

Jericho Walls Prayer Guide – July 2009

Wednesday 1 July 2009

Prison focus: SA prisons

As we focus on praying persistently for breakthroughs in our country's prisons, we invite you to ask permission when attending Christian meetings to spend a few minutes in prayer for people in our prisons. There has already been a revival of prayer in SA prisons over the past two years. Let us persevere in prayer for God to raise up thousands more intercessors to pray for a turnaround in our prisons, and especially for many more inmates to turn their lives over to God and for transformation in our prisons. (For more information on how to become involved in ministering to prisoners, contact the *Jericho Walls* offices at tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Focus on Israel: Basic needs

Many households in Israel are unable to supply their school-going children with the most basic school packs, stationary and food. Various Christian organisations in Israel help to supply these needs with funds sent by Believers from many nations. Pray for this practical gesture of love to touch the hearts of Jewish people and that they will become Believers. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Thursday 2 July 2009

Prison focus: Number gangs run prisons in South Africa

South Africa's prisons suffer the influence of three well-known gangs of which the 28's is the oldest. The 28's was founded in 1906 as a revolt by 28 black prisoners. It developed its own military-style hierarchy, its own elaborate codes of punishment and reward, and its own sexual mores, for what distinguishes the men of the 28 is sex. An intricate protocol determines which new recruits will serve as sexual partners for established gang members. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/correspondent/1298829.stm>). Obviously any non-member fears these gangs. Please pray for members and especially the current leaders of the 28's gang in SA prisons, to have a very personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, and for the history of this gang to be turned around completely in 2009.

Employment focus: Twenty million jobs under threat

It is estimated that the financial crisis could lead to a record global unemployment with 20 million people being out of work by the end of 2009, the *International Labour Organisation* warned. Unemployment could rise from 190 million in 2007 to 210 million in late 2009, marking the first time in history that we pass the 210 million mark. The population of the working poor living on less than a dollar a day could grow by 40 million and those on two dollars a day by over 100 million. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=nw20081020165136169C177302&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20081030ah). Please continue to pray for God's grace and mercy, especially upon the poor who suffer because of the greed of the rich. Pray that food prices will come down and that they will be able to have a decent meal per day.

Friday 3 July 2009

Prison focus: Number gangs run prisons in South Africa (Cont. from 2 July)

It was as a revolt against sodomy that the second main gang was formed - the gang of the 27's. They are known in prison as the men of blood. Their loyalty to their officers is tested by stabbing wardens and other inmates. In *Pollsmoor Maximum*, almost half the wardens have been stabbed or cut at least once. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/correspondent/1298829.stm>). Lift up today all members of the 27's gang in SA prisons. Earnestly pray for their salvation and for influential leaders in this gang to begin repenting before the

Lord of both their and their predecessors' wrong deeds. Ask the Lord to raise up intercessors in our prisons to pray for gang members and for the history of this gang to be turned around completely in 2009.

Health focus: Water-related disease facts

Every 15 seconds, a child dies from a water-related disease. For children under age five, water-related diseases are the leading cause of death. About 88% of all diseases are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. (Website: <http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916>). Do not become tired of persevering in prayer and supplication for the plight of children worldwide. Especially pray for the effective and continuous purification of available water resources worldwide.

Saturday 4 July 2009

Prison focus: Number gangs run prisons in South Africa (Cont. from 3 July)

The gang known as the 26's prove their loyalty by robbing warders and fellow inmates of whatever material possessions can be smuggled in. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/correspondent/1298829.stm>). Lift up members of the 26's gang in SA prisons in prayer. Pray for them to have a sudden and clear realisation of Jesus Christ. Ask for many to begin searching out the truth and the living God and the history of this gang to be turned around completely in 2009. Pray that many will be saved.

Prostitution focus: New law bans the buying of sex in Norway

A new law has come into force in Norway making the purchase of sex illegal. Norwegian citizens caught paying for prostitutes in Norway or abroad could face a hefty fine or a six-month prison sentence. The tough new measures go further than similar ones introduced by other Scandinavian countries such as Sweden and Finland. Norwegian police have been authorised to use wire-tapping devices to gather evidence. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7806760.stm>). Give thanks to the Lord for every time such laws are agreed upon. Pray for Norway, that it will be possible to enforce this law, but also for the Church to have a compassionate outreach to prostitutes, winning them over to Jesus, helping them adapt their lifestyles and find jobs to meet their needs.

Sunday 5 July 2009

Memorise

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail (Isa.58:11).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Declaration focus

Your kingdom come

Entering this 'room' in the house of prayer is special. Envision a room from where you can watch over the Kingdom of God. Jesus is our advocate with the Father; He sits at the Father's right hand and intercedes for us. 'Your kingdom come' is an invitation to God our Father to guide us and rule our lives. It pertains to us, our families, the Church, nation and the nations of the world. The Kingdom of God is where He rules sovereign, where He is trusted as true and is not doubted, questioned or resisted. The phrase 'Your kingdom come' is not a pie in the sky that will drop if you concentrate hard enough and is then yours for the taking! It takes real steps of obedience by everyday people like you, continuously inviting God into different areas of your life until He is completely in control of it.

Focus on God's perspective: Is it true of your life that God is really in control of every area? Or are there areas you struggle to 'give up' to His rule? Most of us have such areas. The solution is simply to admit it, confess it and ask the Father to help you surrender until you have given up that 'area' completely. Then His kingdom has come in that part of your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas like these and spend time to pray through these issues with the Lord.

