

Jericho Walls Prayer Guide - August 2009

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.

Wednesday 5 August 2009

The holiness of God: I confess, believe and testify that God is holy. May the people in our country see Your holiness and turn away from sin and unrighteousness. Who can stand in the presence of the Holy God of heaven and earth? (**1 Sam.6:20**). May Your holiness convince people of sin and make them understand that without being made holy no one will see God (**Heb.12:14**). We confess and proclaim to the whole world: God is a consuming fire (**Heb.12:29**). Together with the 24 elders, the host of angels in heaven and the four living beings around the throne of God, we want to call out day and night: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come (**Rev.4:8**).

Salvation focus: Lake Tanganyika

Less than 1% of people living on Lake Tanganyika are Christian. Please pray for them. Ask that God will fulfil the promises He has for them, plans to prosper them and not to harm them, plans to give them hope and a future. Pray that they will start to seek God with all their heart (**Jer.29:10-14a**). Thank God that His Kingdom is advancing. Various churches and groups of people on outreach have taken hands with the missionaries and this has shown God's heart for the lost. Praise God for His mercy and love. (*OM/ProChristo, Good News II Ministry*. Website: www.ltprayer.org or e-mail: gnews2@gmail.com).

Thursday 6 August 2009

The righteousness of God: I confess and believe that God is always fair, that this gives me insight and that I can live accordingly (**Ps.119:144**). Lord, our prayer is that You will bring to an end all the evil deeds of wicked people and help the innocent, because You are a righteous God (**Ps.7:9**). As Believers we confess that everything God does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong (**Deut.32:4**). We declare: God rules our country in righteousness and justness (**Jer.23:6; Rev.16:5-7**).

Prayer focus: Revive Tunisia

Tunisian Believers have invited Believers inside and outside Tunisia to join in fasting and prayer every Monday in 2009. In the past, the police managed to intimidate and oppress Believers with threats of job loss, loss of finances for schooling, physical violence, and shame to family members. Some Believers "hide out" for years, not telling anyone that they are Christians and believe they are the only Tunisians who have made this choice. Pray that 2009 will mark a remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Tunisian people, Believers and non-believers. Ask that God will deliver Christians from fear and have them link with each other and so disperse the lies that they alone are Believers. (*Operation Mobilization*. Website: www.omusa.org and www.revivetunisia.com or e-mail: info@usa.om.org).

Friday 7 August 2009

The Lord is good: I confess, declare and believe that those who come to God will experience themselves that He is good (**Ps.34:9**). Lord, we believe that You satisfy the thirsty and give in abundance to those who are hungry (**Ps.107:9**). The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, for those who seek His will; it is good to wait patiently on the help of the Lord (**Lam.3:25-26**). We pray that the world will see that God revealed his kindness to us; in His love and goodness He gave us Jesus our Saviour (**Tit.3:4**). We proclaim to the people of our country: "God is rich in kindness, tolerance and patience!" May people understand that God's kindness wants to lead them toward repentance! (**Rom.2:4**).

Focus on Israel: Aid needed

About 1.6 million Israelis live under the breadline. Constant terror attacks aggravate the situation as many are too traumatised to work, or businesses and homes are severely damaged. Many Christian volunteers in organisations and funds from the nations are helping in various ways. Pray **Romans 15:27b**, that Believers will have open hearts and hands in helping God's people. Pray for the volunteers for wisdom, love, compassion and skill to help repair both physical and emotional damage. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfijerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Saturday 8 August 2009

God answers prayer: I believe, confess and proclaim that God answers prayer. When we call out to You, You will answer: "*Here I am*". I declare that I believe You when You say to the people of our country: "*Pray and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you*" (**Matt.7:7**). I believe that the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him

(2 Chron.16:9). I believe if the righteous cry out, the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles (Ps.34:17). I wait patiently on the help of the Lord (Lam.3:26). I cast all my worries on the Lord, because He promised to take care of me (1 Pet. 5:7). I confess that God will give us the desires of our hearts if we delight ourselves in the Lord (Ps.37:4).

Global health focus: 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP)

The 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP 9), takes place in Bali, Indonesia from 9-13 August 2009. (Website: <http://www.icaap9.org/>). For over fifteen years, the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific has been custodian of the biennial International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) and has played a key role in building commitment and networks in the struggle against HIV and AIDS across the region. The 9th ICAAP will again strengthen this approach. (Website: http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/Calendar/20090120_MajorEvents2009.asp). Pray for everyone attending this congress to also come to a clear understanding of who God the heavenly Father is to them personally and what Jesus, His Son, came to do for them. Ask for them to look into and execute strategies that will truly benefit victims of HIV/AIDS in their region in very practical ways.

