, and repent.
9. Do not take or give bribes. Do not compromise in this respect.
10. Pray for your daily bread. This is what the Lord Jesus teaches us in **Matthew 6:11**. We often think we can provide for our families by hard work and clever schemes. Jesus says: Pray. When we pray and ask, He will give and provide: Work, health, protection, strength and everything we need.

**Very important:** Don't spend more than your income; see what you can do without, live more simply; start a lift club; plan your car trips; save electricity and water. Don't borrow money. Contribute to develop a culture where we help each other by, for example sharing tools and know-how with one another.

### **Teens-2-pray: Setting the iPod generation on fire through prayer**

So you are young and full of life and though you really want to speak to God, you struggle to connect? If this is you, then this article may be a remedy for your problem! Did you know that older people can do 1.7 things at a time, whilst you can easily juggle 5.3 things at once? Did you also know that worldwide, young people are returning to a contemplative lifestyle in their prayer life which helps them focus on important issues they want to see changed in their generation?

Multi tasking and continuous connectivity are a normal part of your life, so it makes sense that technology will affect your praying. Multi tasking is fine, and you can easily 'talk' to God while you are busy with all the many things needing your attention. But listening to God is a little more challenging. To hear God's voice, everyone needs to find a certain degree of quietness. For all of us, great and small, **Psalm 46:10** remains of vital importance: *Be still and know that I am God*. At least once or twice, try some of the following suggestions in order to help you 'connect' with God and hear His voice. He wants to speak to us much more than we can ever imagine. He wants to speak to YOU more than you can think or pray or ask for!

**Find a place to pray.** It can be hard to find a place to meet with God in a noisy apartment building. Ask God to show you a safe and quiet place you can go/sit down to pray on a regular basis.

**Write it down.** I know you are comfortable with blogging, so here is the deal; see journaling as blogging your prayers to God. You can write them down on paper in a book, or type them on your computer. Pause to hear if God is telling you something as you 'pray-write' to Him.

**Pray aloud.** Speak to God as if He is in the room. As if He is a real person listening to you. Actually, He is in the room and He is real too!! So try it. You can sing what is in your heart and mind to Him as well. All of that is called prayer. Remember to also listen. The 'talking side' of prayer needs to be balanced with the 'listening side'. He has something to tell you, for sure!

**Play music.** So you like listening to music, constantly? Put on some instrumental CD while 'doing prayer'. It helps you relax and focus on God when there is 'controlled noise' in the background. Try it, remember to make time for listening also and write down what you experience God is saying to you.

**Get unplugged.** Put off your cell phone and shut down your e-mail connection for the next hour. Life will continue! For at least some time each day, switch 'off' to the world and 'facebook' with God. Give Him preference by taking a practical step, showing Him He is number one to you.

**Relax but focus.** We can spend a lot of time in worship and that is wonderful. But in order to do the work of prayer we have to intentionally focus ourselves to hear what is on God's heart and lift up His heartbeat in prayer. This is

pleasing to Him. Make sure you listen to pray every day for things other than your own needs. Pray for others as the Holy Spirit shows you.

*Stay connected till next time....*

## **Prayer Story: 24/7 Prayer Watch in Sun City Prison**

### **How did the prayer watch start?**

*Johannesburg Prison* is not the place where anyone wants to live. It is also called *Sun City* because even the nights are like day due to the 24/7 bright security lights. About 11,500 inmates languish in overcrowded cells in four prison buildings (called A, B, C and Female).

But now the Son of Righteousness is starting to shine in and from *Sun City* as more than 400 inmates call on the Name of the Lord night and day in 73 24/7/365 prayer watches. Inmates joining these watches are praying an average of about 12 hours per day – trusting God to help them pray the full 24 hours every day! Prisoners are calling out to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, for revival to come to *Sun City*. They pray for Johannesburg and South Africa and yes, they pray for **you!**

It all started when in 2006 *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* in Witwatersrand responded to calls from the *Johannesburg Prison* to teach them about prayer. We were shocked as only five permanent staff members were responsible for overseeing the spiritual health of 11,500 inmates – the chaplain and a spiritual care worker in every prison building! As there were numerous Christians inmates that were hungry to learn to pray, a course called the **24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course** was developed to teach them how to pray.

Fifteen inmates in the female prison of *Sun City* were the first to complete the course. They started ten 24/7 Prayer watches with other Christian inmates that they mobilised to pray with them! Then we got a BIG SURPRISE! Nine of the successful students wanted to be trained as trainers! Of these, seven completed the course successfully, who in turn, trained another 66 inmates, with *Jericho Walls* personnel only overseeing the process. One of the five modules of this course teaches students about 24/7 prayer watches and encourages each student to become a 24/7 watch prayer coordinator. They are encouraged to then recruit other inmates to take daily slots in their prayer watch.

### **What tips can you give others on starting a prayer watch?**

To start a prayer watch in a prison, you must have lots of patience and time and the Lord's love for prisoners and their wardens. The best way to start is to present the existing *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course* in the prison. Those attending the first course will also be those starting the first prayer watch (or watches). It is important to watch for potential trainers amongst students as the training is done. In-prison trainers often assist you in your efforts to a great extent, but they would need continuous support from you.