Missions focus: South African missionaries to Japan

Among the 128 million Japanese, less than 1% is Christian. Shikoku (the smallest of the four Japanese islands), is a Buddhist stronghold and one of the most resistant areas to penetrate with the gospel. The local church is crying out for God to send them workers to help in their plight. Pray for God to call, raise up and send workers to help the local church, to learn the language and to find favour with locals in simple ways. Cover in prayer those who have already answered the call, for protection, wisdom and perseverance in this country so vastly different from our own. (Stéphan and Carina van der Watt, e-mail: jsvdwatt@lantic.net).

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 or Willem Joubert, tel.: 011 824 1985 or e-mail: wjoubert@icon.co.za

Monday 6 July 2009

Salvation focus: Beggars

Nothing can be more challenging than the beggars at our street corners. Many make a better living from begging than they would do working. Many are really in need. Pray and ask the Lord what to do every time you see a beggar. Take along something you can give them other than money. Every time you pass by them, pray for their salvation. Ask that they will look, find and keep a regular job. Pray for their families to also find good jobs and be willing and able to work for an income.

Focus on children: Democratic Republic of Congo

Please pray for the children of the eastern Congo who are continuously affected by violence that has displaced more than 200,000 people. Pray for children and people roaming the countryside seeking shelter, food, water and medical care. Ask for their safety and daily provision. An estimated 60,000 children have been displaced in the recent fighting. Pray for those who have been separated from family members and must fend for themselves. Pray for aid workers and church members who are at great risk as they help the children of this volatile area. Pray for the estimated 40,000 girls and women who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the Congo. Pray for a peaceful resolution between rebel groups and the Congolese government. (Website: <http://www.facesofchildren.net/> or e-mail: info@facesofchildren.net).

Tuesday 7 July 2009

Focus on justice: Alcohol consumption laws

Specific limits on the amount of alcohol sold to individuals, a ban on drinking in cars, tough action against patrons of illegal shebeens (illegal drinking places) and fines from R50 000 up to R1 million to defaulting retailers are some of the features of the Western Cape Liquor Act and took effect from January 1, 2009. Not only owners of illegal shebeens, but also their suppliers and patrons face stringent new measures as the Western Cape strives to contain alcohol abuse and illegal trade. Drinking in cars will be outlawed. (Website:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200812180674.html>). Every time we pray for righteousness and justice to be established and laws like these are implemented, it is a direct answer to prayer. Give thanks to God who does the work even in hearts of unbelievers, and continue to pray for the successful execution of the laws and more similar breakthroughs.

Prison focus: Drug addiction

Any prison population can be considered a high risk group in terms of drug use: drug users are over-represented in prison, and an important rate of female prisoners have been sentenced as a result of drug offences (mainly for drug possession), showing that drugs are a significant and increasing problem in the life of delinquent women. (Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2008-0033+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>). A revival of prayer is beginning to take place in specific prisons worldwide, and many turn to Christ as a result. Some countries have prisons where they put newly converted Christians together in cells or a floor/flank. Please continue to pray for this trend to grow and many more prisoners to truly turn to Christ and alter their lifestyles.

Wednesday 8 July 2009

HIV/AIDS focus: National AIDS Helpline

The *National AIDS Helpline* provides confidential, anonymous 24-hour toll-free telephone counselling, information and a referral service for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Manned by trained lay-counsellors, they receive an average of 3,000 calls per day, and the service is seen as a leading telephone counselling service within the *Southern African Development Community (SADC)* region. (*National AIDS Helpline* tel.: 0800 012 322. Website: http://www.aids helpline.org.za/default.aspx?link=site_home). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayer in this way. Please pray for counsellors, to be able to also present Christ as the answer to their callers' problems.

Global economy focus: G8 Summit 2009, Italy

Italy hosts the 35th *G8 Summit* on the Sardinian island of La Maddalena from 8 to 10 July 2009. Italy is taking on this responsibility in a crucial year, one in which governments worldwide will have to grapple with the new challenges posed by the world economic crisis and its repercussions on the hopes and futures of the peoples of the earth. (Website: http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199885834833.htm). Please pray for delegates to come to the realisation that the situation is greater than they are. Ask for many attendees to begin seeking the true and only living God as answer to their problems during this time, especially on a global scale.

Thursday 9 July 2009

Prison focus: Rape as punishment

South African prison gangs are using HIV infection as punishment, ordering infected members to rape disobedient inmates. It is difficult to say whether AIDS is now the chief cause of deaths in South African prisons, noting that many prisoners who died of AIDS are listed as dying of natural causes. (Website: <http://www.aegis.com/news/ads/2002/AD022284.html>). Please continue to pray that God will touch and change the lives of prisoners. Pray for those who get infected this way to find Christ amidst the trauma of their experience.

Global economy focus: G8 Summit 2009, Italy

Keep on praying for the continuation of the *G8 Summit* in Italy today. In addition to the economic issues, the *G8* is committed this year to continuing talks on numerous topics, including energy, security and in particular the climate. (Website: http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199885834833.htm). Ask for God's Spirit of wisdom and revelation upon attendees to return to godly stewardship of resources, laying down law and order and wisdom on how to implement these principles to the glory of the Lord. Continue also to pray for each person's salvation.

Friday 10 July 2009

Word focus: Precept Ministries S.A.