Sunday 9 August 2009

Memorise

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table (Ps.128:3).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Protection focus

And lead us not into temptation

All of us are bombarded daily with self-centred desires. Although vulnerable and open to attack, we should see every temptation or time of testing as an opportunity to grow and find grace from God. Being tempted is not sinning; sin is a result of yielding to temptation. Praying this prayer means to ask God to help us not to yield to temptation (Jas.1:14-15). Temptation is not from God, nor does He tempt anyone (Jas.1:13). According to 1 John 2:16, we face three main areas of temptation. (1) Coveting – the cravings of the sinful nature; (2) lust – the lust/desire for everything we see; (3) pride – boasting about what we have and do. This 'room' in the 'Our Father' house of prayer is a secure place of safety from temptation when we dwell here with great humility and dependency on the Father. Here we pray for the godly opposite to rule our lives: Generosity, purity and humility.

Focus on God's perspective: If you look at your life, can you identify with some temptations relating to these three areas? Write them down in a place where you may be reminded of them every day, such as inside your cupboard door, on the mirror etc. Each morning, ask the Father to help you not to yield to temptation on that day, whichever way it may cross your path. Remember that you can have the victory through the Name of Jesus Christ in every situation. Apply it with confidence so that your life will truly glorify Him in every circumstance! Remember the armour God has given us (Eph.6:10-18).

God is a Father: I declare, confess and believe that You are our Everlasting Father (Deut.32:6). Together with the Church through all the ages, we declare that we believe in God the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You have bound us to You with a covenant by declaring that You will be a father to us and that we will be Your sons and daughters (2 Cor.6:18). Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, let Your Kingdom come in our country (Matt.6:9-10). We as individuals and as a Church want to know You as You really are and we want to glorify You as You glorify Your Son (1 John 2:13-14; John 17:1-4). We confess that we accept Your punishment and reprimands as discipline so that we can be shaped by it, that we can submit to You so that we may share in Your holiness and that our lives will bear good fruit (Heb.12:6-11). We confess that You are a father to orphans and a protector of the rights of widows (Ps.68:6). You are like a father to Your children, tender and

compassionate to those who fear You (**Ps.103:13**). You sent the Spirit of Your Son into our hearts and in us He calls out, "Abba, Father!" (**Gal.4:5-7**).

Focus on women: National Women's Day

Please pray for *Women's Day* celebrations today, that glory will not go to humans, but to God for His influence in our lives. Ask that women will put their trust in God, even for practical breakthroughs concerning gender issues. (For more information on how to play a part today, contact: *National Women's Day Africa Christian Action*, P.O. Box 23632, Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884, Website: www.christianaction.org.za or e-mail: info@christianaction.org.za).

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**.

Monday 10 August 2009

God forgives and saves: I confess, declare, proclaim and believe that God forgives sin and that He wants the unsaved and the wicked to repent of their sins. Lord, You are our salvation. We pray that You will deliver the godless and unsaved in this country so that Your Name is honoured (**Ps.79:9**). Lord Jesus, You sent Your Son to

pay the price for our sins; therefore we confidently ask for the salvation of the people of our country (**John 3:16**). You find no pleasure in the death of the sinful, but want them to repent and turn from their wicked ways.

Salvation focus: Motorcyclists

Hundreds of people take an interest in motorcycling as a hobby. Many more use their motorcycles daily to get from point A to point B. Lift them up in prayer. Pray that God will intervene in their everyday lives, touch their hearts and draw them into a close relationship with the Lord Jesus. Pray for their safety and also that of motorists and all road users so that they will drive more carefully, especially on the highways. Pray for Christian bikers witnessing to others.

Tuesday 11 August 2009

The faithfulness of God: I confess, believe and declare that You are faithful, that You will do what You promised and will not forget one of Your big and good promises (**Josh.23:14**). I know that You are not unfair, that You will not forget us or let us down (**Gen.28:15; Heb.6:10**). As Believers we draw near to You with a sincere heart and in full assurance of faith so that You can help us, that You can cleanse us from sin and a guilty conscience (**Heb.10:22**). With complete certainty I entrust my life to You and I stand firm in the assurance that You do not postpone the fulfilment of Your promises, but that You are patient and do not want any person in our country to perish (**2 Pet.3:9**).