### **What must you guard against?**

You are representing Christ to the prison authorities and inmates (both Christian and non-Christian). Therefore do not become discouraged or angry when red tape takes up a lot of time; schedules do not work; promises are not kept; and when having to stand for hours in front of locked gates (or behind them!). Please, keep all your promises. Count the cost before you begin – it is high, but so rewarding!

### **What training do you provide for those interested in starting a 24-hour prayer watch in a prison?**

The *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course* (see the details of the modules elsewhere), is presented once a year in Pretoria (this year 13-14 August 2009), or regionally, or at specific prisons when there is sufficient interest from the prison or the group of spiritual care workers of the prison. You may be instrumental in getting such training organised. (Contact Elize at the *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* office in Pretoria, Willem Joubert or Michelle Coetzee at the Witwatersrand office).

### **Do you see any fruit of your prayers?**

Yes, the tremendous growth in the number of prayer watches in prisons! The spiritual atmosphere has changed in the prisons where the most watches are running, namely Medium B and C. Both inmates and wardens testify to this fact. Wardens have now requested also to be taught how to pray as they see the lives of inmates change.

This is Mohammed (not his real name) from Medium B prison's story:

Mohammed was convicted of aggravated armed robbery. He attended one of the first classes of the *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course*. "It changed my life. I learned to pray and talk to God. I realised the importance of praying 24/7. A new life opened up to me in prison! I started to pray 24/7 for all those around me, using the principles of *Luke 10 Transformation!*" Mohammed also started a 24/7 prayer watch that runs 24 hours a day, every day! He immediately volunteered to become a trainer of the course and after receiving the train-the-trainer training, he trained 69 other inmates and motivated at least 30 of them to start 24/7 prayer watches in their sections!

**Contact details:** Elize, tel.: 012 365 3213 or e-mail: [office@global24-7.org](mailto:office@global24-7.org) or Willem Joubert, tel.: 011 824 1985 or e-mail: [wjoubert@icon.co.za](mailto:wjoubert@icon.co.za)

### **Luke 10 Transformation training in SA prisons**

The *Prayer Story* (about Sun City Prison at 5 July 2009), narrates the development of 24/7 prayer watches in the *Johannesburg Prison (Sun City)*. Part of the process of equipping inmates to pray also includes getting them to follow a lifestyle that reflects how God cares for others. This is done through the *Luke 10 Transformation* or *L-10-T* course. *L-10-T* teaches inmates to live a life of prayer and to care for those around them (inmates & wardens), family, city and country.

#### **What is L-10-T?**

*L-10-T* is based on the four instructions of Jesus, in a modern-day context, to the seventy-two disciples in **Luke 10**, to ordinary Christians AND prison inmates. Thus we **do** the *Great Commission* and **execute** Jesus' commandments, such as the two *Great Commandments* and the commandment to follow Jesus. The duration of the full training course is 12 hours, usually over 6 sessions, consisting of four easy steps:

**Step 1:** You ask for God's daily blessing and peace on every place you go, and on all the people you meet. Inmates now focus on the lost around them in their cells, in prison and in their families. It is wonderful to see previously self-centred people start carrying out the *Second Great Commandment!*

**Step 2:** You build relationships with all people needing Jesus (of all faiths or no faith) wherever they are (without compromising your faith) – preach Christ but DO NOT use words! (What a challenge for them in the prison environment. But yes, they have the lost around them, so now they go against the flow and start to befriend those who maligned them! Everything to win a soul for Christ!)

**Step 3:** You identify the needs of the people around you by listening or asking and then giving physical or emotional assistance if possible; AND/OR pray for the need (silently or out loud) of the person. (The inmates around our prayer warriors have many needs. Inmates do not have much to give physically, but they can encourage and call upon God's Great Helping Hand! This step opens the doors to so many hearts in prison, but also as they meet their families during visiting hours – who are often in need!)

**Step 4:** Preach the gospel by speaking as if you have the gift of evangelism or by answering any question about your faith if you are one of the 96% of all Christians who do not normally talk freely about Christ. Also pray the *Take Five* evangelism prayer for at least five unsaved persons needing Christ. *Take Five* shows how to pray for five specific unsaved persons inmates know about – in or outside prison! Currently the 441 inmates are praying for at least 2,200 souls, and we know that He is faithful and will hear those prayers! The *Take Five* pamphlet is on the *Jericho Walls* website at: <http://www.jwipn.com/pdf/Take%20Five%20-%20English%202007-10-25.pdf>

#### **What is the effect of L-10-T?**

*L-10-T* challenges inmates to a radical new lifestyle in Christ! It guides the Christian to a lifestyle where he or she will follow Jesus Christ daily wherever they go and imitate Him in a way that is possible for all persons in their interaction with friends and even strangers. *L-10-T* allows followers of Christ to mature in their expression of the *Great Commission (Matt.28:19)* and of the two *Great Commandments* – firstly by building their personal relationship with the Lord through daily prayer, and secondly by fellowshipping with, and reaching out to their fellow inmates, wardens, family and if possible, through the restorative justice system, to those that were hurt by them.