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

Global economy focus: G8 Summit 2009, Italy

Today is the last day of the *G8 Summit* in Italy. The agenda that the Italian Government is handling gives special prominence to dialogue with the African countries with a view to overcome the numerous problems still encountered in many areas of the continent, such as food safety, access to drinking water, health and education system inadequacy. (Website: http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199885834833.htm). Please pray that these issues will not remain on the background, but also receive the attention, action and implementation focus it so desperately needs. Remember to lift up the Name of Jesus Christ over each individual attending this conference, so that they may find opportunities to know Him.

Saturday 11 July 2009

Focus on education: Entrepreneur school in Soweto

School leavers who once faced the future without prospects of either further education or employment, now stand a chance to benefit from a new entrepreneurial school that forms part of the recently launched *Centre for Small Business Development (CSBD)*. The academy focuses on developing business and life skills in equal measure among young people between the ages of 18 and 27, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. (Website: <http://news.nabou.com/cgi-bin/newsframe/437892yks4328903Dnabou2Bnews421789994asgw3798etys6787/18A8047A97056E4D9B2CDA039BFF5E58backheadline3DHow2Bdo2BI2Bcut2Ba2Boout3Fnews26o3D0/Framelt.cgi?Url=http://c.moreover.com/click/here.pl?r1772168676>). Give thanks to the Lord for practical answers like these to prayers for upliftment! Please pray that those who are privileged will be good stewards of their opportunities.

Bible translation focus: Last Languages Initiative

Please pray for *Wycliffe International Africa Area* and their other partners who have established a *Joint Strategy Team* to advance the development of the *Last Languages Initiative* (remaining languages without any parts of Scripture) across Africa. Ask that God will give them much wisdom, unity, discernment and joy as they work together and that good progress will be made. (Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin, e-mail: Personnel.Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Focus on India: Day of Prayer for Revival in India (DPRI)

The *DPRI* falls on the second Saturday in July as it was thought to be the most convenient for a large number of people. The first *DPRI* was in 2002. (Website: <http://www.dprindia.org/>). See if you can find information on current issues to pray for India. Consider asking permission to take some time during the church service tomorrow to pray for India. Ask for open doors for the gospel into especially remote areas and among people who have never had opportunities to hear the gospel.

Sunday 12 July 2009

Memorise

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom.6:23).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Surrender focus

Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven

Surrender means to yield ownership and give up control over what we consider to be ours; our property, time and our rights. Surrender to God means we belong to Him. In the 'room' of surrender, we need to pause and consider the meaning of 'His will'. Christians make many claims as to what they believe is the 'will of God', often including comforts of the flesh to soothe the conscience. It is a willingness to be corrected if our mindset is wrong. Waiting upon the Lord requires all our attention. We cannot drift off into day-dreaming and call it 'time spent with God'. It requires our sincere attention and concentration to focus on loving God with all of our heart, mind and strength (**Matt.22:37**).

Focus on God's perspective: Let us be honest – to spend time with God is the most challenging thing with which to continue for most Christians. So let us not feel sorry for ourselves. Let us, with other Believers, set our minds to run the race set before us to the very end. Pressing in with God is the spiritual race we run in our physical lives. It is "His will", therefore it must become our pleasure on earth as it is in heaven. Tell this to the Father; ask Him to show you true surrender that will give Him pleasure.

Prison focus: Young people in prison

About 74.8% of young men released from prison in 2004, were reconvicted within two years of release. Nearly half (42%) of first-time offenders are young adults. In prison, mental health problems and drug and alcohol abuse are common amongst young people (16-18 years of age). They are more likely than adults to suffer from mental health problems and are more likely to commit or attempt suicide than both younger and older prisoners. It is estimated that 25% of young men and 40% of young women in prison are parents. (Website: <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/subsection.asp?id=276>). Let us cry out to the Lord for the plight of young people in prison. Ask that they will find and lay hold of Christ to build their lives upon.

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 fellowshiping 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 or contact Willem Joubert (Cell: 082 650 5684 or e-mail: wjoubert@icon.co.za) or Lenthia (Tel.: 011 824 1985 or e-mail: lenthia@jwipn.com).

Monday 13 July 2009

Salvation focus: Computer programmers

Computer programmers spend most of their time either working on a new idea or trying to implement a new idea with regard to computer programming. Many of them spend very little time socialising with other people. Lift up computer programmers to the Lord, asking for those not knowing Christ to come across opportunities to hear the gospel and be open and receptive to it. Ask God to minister to them even when at work, showing them His love and compassion.

Prison focus: Children imprisoned

Several studies have noted the difficulties involved in making any generalisations about the impact on children of separation from their parents as a result of imprisonment. The extent to which a child will be affected by parental incarceration depends on a large number of variables: the age at which the parent-child separation occurs, the length of separation, the child's familiarity with his or her new caregiver, and the degree of stigma that the child's community associates with imprisonment. (Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2008-0033+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>). Pray for inmates in these situations in South African prisons. Ask for godly solutions to these problems. Pray for children who have a parent in prison to be able to cope with the loss, the shame and loneliness. Ask that they will be well cared for by their relatives.