Health focus: Gene screens for breast cancer

Gene screens are fast becoming a powerful tool, both for diagnosing and treating cancer. The more genes detected, the more likely the tumour will respond to treatment. Breast cancer patients are also increasingly relying on another gene test, OncotypeDx, which can determine the risk of breast cancer recurrence and which chemotherapy agents will work best against a particular tumour. (Website: http://www.time.com/time/specials/2008/top10/article/0,30583,1855948_1863993_1864003,00.html). Give thanks to the Lord for breakthroughs like these in cancer research. Continue to pray for these tests to be effective and for a cure for all types of cancer to be found soon.

Wednesday 12 August 2009

The sovereignty of God: I declare, confess and believe that You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit reign sovereign over heaven and earth and that everything in our country is under Your control. You reign over our country from where You are seated on Your holy throne (**Ps.47:8**). May the people of this country acknowledge You as the King of all the nations (**Jer.10:7**). We confess, declare and believe that You know about everything in our country, that nothing in this country intimidates You and that no problem is so big that You cannot handle it.

Focus on prostitution: Two brothels closed

The discovery of two brothels where underage girls worked just for food in a township in central Swaziland has triggered both shock and sympathy in a country struggling with chronic poverty and food insecurity. Two brothels were closed down in Mhuleni where a total of 35 girls, aged from 14 to 17, were trading sex for basic meals served in the neighbourhood cafes. An estimated 40% of Swazis are unemployed. (Website: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82246>). Lift up this and other similar situations to the Lord in prayer, asking for these children to be saved from such circumstances. Ask for more relief agencies to become involved specifically in helping Swazis, and setting up places where children can be fed at least one free meal a day. Also pray for the Swazi Church to arise amidst these circumstances and help the poor in practical ways.

Thursday 13 August 2009

The patience of God: I confess, declare and believe that You are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in love and faithfulness (**Ex.34:6**). That is why we ask that You will be patient with us in this country of ours.

We ask that You will not condemn us in Your wrath, but patiently draw us to You. May You overlook our ignorance, and may Your Spirit call out in people's hearts all over the country that they must repent (**Ezek.20:17**). We confess that in His goodness, God wants to lead people to repentance (**Ps.103:8-10**). When we pray for the Church and for our country, we call upon the fact that You are long-suffering and patient.

Focus on Israel: Severe drought

The Sea of Galilee is Israel's main water source. Since January no water could be pumped from it as the level has sunk too low and the water will become polluted by saline springs. Israel is experiencing its worst drought in human memory and as the population increases, so does the demand for water. Pray God's mercy over the land according to **Psalm 68:9**, **Psalm 147:8** and **Matthew 5:45**. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Friday 14 August 2009

God's compassion: We confess, declare and believe that God is a gracious God, that He will not break a bruised reed nor snuff out a smouldering wick (**Matt.12:20**). We confess that He took our weaknesses and sin on Himself to set us free (**Isa.53:4-5**). We confess that Jesus came to destroy the devil's work (**1 John 3:8**). As Christians we confess that the High Priest we have is not one who has no compassion for our weaknesses; after all, He was subjected to temptation in every respect just like us, yet He did not sin. So we pray, Lord, that You will have compassion for us in this country.

Bible translation focus: Bible for the Japanese

Less than 1% of the 127 million people in Japan consider themselves Christian, a challenge that *Operation Mobilization (OM)* workers in that nation have gladly taken on. The Japanese love comics so much that trainloads of commuters are often seen with their heads buried in the latest comic book ('manga'). *Operation Mobilization (OM)*, and *The Evangelical Alliance Mission* have begun distributing a Christian comic book, the *Manga Messiah*, a 300-page comic book chronicling the life of Jesus. Some believe this to be even more effective than a single showing of the *JESUS Film*. (*Breaking Christian News*. E-mail: editor@breakingchristiannews.com). Give thanks to the Lord for this creative subject matter depicting the life of Jesus. Ask for Japanese people not to see it as just another comic book, but to be deeply touched by it and to begin searching for a personal relationship with Jesus.