**John's story (not his real name):**

John is a convicted murderer. He attended one of the first classes of the *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course*. "I could not believe that I could actually speak to God, and not only about myself, but also about others! The training helped me to pray 24/7 and to help those around me in prison. I could not believe it when even wardens came with prayer requests and asked for prayer. The Lord is so good. He hears our prayers!" John started a 24/7 prayer watch that runs about 20 hours every day! John also volunteered to become a trainer for the course, received the train-the-trainer training and has since trained 12 others.

The news is spreading. Wardens are now asking inmates to pray for them! So there are two 24/7 prayer processes going – the structured one through the controlled 24/7 prayer coordination, and the unstructured minute-by-minute process – as the inmates follow Jesus by doing what He did as they live their lives in prison! What is very important is that inmates are taking on a new lifestyle with which they can continue when they leave prison as fully restored citizens and dangerous warriors for Christ!

That is why we now say: **The Son of God is shining 24/7 in Sun City!**

Please contact Willem Joubert about *L-10-T* training for you, your prayer group, congregation, school, university, business or prison. There are several *L-10-T* resources available. Order the *L-10-T* Information DVD and Training Manual and/or The Four Training DVD's and Training Manual (and/or Additional Training Manuals). Contact us at: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* Pretoria. Also visit [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or contact Willem Joubert (Cell: 082 650 5684 or e-mail: [wjoubert@icon.co.za](mailto:wjoubert@icon.co.za)) or Lenthia (Tel.: 011 824 1985 or e-mail: [lenthia@jwipn.com](mailto:lenthia@jwipn.com)).

### **Prayer story: 24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Courses in prison and how to pray for inmates**

The *Prayer Story* (see 5 July 2009), narrates the development of 24/7 prayer watches in the *Johannesburg Prison (Sun City)* over a period of time. In order to establish these watches, inmates completed a course that changed their lives and by the end of 2008, 441 inmates had completed the course in *Sun City* prison! After developing the *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course* which specifically focuses on training SA prison inmates in the *Johannesburg Prison*, we obtained favour with authorities to also conduct this training on a national level throughout 2007 and 2008. Several regional training sessions were held in Pretoria, George, Cape Town and specifically at *Atteridgeville Prison* and at *Pollsmoor Prison*.

#### **The 24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course consists of five modules:**

**Module 0:** Knowing Christ – teaching inmates, making sure that they know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**Module 1:** Boiler-room (prayer room) – giving inmates guidelines regarding different kinds of prayer and making a boiler-room where they can – in their prayer journal, prison bed, cell or corner of the cell or section.

**Module 2:** 24/7 Prayer – teaching the importance of 24/7 prayer and teaching them to become coordinators of 24/7 prayer watches.

**Module 3:** *30 Seconds Kneelown* – teaching inmates to withstand challenges to their faith.

**Module 4: Luke 10 Transformation (L-10-T):** - teaching inmates to live a lifestyle of prayer and to care for those around them (inmates & wardens), family, city and country. (More about *L-10-T* in the article on *L-10-T* in prisons).

### **How to pray for the training of inmates in SA prisons**

1. Pray for trainers in *Sun City* prison to roll out the course to the thousands of inmates who need Jesus!
2. Pray for all the ministries working in prisons throughout South Africa!
3. Pray for the successful launch of the course in all prisons in South Africa!
4. Thank the Lord for what He has done and is doing through the *24/7 Prayer and Care Lifestyle Course*.
5. Pray that the Lord will raise up spiritual care workers to present the course in prisons. Could it be YOU?
6. Pray for the *Spiritual Care and Development workers* in the *SA Department of Correctional Services*. Pray that the Lord will give them strength and helping hands through volunteer workers!
7. Pray for the *Correctional Services* staff: For salvation, for growth in Christ, for strength to keep up the good work!
8. Pray for the elimination of bribery and corruption in the prison system – in the case of inmates as well as wardens.
9. Pray for all SA's inmates ('...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' **Matt.25:31-45**). Pray that they will come to know Him while in prison and will grow so powerfully in Him that they will leave prison as faithful, committed intercessors and ministers or workers for Christ!

10. Pray for the necessary resources to roll out this training in prisons. The printed resources cost about R60 per prisoner. Often prisons are outside towns and spiritual care workers need at least transport money to get there. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact us at the *Jericho Walls* offices, tel.: 012 365 3213 or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)

### Resources and Information

Please contact Elize at the *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* Pretoria office or Willem Joubert, or Michelle Coetzee at the Witwatersrand office for information about *24/7 Prayer and Care Training Courses* or resources nationally.