Tuesday 14 July 2009

Basic income focus: Numbers are changing

There are approximately 12.6 million households in South Africa. Gauteng has 2.9 million households, KwaZulu-Natal 2.4 million and the Eastern Cape 1.7 million. Other provinces with 1 million or more are Limpopo, Western Cape, and North West. (Labour Force Survey 2004). About 38% of households have a non-flush toilet or no toilet facilities, 14% of households have no electricity, and 49% of households have tap water in their house. (Website: <http://www.markettree.co.za/>). Give thanks to God for every household that has been upgraded with regard to these statistics over the past decade. Let us continue to pray for contractors to be able to continue with their job of installing these much needed basic facilities in households. Also pray that corruption will not hamper such projects.

Bible translation focus: Hutterisch Scripture: Canada

About 30,000 people in Canada speak Hutterisch and they live in colonies of about 90 people each. Now Bible translation in the Hutterisch language is underway. The first volume of Bible stories is already very popular. Final spelling checks are finished for the remaining 24 Bible stories published in four volumes of about six stories each. Pray for those translating the New Testament. All four Gospels are drafted. An audio version is also planned. Most have a limited comprehension of English. (Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

Wednesday 15 July 2009

Evangelism focus: *Every Home for Christ, South Africa (EHCSA)*

EHCSA has partnered with a literature ministry, *Revival Movement Association (RMA)*, in Northern Ireland. *EHCSA* will be receiving two million copies of the booklet "*The Gospel of John/Seven Steps to Knowing God*" from *RMA* over the next two years. The booklets have been printed in Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana, Sesotho, Northern-Sotho and Afrikaans. *EHCSA* has already received an 18 ton container load of the Gospel of John in the English language that is available for distribution! Please pray for the safe arrival of the other containers with the literature in the different languages, as well as for the effective allocation and distribution of the booklets. (*EHCSA*, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587, website: www.ehcsa.co.za or e-mail: info@ehcsa.co.za).

Prison focus: Children visiting family in prison

The preservation of family ties plays an important role in the prevention of recidivism (continually committing crimes, seemingly unable to stop even after punishment) and social reintegration of prisoners. However, a certain number of factors such as visiting conditions and visiting environments can cause difficulty in maintaining family relationships and contact with children. (Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2008-0033+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>). Pray for prisoners to be able to build and re-establish good family relationships while in prison so they will not fall back into old patterns when released from prison. Pray for families with a relative in prison to be able to cope with such a situation and to be able to visit them on a regular basis.

Thursday 16 July 2009

South Africa: Bibles for prisoners

In South Africa there are 252 prisons with over 200,000 prisoners in total. Each month *Challenge Literature* produces and distributes 60,000 evangelistic newspapers to prisons. All new converts from the prison are enrolled in a discipleship course which is made up of four booklets and a complete Bible. To ensure that each inmate is serious, the Bible is not issued until the first discipleship book has been completed and returned for marking. A Bible is then mailed to the prisoner with part two of the discipleship course. (Website: http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au/Donate/restOfWorld_SouthAfricaPrisonBibles). Give thanks to the Lord for initiatives like these. Pray that more personal contact and follow-ups will also be possible in prisons. Pray for God's conviction in the hearts of inmates, so that they will understand and lay hold of Christ as foundation to build their lives upon.

Evangelism focus: SAT-7 PARS Ministry

Many children living in Iran have little or no access to God's Word, but most watch satellite TV and *SAT-7 PARS* programs for children. *SAT-7 PARS* wants to strengthen its audience of young viewers (who are already watching cartoons, drama, and interactive talk shows on the channel) by helping them to learn Scripture. Pray that this program on *SAT-7 PARS* will bring godly hope to thousands of youngsters and that many teens will be willing and able to share their personal stories of faith on the program. (Website: http://www.sat7.org/sat7_pars).

Friday 17 July 2009

Focus on prayer mobilising: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for the different projects of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* across the country. Pray that more individuals and groups will join the prayer task force and subscribe to the printed booklet and the weekly *Global Prayer Alert* to keep up to date with regular prayer related news and events. Pray for prayer coordinators across the country to have fresh zeal and renewed favour in making others enthusiastic to become involved in prayer in their cities/towns. Please pray for subscription opportunities in other countries, especially *via* the Internet. (*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).

Prison focus: Education, training and employment

Statistics on women prisoners suggest a generally low level of education and a professional skills deficit. In the UK for instance, 47% have no educational qualifications. If the time spent in prison is to be used to prepare the inmates for a more stable life after their release, education should be an important tool towards that purpose. (Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2008-0033+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>). Pray for prison authorities to provide high quality vocational training measures that are adapted to the labour market needs and the collaboration of prison institutions with external firms for the employment of prisoners. Ask for a willingness among prisoners to work at a better future for themselves and their families.

Saturday 18 July 2009

Focus on mothers: The poor and needy

One third of mothers in South Africa under the age of 50 have one child. Some 20% have four or more children. Three million mothers (about one third) are not economically active while a further 2.6 million are unemployed. (Website: <http://www.markettree.co.za/>). Lift up in prayer the plight of mothers in South Africa. Pray for them to be able to care for their children physically, emotionally and mentally. Ask that they will find open doors to earn an income, safe after-care facilities for their children and a stable and safe home to raise them. Also pray for uncommitted fathers to become involved in raising their offspring.