Saturday 15 August 2009

God is a fire: I confess and proclaim that the Lord our God is a consuming fire and He demands undivided faithfulness to Him (**Deut.4:24**). He is a God who reveals Himself as a God of fire time and again – this is the way He revealed Himself to Moses, Abraham, Elijah and to the church in Acts. His throne was flaming with a river of fire (**Dan.7:10**). Fire goes before Him and consumes His enemies on every side (**Ps.97:3**). May Your fire bring people to their senses and tear them loose from worldliness, foolishness, haughtiness and every form of egotism.

Environmental focus: World Water Week in Stockholm: 16-22 August 2009

The *World Water Week in Stockholm* has been the annual focal point for the planet's water issues since 1991. The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas. (Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/worldwaterweek/purposeandscope.asp>). As we are called also to be stewards of the environment, let us pray for Christians attending this occasion to present leading solutions to felt needs and problems worldwide. Never neglect praying for the salvation of those attending such an event to the glory of the Lord.

Sunday 16 August 2009

Memorise

The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills (Hab.3:19).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Deliverance focus

But deliver us from evil

In the previous prayer room we asked God to keep us from falling into temptation. But we are also engaged in spiritual warfare which we can only win through the power of the Holy Spirit (**Rom.8:13**). Spiritual warfare is a harsh reality (**2 Cor.10:3-5**) and it takes place daily, mostly in our minds. How does a Christian wage war? We use God's mighty weapons to knock down the devil's strongholds as we *take every thought captive* and learn to think godly thoughts alone. Scripture encourages us to be strong in the Lord and put on the whole armour of God so that we are properly prepared to engage in our spiritual conflict, which is NOT a fight with people. Also remember, it is not us against the devil, it is God in us who has the victory over the devil. To be set free from demonic bondage, we must resist the devil through prayer and proclaiming God's Word as we call upon the Name of Jesus. **James 4:7** teaches us to submit to God and then resist the devil. This is the key – if you are right with God, you have His power visible in you to resist the devil. The power of God alone makes the devil flee!

Focus on God's perspective: There is no space here to ponder on the wonderful provision God made for us by means of the armour of God as described in **Ephesians 6:10-16**. Spend time reading that today. Find more reading matter explaining the reality of spiritual warfare discussed in this portion of Scripture. When praying in this 'room' of the 'Our Father' house of prayer, remember to put on God's armour.

The power of God: I confess, declare and believe that all power is in the hand of God Almighty and that, with that power, He shatters the enemy, does His mighty deeds, breaks Satan's power and saves us from every danger (**Ex.15:6-8**). Therefore, Lord, You work miracles and wonders. Reveal Your power in our country and may people see Your miracles so that our country may be restored, that there can be healing for our country, and people can be saved. Nothing is too great for You to do and not one of Your words is powerless (**Lk.1:37**). The Lord is the conqueror in every battle, no matter what the circumstances (**Ps.24:8**). We confess and declare that the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (**1 Cor.4:20**).

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.

Monday 17 August 2009

The anger and wrath of God: I confess, believe and proclaim that when a country sins, the fierce anger of God burns against this land and that He punishes such a country, irrespective of the country and also irrespective of the position and title of any person (**Deut.29:27; 2 Sam.6:7**). God reveals His wrath from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of the people who try to suppress the truth by their wickedness (**Rom.1:18**). Whoever is disobedient to the Son will not see life, because the punishment of God remains on Him (**John 3:36**). I proclaim that a day will come for all who are godless and do not want to repent of their sins, that they will hide in caves and in the mountains in an effort to escape God's wrath. This will be true of kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, yes all the people, slaves and every free person, all who do not repent of their sins. They will call out to the mountains, "*Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day has come on which He will pass judgment, and who will remain standing?*" (**Rev.6:15-17**).

Salvation focus: The blind

There are thousands of blind people in South Africa. Although handicapped to a large extent, they are able to do quite a number of tasks, for example to teach music. Lift them up in prayer today, ask for their salvation. Pray for those who suffer from depression and unforgiving hearts to find deliverance and peace in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. Ask for God to provide opportunities for them to also testify to His glory.

Tuesday 18 August 2009

God as judge and His judgment: I confess and proclaim that God is the judge of the entire earth and that He will do what is right (**Gen.18:25**). The Lord's judgments are true and just and He avenges Himself on unrighteousness and the death of His servants (**Rev.19:2**). The Lord God, the Almighty, is true and just in His judgments (**Rev.16:5-**

7). Therefore, Lord, it is not for us to judge, and thus we leave it to You. We plead for justice and righteousness in our country and that You will judge between right and wrong and that justice will prevail in our country. It is Your right to judge and take vengeance. I declare to the country and its people: It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God (**Heb.10:30-31**).