The following are a few testimonies of inmates who completed the training:

#### Testimonies from *Atteridgeville Prison*:

"My life before I was a Christian was dark; no one could help me, not even the sangomas. I was frustrated, doing bad things, hurting other people. I had no peace in my life. I was full of anger, hatred and was contemplating suicide. My life was terrible and I could not think straight. I saw myself as an ugly, bad person, who deserved to die. Everything changed when I was arrested and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for assault. While in my jail bed I heard people singing in a church meeting, praising the Lord. Something told me I should go to church. I listened to the preachers and thought: This is the place I have to be. A woman talked to us about praying and taught us how to pray and she told us about Jesus and how He saves many people like me. I took my chances and opened up my heart for the Holy Spirit to be in me. I cried and cried and heard a voice telling me that I am healed and will live a long good life. I was so happy I could not miss a service. I started praying and my life changed completely because God saved me. I am now a born-again Christian. It is so exciting to be a Christian. You have no worries anymore; all the bad thoughts are gone. I love people and I help others, I pray with people who need help and are in need of peace. I do not fear anything anymore. I walk tall in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen." (Joseph)

"Before I started following Christ I was a servant to all the things of this world, including diseases, alcohol, money and women. Because of this I used to live in great fear. I grew up in a family of Believers but I never believed. There was a time when problems came one on top of the other. At last I landed in prison where I felt most unfortunate because no plan could rescue me. I met with a great teacher (of the *24/7 Prayer Course*) and I am now a real Believer and a witness for Jesus Christ. I am now living a prayerful life and I don't believe in any barrier to my joy." (James)

### Men-2-Pray: HOW TO DEAL WITH LOSING YOUR JOB

Hearing "You are fired" or "We are laying off personnel" can be the hardest words for a person to hear in life. However, it does not have to be the end of the world. It can actually be the beginning of a new life for you. Still it is important to face the realities of life in practical ways. The following are some guidelines on how to pray for someone (or yourself) who lost a job and has not yet found something else. While giving these guidelines, we realize that there are no quick solutions to this sensitive and often painful situation.

1. **Acceptance.** Give them time to adjust to the fact that they have lost their job. The shock and trauma usually hit home only a few days after they heard they lost their job. **Prayer:** *Cover them in prayer in the days and weeks after getting the news of losing their job. Pray for God's protection over their hearts and minds and that they would take every thought captive in obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Cor.10:4-5). Ask that they will experience God's love and power and have a sound mind (2 Tim.1:7). Pray that they will be honest about their feelings and able to explain to their families what happened, how it might influence their immediate circumstances and not hide the truth from them. Pray that their families will be supportive.*
2. **Evaluate.** It is important for them to evaluate, as unemotionally as possible, the facts of the situation they find themselves in. What are their monthly responsibilities, etc.? They might experience feelings of worthlessness regardless of their true capabilities, qualifications and output they delivered. **Prayer:** *Pray for them to be able to do a realistic evaluation. Ask for God to show them their true worth in His eyes. Pray for their protection against the fiery darts of the enemy (Eph.6:10-16) and that they will trust in God despite the circumstances of the moment. God is never surprised when something like this happens. Pray that they will spend time with God and be able to hear His voice on the purpose and plans of His heart for them; that He has hope and a future in store for them (Jer.29:11). Pray that they would trust God to do this.*

3. **Put together a CV/business plan, or consider further study.** After assessing the current situation of unemployment and listening to God's voice and plan, it is important for them to write down what He is saying and then begin to walk the road He shows them. They need to keep learning and studying to stay in touch with what is happening in the world. **Prayer:** *Pray for them to be able to hear God's voice during this time. Ask for friends to pray with them on a regular basis, who will also encourage them in God's plans for their lives. Also ask for wisdom on how to better equip themselves through further study. Pray that they will not become involved in money-making schemes or anything requiring large sums of money that may cause unnecessary debts. Ask that God will protect them and arrange for them to meet with those people He wants to connect them to. When they consider to start their own business, pray for them for wisdom and to tread carefully in spending money to start their business. Encourage them to also get professional advice.*
4. **Think along entrepreneurial lines:** Do not just look for a regular job where you are sure of a salary. Think also of starting something totally new. **Prayer:** *Ask the Lord for His creative Spirit to guide them. Ask that they do not give up after one or two efforts. It normally takes 3.8 efforts on average to have some success. They must persevere, pray and seek God's guidance and not listen to people's negative remarks. They must trust God and move forward.*
5. **Pension/lump sum payouts.** Often, when someone is laid off, companies pay out the person's pension and two or three months' salary. **Prayer:** *Do not inquire about their personal matters if they do not tell you. More importantly, do not tell others private information you have been told. Pray for them to spend their money wisely and immediately pay off any outstanding debt, so they will not have the worry of monthly payments on their minds. Also pray that they will consider investing some of the money wisely and not spend everything at once or blow it on quick-rich schemes. Ask the Lord for favour so that they will receive money owed to them when leaving the company, and consequently not have outstanding accounts or bad debt.*
6. **Quality time.** They need to work on relationships that are important such as relationships with their spouse, children and family. **Prayer:** *Pray that they will not withdraw from healthy personal relationships. Ask God to help them respond to and embrace the love and friendship of friends and family without feeling suspicious of their intentions. Continue to ask God to connect them with good friends who will pray with them on a regular basis. Pray also that they would never consider suicide.*
7. **Right decisions.** When invited for an interview, they need to be ready and willing to do things differently. **Prayer:** *Pray for courage and self-confidence for them as they go for interviews, as being laid off does influence your self-esteem whether inwardly or outwardly. Ask that they will be at peace with the outcome of their interviews and continue to trust God for the right position in the right circumstances. E.g. send a SMS to friends, asking them to pray for the interview.*
8. **The family.** Family members feel sorry for the parent who lost a job. Children might retreat, feel angry or ashamed when this happens. A spouse will definitely feel the responsibility to carry the family emotionally and financially if possible. This might once more influence the self-worth of the spouse who lost his or her job. **Prayer:** *Pray for each family member in families where one parent lost their job. Especially if couples are divorced and it has an influence on paying monthly allowances and school fees for the children. Ask the Lord to show you how to reach out to them in practical ways without letting them think you feel sorry for them. Just be their friend, listen to their stories and apart from praying for them, take time and opportunity to pray with them, OFTEN!!!*
9. **Celebrate.** There will come a time again that they find a job, or start a business and get back on track. Make sure to make a special occasion of it, giving thanks to the Lord for carrying them through and for answering so