Focus on justice: God's heart toward poverty and injustice

The *Poverty and Justice Bible*, the latest release from the *Bible Society* in the United Kingdom, has broken new ground as the first ever to literally highlight the more than 2,000 passages that reveal God's sorrow over poverty and injustice, and His command to Believers to act to eradicate them. The new edition challenges the notion that the Bible is a dusty, outdated rulebook, and shows that God – through the Bible – was already speaking out on poverty long before anyone else. (Website: http://www.christianpost.com/article/20080302/31390_New_Bible_Reveals_God%27s_Heart_Towards_Poverty%2C_Injustice.htm). Give thanks to the Lord for various initiatives like these, spurring people on to change their lives according to godly principles. Pray that change will be real and permanent in the lives of those submitting to Christ. Pray for God's provision for similar projects of the *Bible Society*.

Sunday 19 July 2009

Memorise

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Provision focus

Give us today our daily bread

This 'room' in God's house of prayer according to the 'Our Father' prayer, reminds us that He is committed to provide in our daily needs as we seek first His kingdom. But it does not say 'bread for the rest of our lives'. It says 'daily' bread. This is a hard thing, for it means we need to trust Him again tomorrow and the day after. We are never 'OK' to continue by ourselves. God can do 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' (**Eph.3:20**); not necessarily in volume, but in variety and complexity of what we need, even things we do not consider as being 'provision'. Furthermore, He supplies 'more than enough' (**3 John 1:2**) so that we can have abundance not only for ourselves, but also to give to others. Surplus is not necessarily meant for us. It is for us to have so that we are able to give. If we consider that all we have belongs to God, we are really just managing it. With receiving (blessing), comes responsibility.

Focus on God's perspective: This is the most difficult 'room' in the house of prayer. Firstly because many do not really believe God will provide for them as individuals as He does for others. Furthermore, because we often want more than our daily bread so we can relax, but we sometimes cover it up with: *I want to have so I can bless or it is for The Kingdom*. Are you faithful with R10 or R100? Do you tithe and wisely use small amounts of money? The sincerity of your stewardship and mine is tested right here. God sees what no man can see. What you do with R100,000 will just be an amplification of what is in your heart concerning R100. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you surrender in this 'room' in the house of prayer. Asking His guidance with a willing heart to surrender is one of the wisest things to do.

Road safety focus: Highway Ministry Prayer Patrol

Highway Ministry is an interdenominational ministry directed at the trucking and taxi industries, as well as all other road users. It is a non-profit organisation with a mission to proclaim the Word to, and establish the love of Jesus Christ in the hearts of all road users. Pray for this initiative to become thoroughly established and well supported. Ask that it will become a tool to help bring true transformation in the hearts and minds of South African road users. Pray for favour with other role players as the organisation endeavours to connect with and strengthen existing programmes such as *Arrive Alive*. (*Highway Ministry*. Tel.: 016 349 1996, fax: 086 502 8441 or e-mail: highwaymin@lantic.net).

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 Kneel Down* – 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).

Monday 20 July 2009

Salvation focus: Private business owners

It is really hard to make a living with the economical crisis the past months, and many small businesses have had to close. Please pray for individuals who were liquidated, who lost their families and their businesses that they will seek their refuge in the Lord. Pray for struggling small business owners to put their trust in the Lord and for many to commit their lives to Christ.

Prison focus: Social inclusion of prisoners?

Upon leaving prison, most prisoners have to face a broad range of crucial problems such as ensuring housing, having a regular income, healing relationships with and providing for children or other dependent family members. Successful social inclusion of prisoners must be prepared during and after imprisonment with the cooperation of social services and other relevant organisations in order to ensure a smooth transition from prison to liberty. (Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2008-0033+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>). Please pray for the psychological preparation (processing of crime, handling of traumas and addictions through appropriate psychological support and treatment) of prisoners. Ask for a 'change-of-heart' attitude towards life and a genuine turnabout to follow Christ in all their ways before leaving prison. Pray for new opportunities and entrepreneurial skills to survive these difficult times and for growth in the number of small businesses to create opportunities for them as they leave prison.

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

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)

Tuesday 21 July 2009

Youth focus: *International Sports Leadership School (ISLS)*

The *International Sports Leadership School (ISLS)* takes place 24 July-16 October in Stellenbosch. Leaders from different countries who share the gospel through sport are being trained in understanding Scripture, evangelism, discipleship and sport ministry. Please pray for each leader's intimate relationship with the Lord, unity in the team, their handling of cultural differences and development as sports ministry leaders (*International Sports Leadership School*. Tel.: 021 886 7335, e-mail: isls@adept.co.za).

Evangelism focus: Morocco

While conversion from Islam is not a criminal offence in Morocco, new Believers have endured social ostracism. Missionary work is not allowed, but there are foreign workers in other roles seeking to share their faith. According to *IN Network* the Lord has opened another door for evangelism in Casablanca, the biggest city in Morocco. Plans are on track to open an evangelical centre in 2009. Pray for the right person to take responsibility for the centre. Also pray for favour to build personal relationships with locals in order to testify for Christ. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se or Intercessors.Network@Telia.com).

Wednesday 22 July 2009

Focus on pastors: Caring for pastors

When it comes to being shepherded and receiving pastoral care, most pastors do not have anyone to watch over them, someone who can provide care, support, encouragement and nurturing. As pastors continually expend themselves in caring for their congregations, they find themselves running towards 'empty', resulting from always giving and never receiving. *POPnet* is a network of pastors gathered in peer shepherding relationships to provide peer support to fellow pastors. Please pray for pastoral leaders as they build peer relationships and provide pastoral care and mentoring to each other. Pray for groups that have recently formed – for relationships, growth, depth, transparency and accountability. (*TOPIC SA*, David Bulger, tel.: 011 972 6919 or e-mail: POPnet@topicsa.net).