Health focus: Traditional healers

A South African sangoma is accused of misleading hundreds of AIDS sufferers across the country, who queued outside her door after she allegedly put up thousands of placards in Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Limpopo claiming that she can cure HIV-AIDS. Although she claims the opposite, she could not provide any proof of the efficacy of her supposed cure, for which she charges R1500. (Website: <http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=913440>). Please lift up in prayer those who are misled by such promises. Continue to pray for the poor of our country to find God as the solution to their problems. Also pray for sangomas, that they will have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ and completely turn their lives over to Him.

Wednesday 19 August 2009

God heals: I believe, declare and I am thankful that You are the Lord who heals us (**Ex.15:26**). Lord, You bless us and take away sickness from among us (**Ex.23:25**). You promise that those who are kind to the weak are blessed. You will deliver them in times of trouble. You take care of them in sickness. When they are ill, You will heal them. (**Ps.41:2,4**). You forgive all my sins and heal all my diseases (**Ps.103:3**). I proclaim to the sick: He took up our weakness, He carried our sorrows. He was wounded and crushed for our sins; He took the punishment that brought us peace and His wounds brought us healing (**Isa.53:1,4,5**).

Environmental stewardship focus: Water-related disease facts

At any given time, close to half of all people in developing countries suffer from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits. The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns. (Website: <http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916>). Continue to pray for government leaders across the world to address this problem in their countries, putting aside a part of their budget to upgrade their specific facilities to provide clean water. Also ask that Christian ministries will include teaching basic sanitation to the peoples they are ministering to and so have simple ways of also explaining the gospel and God cleansing us from our sin.

Thursday 20 August 2009

God knocks down strongholds: I declare that the weapons God gives us are not human weapons, but the mighty weapons of God that can demolish strongholds. With them we break down arguments and every pretension that keeps people from knowing God. We take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. We are also ready to punish every act of disobedience after our own obedience became complete (**2 Cor.10:3-6**). I declare that God gave me the authority to overcome all the violence of the enemy (**Lk.10:19**). Through His death and resurrection Jesus conquered the power of death and sin. He broke the power of Evil, not only for individuals, but also for the forces of evil in this country. God who gives peace will soon crush Satan under our feet (**Rom.16:20**).

Education focus: Street kids grab at opportunity for good education

Forty Grade 12 students of the New Nation school wrote the National Senior Certificate examination in 2008. This Vrededorp School caters specifically for children who live on the streets, in shelters or in child-headed households. According to the school principal they struggle with alcohol and drug abuse. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20090102064654324C724586&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20090102ah). Give thanks to the Lord for answers to prayers like these and for young people who grab

hold of their opportunities! Pray for this school to inspire other schools to do the same, providing opportunities to less privileged children. Pray that God will set these children free from drug and alcohol abuse.

Friday 21 August 2009

God blesses: I confess and believe and proclaim to all who believe in God, follow Jesus and serve God devotedly: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord answer your prayers and give you peace! (**Num.6:23-27**). Therefore we ask: Bless us and enlarge our territory, take us in this country under Your protection and keep us from harm so that we will be free from pain. (**1 Chron.4:10**). In Jesus' Name I proclaim to every person in this country: Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may be given the blessing of God (**1 Pet.3:9**).

Focus on prayer: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for each staff member working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* across the country. Ask for their safety, strength and health. Also pray for God to provide in their practical and physical needs. Give thanks to the Lord for every piece of material that has been translated, printed, posted and effectively distributed over the last few years. Give thanks to the Lord for helping us to do that which He has set before us. Remember to pray over the next week for the posting process of the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide*. Over the past 12 months we have lost hundreds of letters and parcels (every month) that were mailed to people all over the country. (*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).

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.

Saturday 22 August 2009

100 Years for *Gideons International*

Gideons International, the ministry behind placing Bibles in hotel rooms and in the hands of people around the world, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. To date, the organisation has placed 1.3 billion Bibles in more than 180 countries (70.7 million in 2007 alone), leaving palm-sized Scriptures in hotels, hospitals, prisons, military bases, schools and colleges. Research by the hotel industry indicates that approximately 25% of travellers read the Bibles in their hotel rooms. (*News Bytes*; e-mail: newsbytes@yahoo.com). Give thanks to God for sustaining this work. Pray for favour for *Gideons International* as they continue to face an increasing number of lawsuits in recent years, having to defend in court their actions on the basis of the constitution of some countries.