### **Relevant international issues: Global abortion trends**

1. **Number of abortions is declining.** The number of induced abortions declined worldwide between 1995 and 2003, from nearly 46 million to approximately 42 million. About one in five pregnancies worldwide end in abortion. Most abortions occur in developing countries—35 million annually, compared with seven million in developed countries—a disparity that largely reflects the relative population distribution. **Prayer:** *Give thanks to the Lord for the decrease in the number of abortions taking place worldwide. Pray specifically for difficult circumstances women face in developing countries e.g. rape, incest, beliefs etc. that contribute to large numbers of abortions being performed, that these things might be turned around in practical ways.*
2. **Asia performs most abortions.** Because the world's population is concentrated in Asia, most abortions occur there (26 million yearly); nine million of these take place in China. **Prayer:** *Lift up in prayer women in this global*

region as they face pretty tough situations both personally and because of legislation, especially in China where couples are limited to have only one child per family. Pray for God's mercy on the unborn, for miracles in impossible situations and mothers to be able to take care of their unborn babies once they are born. Also pray for responsible fathers to care and meet their responsibilities and not leave women to face these challenges on their own.

3. **Laws do not stop abortions.** Legal restrictions on abortion do not affect its incidence. The abortion rate is higher e.g. in Africa, where it is mostly illegal. The lowest abortion rates in the world are in Western and Northern Europe, where abortion is accessible with few restrictions. Poverty and fear of a pregnancy being found out are some of the main reasons for abortions. **Prayer:** Pray that God will intervene in the hearts and minds of people, so that they might understand the gift of life given to them. Pray especially for those who got pregnant through unfortunate circumstances over which they had no control. Pray for them to find Christ, and healing from the shame and trauma of such an experience.
4. **Abortion takes lives.** Worldwide, 48% of all induced abortions are unsafe and an estimated five million women are hospitalised each year for treatment of abortion-related complications. Approximately 220,000 children worldwide lose their mothers every year to abortion-related deaths. **Prayer:** Lift up in prayer all children orphaned as a result of their mothers having an abortion. Pray for God to comfort and reveal Jesus to them as their Friend in trouble. Ask that orphaned children will be put in proper care and not be violated themselves by family members or other adults.
5. **Number of pregnancies terminated.** More than one-third of the approximately 205 million pregnancies that occur worldwide annually are unintended and about 22% of all pregnancies end in induced abortion. **Prayer:** Pray for mothers who want to have children and have had to face the loss of a baby by natural abortion. Ask that especially in countries where it is expected of women to have children and specifically a son, to have favour with their husbands so that they do not reject them and marry another wife.
6. **Developed countries guilty percentage-wise.** Of the 23 million pregnancies that occur in developed countries, more than 40% are unintended, and 28% end in induced abortion. **Prayer:** Lift up in prayer young and old having sex for fun as a lifestyle and then getting rid of unwanted pregnancies through abortion. Ask that mothers-to-be will hear God's voice speaking to them, put their trust in Him and find ways to preserve lives. Pray that if there are pre-marital pregnancies, that there will be opportunities of having a newborn baby adopted if they cannot take care of the baby themselves. Pray for more worldwide initiatives like Window of Life that take care of unwanted new born babies.
7. **Different faces of abortion.** *Intentional abortion* occurs when the new human being is intentionally killed, for therapeutic or elective reasons, through chemical or surgical means. *Unintentional abortion* occurs when the new human being is unintentionally aborted, or miscarried. The mother may or may not be aware that this occurs, because the aborted baby may pass out of her with her menses. *Miscarriage* is accidental foetal loss through natural means; referred to in the medical literature as a "spontaneous abortion". *Abortifacient* is a drug that kills a newly formed human being, whether by directly killing the baby or by preventing implantation, and so causing an abortion, either intentionally or unintentionally. **Prayer:** Lift up in prayer mothers everywhere coming up against these different 'faces of abortion'. Pray for God to comfort those losing a baby unintentionally or through miscarriage. Ask for the others to realise the dangers of their intentional decision, also to their health and for an instinct to treasure the life of their unborn child.
8. **Lack of contraception reason for high number of pregnancies.** More than 100 million married women in developing countries have an unmet need for contraception, meaning they are sexually active; are able to become pregnant; do not want to have a child soon or at all; and are not using any method of contraception, either modern or traditional. Contraception can be divided into different categories, but mainly those prohibiting/preventing pregnancy and those 'bringing down a fertilized egg'. **Prayer:** Pray about this situation, especially in developing countries. Ask for women to have access to contraception prohibiting pregnancy one way or another so they will not even have to consider an abortion. Pray for the necessary funding to make this possible for women worldwide.
9. **16 Countries slacken abortion laws in 10 years.** In the 10 years since the last global review of abortion policies (1998-2007), 16 countries have increased the number of grounds on which abortions may be legally performed, while two have eliminated all such grounds. Those broadening their views were: Benin, Bhutan, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Iran, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand and Togo. Two territories and one state in Australia and six states in Mexico also liberalised their laws. In contrast, El Salvador and Nicaragua changed their already restrictive laws to prohibit abortion entirely. **Prayer:**