Focus on Children: Orphans in Kampala

Action for Disadvantaged People in Kampala, Uganda, is a ministry working with orphaned and vulnerable children, providing school fees and materials and also helping caregivers with small income-generating activities. Please pray for funds to help the increasing number of children, and particularly for one child who needs an operation for a heart problem. (*Viva - Together for Children*. Website: www.viva.org or e-mail: jgreen@viva.org).

Thursday 23 July 2009

Prison focus: SA prison population among world's highest

South Africa has the world's seventh highest number of prisoners – outranking countries with up to nearly five times our population. *The World Prison Brief* places South Africa's total of 166,267 prisoners after the United States (2,3 million inmates), China (1,6 million), Russia (888,014), Brazil (419,551), India (358,368) and Mexico (217,436). The populations of the top six countries on the list range from 104 million in Mexico to 1,3 billion people in China – with a combined total of 3 billion people. South Africa has just 47,8 million citizens. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080426082428847C562791). Let us continue to cry out to God for a breakthrough in SA prisons this month and for thousands turning their lives over to the Lord Jesus.

Focus on Children: Street children in Peru

Please pray for those heading up the *Bible Institute* in Yurimaguas, Peru, which trains missionaries. Pray for them to be able to help street children to be educated and to come to know Christ. *In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people (Col.3:23)*. (*Viva - Together for Children*. Website: www.viva.org or e-mail: jgreen@viva.org).

Friday 24 July 2009

Evangelism focus: Church Planting Alliance

Millions of people in South Africa do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour or have access to a local Church. The *Church Planting Alliance* exists to network, train and mobilise leaders to plant disciple-making churches within easy access of every person. Please pray that the quarterly workshops planned for this year in Gauteng, Limpopo,

Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and the Western Cape would effectively equip and assist church planters to multiply healthy churches in these provinces and beyond. (*Church Planting Alliance*. Tel.: 011 794 8001. Website: www.cpa-sa.org or e-mail: teichert@attglobal.net).

Focus on Children: Mombasa, Kenya

Pray for *CPM International Secondary School* in Mombasa, Kenya, as they complete a building project. There was a delay in raising funds because of post-election violence and money is needed to complete the roof and flooring of four classrooms and to provide equipment. (*Viva - Together for Children*. Website: www.viva.org or e-mail: jgreen@viva.org).

Saturday 25 July 2009

Reconciliation focus: Mercy Ministries SA (MMSA)

The vision of *MMSA* is to see people reconciled and living biblical truths according to God's original purpose, resulting in healed and transformed communities where unity and peace prevail. Thank the Father for many people who were healed during 2008 from all kinds of pain and hurts of the past, for reconciliation between people from different ethnic groups, and for His strategy to have meaningful follow-up sessions. Pray that He will send people from all groups in SA to have representative teams at workshops. (*Mercy Ministries SA*. P.O. Box 2148, Rensburg, 1439. Tel.: 079 516 5428 or fax: 086 647 1522. Website: www.mercy.givengain.org or e-mail: mercyminsa@lantic.net).

Newborn focus: Third Window of Life for unwanted babies inaugurated in Poland

The *Window of Life*, the third of its kind in Poland, is a place where mothers who cannot provide for their children, can anonymously and safely bring newborns in order for them to be cared for and placed for adoption. In Poland abortion has claimed the lives of nearly 20 million children in the past several years. The '*Window of Life*' is built into the walls of a convent. It is a warm and ventilated room with a window which can be opened from the outside. As soon as the baby is placed inside the *Window*, a signal alerts the nuns who come to pick up the child and provide immediate medical care. (Website: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/jan/09011410.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for this idea to care for the newborn and encourage women not to have abortions. Pray for many more similar projects as an option to pregnant mothers, especially in a time where abortion is promoted more and more.

Sunday 26 July 2009

Memorise

The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Prov.18:10).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Forgiveness focus

Forgive us our trespasses

Forgiveness literally means 'to untie' or 'to let go'. To have your trespasses forgiven, you have to confess them. To admit what you have done wrong; to admit that you are actually wrong. To be able to realise you are wrong, you have to consider your actions. The Holy Spirit helps you in this matter. Jesus died on the cross and shed His Blood to cover all of the sin of mankind, but it is like having won a prize; you have to collect it. It is for free, but you do not have it unless you go and fetch it. You have to acknowledge your identity as sinner and only then is it handed to you. In Christ we have received the free gift of life and the cancellation of all our sin (**1 John 1:7**). Still, we need to humble ourselves and confess our wrongs every time the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, and ask forgiveness.

Focus on God's perspective: When last did you just sit down and think about your life, the way you relate to people, do business or speak to someone at a petrol station or in a supermarket? More than jotting down rights and wrongs, we need to find out what the true hidden attitude of our heart is. It is from our hearts that our actions

flow. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is in your heart. Is there anger? Disappointment? Why? What happened? Write these things down and begin to pray through each one. Remember to speak to God as if He is in the room with you, because He actually is!