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.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 1

Unbelief, faith and love

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** It is often said that Muslims are hard to reach with the gospel. For religious, cultural and spiritual reasons this is often true. However it is not impossible, for nothing is impossible with God (**Matt.19:26**). Faith in Christ is important, but do I also love Muslims? How would I react if a man in Muslim clothing came to my church? How would I react if a new Believer with a Muslim background wanted to marry into my family? Would I be willing to give money so someone could proclaim the gospel among Muslims? Have I been involved in criticising them without knowing them? Am I fearful of Muslims?

☞ **Pray today:** *Take a moment to prepare your heart as we start praying for the salvation of Muslims worldwide today. Be honest with God about your response to some of these questions. Father God, as we set ourselves before You to pray for the salvation of Muslims across the world, we ask that You give us a heart of compassion to pray like Jesus is praying at Your right hand right now. Give us the loving heart of the Father and spur us on to continuous prayer through the Holy Spirit.*

Sunday 23 August 2009

Memorise

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you (Deut.31:6).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Kingdom focus

For Yours is The Kingdom

When Jesus began to preach, his first sermon was, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*" (**Matt.4:17**). As Christians we are citizens of the Kingdom of God here on earth. But it does not belong to us; we are only sons and daughters (heirs) of the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. To find out how to live our lives practically as

kingdom pioneers, when confronted with life's issues means to ask the well-known question: *What would Jesus do?* The Kingdom of God is expressed from within us (**Lk.17:20-21**) everywhere we go. The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (**Rom.14:17**). **1 Timothy 2:1-2** tells us that to pray kingdom prayers is to pray for everyone on earth. Prayer is the backbone of His kingdom. It is one of the greatest contributions we can make to advance the Kingdom of God as we admit our own weakness depend fully on Him and experience His powerful work, to the glory of His Name!

Focus on God's perspective: Two important points to meditate on today are: (1) Do you ask yourself on every occasion during the day: *What would Jesus do?* Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you to do this and see how radically it changes the way you do things! It is truly an adventure! (2) Do you regularly pray for people other than yourself? This is how you and I help build the Kingdom of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind, teach and train you to begin praying for all people (**1 Tim.2:1-2**). Take time to study and find out what is meant by supplication, prayer, intercession, *and* of giving thanks in the Bible, and begin to include all these in your prayers. It will take some effort from you, but it's God's command and if we obey faithfully, it will always result in blessing for us and others!

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 2

Muslim attitudes towards the West and Christians in general

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Many Muslims prefer to maintain a traditional lifestyle and to limit their contact with non-Muslims to a minimum. Globalisation, the Internet, television, improved travel and communication are changing this. Many Muslims do not differentiate at all between Western culture and Christianity. For Muslims, alcohol consumption, pornography, popular films, music, a liberal lifestyle and a lack of public religious practice are sure signs of the failure of Western countries. For them, the word "Christian" signifies materialism, a lack of spirituality and moral failure. In the words of one person who knows Muslims well: "Many Muslims have never met a Believer who is actually living a real Christian life. This is certainly one of the greatest hindrances to effectively making the Messiah known among Muslims."

☞ **Pray today:** *Holy Father, we pray that You will let sincere Believers living holy lives worthy of You, come across many Muslims. Help them discern cultural differences and equip them to minister Your love for Muslims.*

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.

Monday 24 August 2009

Salvation focus: The elderly

Many old people feel their lives are over and lose hope and faith even in the truths they believe about God. Many more are not really sure of their salvation, or put differently, they are not sure they will go to heaven when they die. Please pray for Christian Believers to visit and spend time with the elderly, helping them understand the gospel

message of Jesus Christ in a very personal way. Ask that older people will still have opportunities to both accept and testify for Jesus Christ.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 3

Jesus, the Son of God

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Muslims almost always object to the use of the title "Son of God" for Jesus. The main reason being that "Son of God" implies that God the Father had sexual relations with Mary and that Jesus (the Son) was born of this union. Some (not all), understand the Christian Trinity as consisting of the Father, Mary and Jesus. Although repulsive and blasphemous to Christians, this is often the Muslim understanding of the phrase. In Christianity, the title, "Son of God" indicates the majesty, honour and glory of Jesus (**2 Pet.1:16-18**). The title is associated not only with His divinity, but also with His kingship. Nathan's prophecy in **2 Samuel 7:12-14**, one of the early prophecies of the Messianic King, speaks of David's descendant as God's Son.