Pray for each of these countries by name, asking the Lord to touch the hearts and minds of those in government about their decisions to promote abortion. Give thanks for those countries which are tightening their views on abortion.

- 10. Abortion is becoming more acceptable worldwide.** Worldwide, medication for abortion has gained broad acceptance. At least 39 countries have registered abortion medication, 35 in the last 10 years. **Prayer:** *Despite the overwhelming statistics, let us stand on the firm foundation of God's throne of righteousness and justice to be established concerning the issue of abortion in each and every country in the world. Declare the Name of the Lord over legislation legalising abortion, calling out for righteousness and justice. Also ask God to raise up humble but strong men and women to be a voice in every nation of the world on the issue of abortion.*

(The prayer guidelines suggested here are those of the writer of this article in *Jericho Walls*. Facts were taken from these and other resources. Resources: [http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_IAW.html](http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_IAW.html) and <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue3695.html> and [http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_IAW.html](http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_IAW.html)).

### **Women-2-pray: How to pray for someone who has lost a parent**

Death is always traumatic and even more so when you lose one of your parents. Most people experience a deep sense of loss and much pain. How do I pray for people who lost a parent? The following are some guidelines.

1. **Check your own heart first.** It is important that they will not feel you coming across wiser than they are, or that you know how to handle it and are above their pain and sense of loss. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with godly compassion for the person that needs to deal with such loss.
2. **Listen.** Let your words be few when you talk with people suffering the loss of a loved one. Do not preach to them or try to make them cut short the time they need to mourn the loss of their parent, or put an end to the mourning period too soon. Mourning the loss of a loved one takes time and it is important for someone to complete the whole process of grief, allowing them the time they need. We do not really help them by suggesting that when they just believe everything is fine the pain will go away. Coming to terms with death and healing takes time.
3. **Be sincere.** When you pray with the person, make your prayers short and do not turn your prayers into a sermon. Be sincere and pray for their felt needs and circumstances they have to face after the death of especially a parent.
4. **Fearfully minister God's love.** Wait in God's presence before you pray. Ask Him what you should pray. Let Him guide you. In times of sorrow and bereavement people are open to think again about the totality of life, their own values, priorities, sins, attitude towards life, their activities and the things that are precious to them. In times like these God often reveals Himself to a person who has lost a parent. This is why you have to listen carefully to the voice of the Holy Spirit, keeping in mind that each individual's circumstances are different. Sometimes people might be so devastated that they cannot see beyond the death of their parents. Pray with a heart full of compassion, care and love and without judgment.
5. **The salvation issue.** It is very difficult for people who have lost a parent if they suspect that their father or mother didn't know the Lord Jesus. Pray that those who lost a parent will be able to put this uncertainty into God's hands and entrust the whole situation to Him; trust His judgment and wisdom in all things. There are no easy answers here, and therefore we have to ask the Father that He will send the Holy Spirit to minister to them.
6. **Questions to be answered.** In times where people experience the reality of death close to them, they ask many questions. There is often bitterness towards God and people will blame God for lacking love and mercy, etc. Pray that they will understand God's wisdom in the midst of this situation, and also that God is too wise to make a mistake and too kind to be cruel.
7. **Step by step.** According to psychological research, most people go through roughly 5 stages in the grieving process:

First they may deny that the parent died. Pray for the emotional strength at this point to accept the fact of their parent's death.

Secondly they may try bargaining with God, asking Him to bring the person back to life. Pray for the person to trust God's character at this point and not to act irresponsibly and that they will accept that Jesus is the One who holds the keys of life and death (**Rev.1:18**).

Thirdly they might become angry. There is anger towards God, perhaps anger towards the doctor and blaming him that he made a wrong diagnosis, or anger toward the person who caused the accident in which the father or mother died. Pray for the bereaved to understand that no aspect of their life is outside of God's absolute sovereignty and control – that God is always in control. Circumstances and the Evil One cannot outsmart God. Depression can set in at the realisation that nothing can be done about the situation. The person who died is not coming back ever again. Pray for the bereaved as they work through their emotions. Pray that they will understand what is really going on in their hearts and that they will be able to release all their doubts, pain, emptiness and sorrow to God.

#### Acceptance and restoration

Try to determine what stage of the process the person you are praying for is in. Pray with them and for them through each stage. Ask God to fill you with love for them, make you sensitive to their needs and help you understand what they are going through. Not all the stages will take the same time to work through. Often people will get stuck in one of these stages or they may even skip some of them.