Marriage focus: South Africans' opinion on marriage

In a survey, only 43% of single men disagreed with the statement: A couple should live together before they get married. For single women the percentage is 54%. (Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/>). Shocking statistics on divorce discourage many people to get married. Let us persevere in praying for happy marriages in our country, and for single young adults to put their hopes in God for a happy marriage. Also pray for those who suffered the pain of divorce, to really receive healing and peace and trust God for taking care of them and their children.

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 many prayers!

Monday 27 July 2009

Salvation focus: Micro loan company owners

Many people start micro loan companies in the hope of making a lot of money. Changing economic circumstances have affected them much more than they planned. Lift up in prayer these owners of micro loan companies, asking that they would be fair in their business dealings and repent of times they were not. Ask for many to make restitution of their wrongs as they meet the Lord Jesus as personal Saviour. Ask for their salvation.

Focus on children: Breakthrough in treating premature babies

Researchers found that a major lipid in the brain – the omega-3 fatty acid known as Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) is not developed sufficiently in babies born before 33 weeks' gestation, leading to possible impaired mental development. Premature girls in particular who were exposed to DHA-rich diets showed much better mental development than girls on the low DHA diet. Infants weighing less than 1250gm (about a third of a full-term baby's weight) who were given a high-DHA diet also scored better on the mental development scale, with a 40% reduction in the incidence of mild mental delay. (Website: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090114092844.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for the help of medical breakthroughs in the plight of children. Pray that those in need will gain access to this and other necessary treatments soon.

Tuesday 28 July 2009

Focus on basic needs: Number of hungry children slowly decreasing

The proportion of South African children suffering from hunger (defined as 'often' or 'always' hungry) decreased from 6.7% in 2002 to 2.0% in 2007. (Sources: GHS 2007, website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/>). Praise the Lord for answering our prayers to turn the tide for children over the past few years. Let us not grow weary of crying out continuously for more children to have better living circumstances. Pray that more churches will become involved in taking care of less privileged people. A large portion of our responsibility as Believers is to take care of the poor (**Matt.11:5, Prov.19:17, Ps.41:1**).

Water-related disease facts

No intervention has a greater overall impact upon national development and public health than the provision of safe drinking water and the proper disposal of human waste. Human health improvement is influenced not only by the use of clean water, but also by personal hygiene habits and the use of sanitation facilities. (Website: <http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916>). Please pray for effective affordable methods to purify all water and water storage resources such as dams in all the countries of the world.

Wednesday 29 July 2009

South African personal assets

True up-to-date South African statistics are not regularly available. In a *Finscope 2005* report, 39% of home owners in South Africa said that they had inherited their homes. Another 15% said that someone else paid for their house, and 12% used mortgage bond finance. Other responses included houses bought with money saved, a government grant, or proceeds from the sale of another property. Give thanks to the Lord for each individual that has gained access to their own home over the last decade. Pray that those with bonds or loans will faithfully be able to pay their monthly instalments and not fall behind or lose their property. Also pray that they will spend money wisely and if possible, not have to take out second loans on their bonds.

Teenager focus: Teens forced into truck stop prostitution

Pimps "network" across America, letting each other know where "the money is good". The prostitutes, accompanied by their paid handlers, are ferried to the money-making destinations aboard airplanes and big trucks. The average age of a child first used in prostitution is 11 to 14, with some as young as 9, and this includes both female and male victims from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Website: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2009/1/27/Thousandsofteenssaidcaughtupinweboftruckstopprostitution.aspx> This is only one example of where and how prostitution takes place in America. Let us cry out to the Lord about forced child prostitution. Ask for 'handlers' of child prostitutes to be caught, convicted and prosecuted worldwide, even for international child prostitution networks to be effectively tracked and shut down.

Thursday 30 July 2009

Health focus: HIV treatment in SA

ARVs (anti-retroviral drugs) are the only known treatment that is consistently effective in delaying the progression from HIV to AIDS. The latest *World Health Organisation* estimate is 460,000 South Africans receiving ARVs at the end of 2007, equating to 28% of those in need of treatment. It is estimated that only 340,000-350,000 were still on treatment in February 2008 (others have died or stopped taking the drugs). (Website: <http://www.avert.org/aids-south-africa.htm>). Let us continue to pray for a breakthrough and the turning of this wave of destruction in our country. Pray that many will come to know the Lord Jesus and alter their lifestyles completely, that young people would live pure lives and respect and honour the boundaries God set regarding marriage.

Asia: Language group displacement brings opportunity

Two Bible translators in Asia report that the displacement of the language group they work with brought opportunities to distribute Scripture portions! Relief work is going on with workers asking for more Scriptures. Pray that many of the 2,000 copies of Luke and Genesis that are being reprinted will reach the people soon and that they will read them. Pray that God will achieve the purpose for which He sends His Word. Pray for the two

translators working on a children's songbook and for their continued involvement in the translation. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se or Intercessors.Network@Telia.com).

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 and <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue3695.html> and http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_IAW.html).

Friday 31 July 2009

Education focus: Number of students who matriculate is increasing

The proportion of South African adults who matriculate has increased from 25% in 1996 to 35% in 2006. The proportion of adults with no schooling has halved to 6% over the same period. (Website: <http://www.markettree.co.za/>). Give thanks to the Lord for the growing change. Please continue to pray for the education system, that standards will increase, that pupils will have a willingness to study and build themselves a future. Pray especially for Grade 12's to be faithful in their studies this year.