8. **Mixed feelings.** Especially when a person's parent had cancer or something similar and suffered a long sickbed, they might feel a sense of thankfulness and or relief at the person's death (mostly for the sake of the person who died). Many will feel guilty that they are relieved. Pray about those false guilt feelings. Also pray that in their sorrow they will understand that death is the end of suffering and that they must rejoice in that fact because the parent who died is free from pain and suffering.
9. **Pillar of strength.** When a father dies, it is as if the canopy of protection over the family is suddenly gone. There is no-one to 'protect' and take care of them. Pray for a renewed realisation that God is their Father and that they can move in under the permanent canopy of protection and security of their heavenly Father. Pray also that those who are left behind will understand their own responsibility to be that canopy of protection, that they will take authority over life in their surroundings and area of influence and include their whole family. Sometimes this is quite a difficult process as many people will feel they are not up to it.
10. **Pillar of comfort.** For many people it is something totally different when a mother dies. Suddenly the one that carried you in her womb, fed and clothed you, kissed, prayed and cried for you, is gone. For many people this is a more emotional experience than the death of a father. Pray that the persons left behind will be able to express their feelings. Do not judge them for that or try to stop them when they speak about it, or if the time of grieving continues for a longer period than what you think is 'necessary'. We are emotional beings and emotions need time to heal.
11. **Life goes on.** We do find people who are able to handle death on a rational level, but struggle to bring their emotions in line with the truths of the Word and their rational understanding and acceptance of the situation. Pray about this with and for them. Pray that they will not only be able to understand that there is still meaning in life but also realise that the fact that their father or mother died, is not the end of their own lives. It is also important for them to reach a point where they can enjoy life again, be free from sorrow and that they do not need to feel guilty if they sometimes forget about the one that died. Pray that they will grow into a deeper emotional maturity in enjoying and appreciating life.
12. **Pray Scripture.** Here are a few Scripture references to use when praying for someone who has lost a parent: **Psalm 23:4; John 14:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Revelation 21:4-7.**

### **Missions in our world today**

There are several trends that the Church needs to take into account when we think and pray about missions today. I want us to focus on only three of them to give us a better understanding of the challenge ahead of us and how to pray about it.

1. **Church to become peacemakers.** Until about 1995 wars were fought on the basis of many different, mostly secular, ideologies. But since the late nineties a shift came and religion became the basic ideology of war. A study on the wars over the last 15 years will prove this. Wars create great pain, trauma and also an opportunity for the Church to make use of such situations to demonstrate the love of Christ, irrespective of the plight of the victims and the trauma accompanying it. In wiping away the blood and tears, in comforting and sheltering the widows and children, caring for their personal needs, people can see the love of God. This in itself is not evangelism, but "pre-evangelism". Through the pain and suffering, people can see God and will open up to Him when they are cared for, irrespective of the fact that they may be seen as the "enemy". In the years to come, the

Church will have to use these opportunities to reach out to the victims of war. We need peacemakers, people that will bring peace and comfort in the midst of blood and brokenness.

2. **His throne stands on righteousness and justice.** Over the past several decades, we saw an almost complete breakdown of "community" in the world. As urbanisation increases, people are losing their cultural identity and sense of belonging to a community. Loneliness sets in. Never before in history have we seen so many lonely and displaced people. The more independent people become, the lonelier they become. When people do not belong to a community, they start losing their sense of identity. This also results in people losing or giving up on their values, and they no longer know which values to uphold. It is at such times that the only way to control people running wild is to increase the police force. The opportunity for the Church is to create new communities where people can experience love, identity, a sense of belonging and being cared for. Jesus calls His followers His friends and also brothers and sisters. That is family and community. People deeply need to belong. It is in a family context that people can take care of one another, listen to one another's stories and carry one another's burdens. Belonging to a community makes people feel special and necessary. Our gospel is a gospel of bringing people into the household of God, being reconciled with God, becoming part of the family of God. And in this situation we can start to uphold the values of The Kingdom, and that will restore law, order and justice.
3. **The growth of materialism.** At the root of materialism lies greed, the desire to be independent and replacing lasting with temporary things. In materialism "things" replace the spiritual needs of people and proclaim that material things can replace spiritual needs. Materialism is short-sighted, it only looks at this life and does not make provision for eternity, and it also ignores mankind's deepest longing, which can only be defined as spiritual. The response of the Church is not to preach a prosperity gospel to compete with materialism. The task of the Church is to preach and live a true, deep and real spirituality. We need to live a life of faith, trusting God to provide for our needs and not to hoard riches and put our trust in what is laid up in our "barns". The Church needs to live from the reality of a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Church needs to live in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, where there are signs and wonders, healings, compassion, emotional healing and deliverance from demonic forces and pain of the past. The Church needs to live in the reality of the joy of being saved from our sins and a new freedom in following Jesus, knowing that He takes care of all our needs, temporary and spiritual.

### **The Month of *Ramadan*: The fifth Pillar of Islam**

From 22 August to 20 September 2009 we are praying for the estimated 1.7 billion Muslims in the world, for God's grace and that the Holy Spirit will reveal Jesus Christ, God's Son to them. It is significant to see how the Lord is calling Christians worldwide to pray for Muslims. Let us not stop praying. Wonderful things are happening and large numbers of Muslims continue to place their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

You can follow the prayer pointers in this prayer guide over this period of time. Consider inviting others to pray with you, to pray for the salvation of Muslims at your weekly prayer meeting or Bible study during September. It is also a wonderful opportunity to teach children to pray for those who do not know God. The Children's prayer booklet for *Ramadan* is now available from: <http://www.30-days.net>

*Ramadan* stretches over a period of 30 days during which Muslims do not eat anything during the daylight hours. This is the fifth pillar of Islam and compulsory for Muslims. It is part of what they need to do to gain enough 'good works' to go to heaven. Hundreds of millions of Muslims will fast during *Ramadan*. Each Muslim will try to visit Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

As Christians we believe the way to reconciliation with God, and then also the way to heaven, is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus our Saviour on the cross. Good works will not gain us eternal life. Yet, we do good works from a heart filled with thanksgiving and to demonstrate God's love for all people.

#### **Let us then pray during these 30 days for Muslims:**

1. That God will reveal His Son Jesus Christ and His all-sufficiency to them.
2. For an understanding of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love in the hearts of Muslims.
3. For God's tender mercies are on all His works, also on all people that He created (**Ps.145:9; Ps.103:22; Ps.103:8; Ps.57:3; Ps.89:14**).
4. Let us not pray in judgment or with fear - but from hearts filled with love and compassion.

5. Let us pray with hope in God to save and reconcile Muslim people to Him through Jesus Christ.
6. Let us pray that God will bless Muslims and heal and restore them so that they will enter into a personal relationship with Him.
7. Pray that they will see the Living God as their Father. The prevailing spirit in Islam is a spirit of 'fatherlessness'. Muslims have 99 names for Allah, but he is never seen as a god of love, or a father.

### **An Introduction to Islam**

Although Islam is one of the world's largest religions with over 1 billion supporters, for many the image of Islam is unclear. Most see images of the Middle East or North Africa with Bedouins on their camels, Palestinians throwing rocks at Israeli police, or radical fundamentalists expounding their reasons for Jihad. But this picture is not at all correct. Of the ten nations with the largest populations (over 700 million in total), only three are in the Middle East. Believe it or not, Islam has an Asian face, and there are more Muslims who use fishing nets than those who use surface-to-air missiles. More live in rain forests than in deserts. Most of them live in countries where mission is possible, sometimes even welcome.

### **How to Pray for Muslims**

Satan has erected many walls to keep Muslims from opening up to the gospel. Political and national barriers have been created between Christians and Muslims throughout history. The crusades of the 11th and 13th centuries developed deep and lasting wounds of bitterness.

- Before praying anything else, begin by worshipping God for who He is; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thank Him for his great love, mercy, and compassion. Declare His sovereignty and majesty. Pray that Muslims will come to understand the Trinity and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and not only as a prophet.
- Secondly, pray for the Church worldwide - especially in the Muslim nations. Pray for strength, courage, determination, boldness, and protection for the Believers living there. Also ask for favour and opportunities for them to share the gospel with Muslims.
- Thirdly, pray for the unsaved. The largest numbers of Muslims that are coming to the Lord are doing so through dreams and visions. Pray for a divine visitation to key Muslim leaders, that they might see Jesus for who He really is. Pray for mercy for the nations that are in turmoil, and the massive number of refugees caught in various struggles.

### **Muslim ideas about Jesus**

Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of Mary.

Jesus is only a prophet, He is not divine.

Jesus was actually a good Muslim and He taught an earlier form of Islam to the Jewish people.

Jesus did not die on the cross. He went directly to heaven.

Jesus will come again one day, He will marry and He will have children. He will correct the inaccuracies which Christians have spread about Him. He will then die and be judged like all men at the Last Judgement.

This heartrending prayer is a desperate cry of a Muslim woman to Allah (god). May it inspire you to pray for them to meet Jesus Christ in the fullness of who He is and that they would experience His power in their lives.

### **Prayer of a desperate Muslim woman**

I am barren. Every month I hold my breath and say a prayer – many prayers – and every month the turning moon mocks my fragile hopes as it calls for another river of blood. O God, what would I give to stem that implacable tide! I am despised by men who do not see any purpose for me apart from bearing children. I am pitied by women who are more favoured than I, and of whom I am jealous with a great intensity. I am utterly alone, and full of emptiness that devours me from the inside out, a long slow agonising death of the heart. Little by little I am being eaten alive. Empty womb, empty arms, empty heart. I am a dry stick, a withered vine, a hollow tree. My body is a vast promise, unfulfilled.

I watch helplessly as my husband's eyes follow the movements of younger women. I have dishonoured him by not producing a son. He will divorce me soon. I try not to think about where I will go, what I will do. I have no schooling,

no education. My parents will not take me back – I am no longer their responsibility. Every morning I wake up and pray that I will have a roof over my head for one more day. Sometimes I pray that my husband will love me, but I would be happy if he would just not beat me or shout at me for not giving him the children that I am desperate to have. One son would dissolve my shame forever.