Focus on Israel: Turning to God

Pray **Isaiah 30:19**: *O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious He will be when you cry for help! As soon as He hears, He will answer you.* Pray for the people of Israel to turn their hearts and faces towards God, trusting Him for their every need. Pray that God will answer them in these difficult days. (Christian Friends of Israel. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Saturday 1 August 2009

God is approachable: I confess, declare and believe that You are an accessible God. Reveal Yourself to the people of our country. Do not conceal Yourself from us. We pray that Christians and non-Christians alike will understand that they may approach Your throne of grace to be helped (**Heb.4:16**). We confess and proclaim that when we call out to You, You will hear us and make known to us great and unsearchable things we do not know about the work and responsibility of the Church in our country and the world (**Jer.33:3**). May the people in our country see You like You really are.

Family focus: Marriage not regarded as 'best relationship' by young adults

Most young adults do not share the views of their parents' generation on the importance of marrying a long-term partner. Fewer than four out of 10 adults aged between 18 and 34 believe that marriage is the best kind of relationship, compared with more than eight out of 10 pensioners. The findings come just days after a report by Government statisticians suggesting that married couples will be in the minority by next year, as increasing numbers of people choose to live together, out of wedlock. (Website: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/4360930/Marriage-not-regarded-as-best-relationship-by-young-adults.html>). Let us continue to pray for the youth to turn their lives back to God. Also ask for the restoration of young people's dreams for a future for themselves in terms of a stable family.

Sunday 2 August 2009

Memorise

Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him (Isa.40:10).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Freedom focus

As we also have forgiven those who have trespassed against us

Why do we need to forgive every day? **Hebrews 12:15(NIV)** says: *See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.* Keeping a short account will hinder small issues building up into larger ones. Forgiveness is the key to being restored to God's fellowship and being restored to others. Forgiveness is ongoing because once you have dealt with the past, new situations will occur in the present. None of us gets by without having our pride wounded, feeling offended or being hurt by someone. These things leave a scar on the soul if not confessed, released and dealt with before the Lord. One psychiatrist recently said that she had seen more healing taking place since she started encouraging her patients to forgive others.

Focus on God's perspective: Getting rid of hurt or rejection because of what others have done to you is hard. But, the truth is, if you don't, it will be harder on you than on them. Its burden becomes so heavy. Although difficult to admit unforgiveness in one's heart, it is important for your own good to go through the process of forgiving others, even if they never apologise. Realising how easily you do wrong and how much you want God to forgive you is important when you and I struggle to forgive someone for something they have done to us or to our loved ones. Take time and think about situations you have not resolved. There is no time like the present to begin dealing with these issues, by admitting you were wrong before God, asking His forgiveness and His help in forgiving.

The guidance of God: I appeal to the guidance of God. God is like a shepherd leading His sheep. Lord, You are my lamp shining brightly; You give me light when all is dark around me (**2 Sam.22:29**). I confess, declare and believe that You will guide me in Your truth and teach me. My hope is in You all day long (**Ps.25:5**). Teach me Your will, Lord, lead me in a straight path so that my oppressors will not get their way (**Ps.27:11**). You lead me in the paths of righteousness to the glory of Your Name (**Ps.23:2-3**). Give me Your Spirit because You promised that

Your Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth (**John 16:13**). I believe that if I take the wrong way, I will hear a voice behind me saying, "*This is the way; walk in it*" (**Isa.30:21**).

Monday 3 August 2009

The impartiality of God: I declare, confess and believe that God is without prejudice, does not take bribes and anyone who accepts His gift of salvation, will be saved (**Deut.10:17**). God does not show favouritism but accepts people from any nation who fear Him and do what is right (**Acts 10:34-35**). God is mighty but He looks down on no one and thus we call on a Father who judges impartially (**1 Pet.1:17**). Therefore the people serve Him, they show Him reverence, and He has no regard for those who think they are wise (**Job 37:24**). Anyone who does wrong will be paid back for the wrong he has done (**Col.3:25**). May the fear of the Lord be with you always! Be watchful and do your duty. There is no injustice or partiality or corruption in the Lord our God (**2 Chron.19:7**). He will judge each person according to his own deeds (**Rom.2:6**). God has no favourites and so we can boldly call on the grace, love, promises, goodness and mercy of God, because it is available for everyone, and He blesses all who calls on His name (**Rom.10:12**).

Salvation focus: People in wheelchairs

Lift up in prayer today people you know or see in wheelchairs. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to reach out to them, whether just once or on an ongoing basis, to become interested in their 'story' and offer to pray for their felt needs. Pray for them to be able to accept their situation, forgive those responsible for their condition (if applicable) and commit their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ as their hope of glory.

Tuesday 4 August 2009

The holiness of God: We declare to every person in this country: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and gives people true insight (**Prov.1:7**). Lord, may Your holiness make people bow down before You so that they may receive wise hearts. Make Your Church holy. May Your holiness help people inside the council chambers of our country to make wise decisions.

Salvation focus: 15,000 people find Jesus in the town of Nokia revival

The Finnish town of Nokia is home to one of the world's leading cell phone companies. But less known is that over the past 18 years an estimated 15,000 people have encountered Jesus in this town. Thousands have been healed, and numerous church cell groups have been planted. Sunday meetings are still drawing up to 6,000 people. (Website: <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue4426.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for touching the lives of people in so many ways, mostly unknown to us! Give thanks to the Lord for what He has done in this community. Pray that the testimonies would continue to spread and draw many more into the Kingdom of God.