☞ **Pray today:** *Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You will bring the truth and a clear understanding of Jesus Christ as Your Son in the hearts of Muslims, so that this hindrance in the way of Muslims coming to Christ may be removed. We also pray for evangelising Believers to have wisdom in addressing this issue when testifying to Muslims.*

Tuesday 25 August 2009

Mortality focus: Deaths in SA

South Africa rates number 3 in the world of the countries with the highest death rate. Swaziland is 1st, Angola 2nd and Lesotho 4th (Top 10 of everything, 2009). Seven of the top 10 countries with the highest death rate are in Southern Africa. Let us cry out to the Lord for every individual to have an opportunity to know and accept Christ in their lives. Ask that God will grant us grace to find a cure for HIV/AIDS, and other deadly diseases like cholera and malaria.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 4

Secret Believers: The real cost of following Jesus

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** For a Muslim to become a Christian is shameful to his family; it is as if he has lost his identity. They are rejected by their family and other Muslims, and are sometimes forced to get a divorce and lose their children, inheritance, employment and lodgings. Many fear for their lives and become "secret Believers". Isolation like this makes it very difficult for them to persevere in their faith. According to Islamic law, the Sharia law, it is forbidden for a Muslim to change their religion. In Saudi Arabia, Iran, the Maldives, Afghanistan and Yemen people can be given the death penalty if it is discovered that they have changed their religion. (For more information see the website: <http://www.secretbelievers.org/>).

☞ **Pray today:** *Compassionate Father, we pray for secret Believers who are even now facing the possibility of death. Will You touch their families that they also may be attracted to Christ. Raise up Believers all over the world to pray for and assist Muslim Background Believers.*

Wednesday 26 August 2009

Focus on drug abuse: New drug mix in the Cape

Heroin abuse is increasing drastically and alarmingly. Rehabilitation organisations have to deal with this problem as well as with the fact that all the more younger children are becoming addicted to *tik*. While *tik* (crystal methamphetamine) still seems to be the most commonly used drug in the Western Cape, the number of heroin addicts seeking treatment is rising. More people are getting hooked on heroin and "ungah" (a mixture of dagga and heroin). (Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20081017070915648C994314&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20081017ah). Continue to cry out to the Lord about drug abuse in our country, asking for drug networks to be uncovered and shut down effectively. Pray for addicts to find opportunities to be rehabilitated and delivered.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 5

Prayer for the peoples: The Guhayna people of Sudan

Thoughts and facts: The 1.3 million Guhayna are a largely nomadic people living in Central Sudan. Not much is known about this people group other than that they are Sudanese Arabs who trace their heritage to the Bedouin who wandered the deserts of Saudi Arabia centuries ago. The Guhayna embrace rigid codes of honour, loyalty and hospitality, the strong role of men in society, the value of children, subservience of women and the five pillars of Islam. To confess Jesus as Lord is not accepted and has serious consequences.

Pray today: *Mighty God we pray that that fear of persecution from Islamic relatives will not hinder the Guhayna as they consider following Christ. Will You raise up willing Christian Believers who will take on the life-long responsibility to pray for this and other people groups of Sudan until a breakthrough is seen.*

Thursday 27 August 2009

Focus on the economy: SA develops nuclear fuel

South Africa's pebble bed company has successfully manufactured the uranium dioxide-coated particles which form the basis of high-temperature reactor fuel. The particles differ from conventional nuclear fuel in the 9.6% enriched uranium particle coating. Conventional nuclear fuel uses a metal barrier. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/1440860.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers on finding better ways to utilise existing energy resources. Pray for continued research to be successful and also to be beneficial for South Africa as a product to export to other countries.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 6

Prayer for the peoples: The Karanga people of Chad

Thoughts and facts: The Karanga are a people group related to the larger Bantu people. In Chad, they number around 117,000. They speak their own language and live in a small area outside the city of Abeche in Southern Central Chad. Little is known about the Karanga.

Pray today: *Lord of the harvest, we pray that You will send faithful and life-long workers to the Karanga to reveal the truth of Jesus Christ to them. Please call many nations to become involved in reaching this people group with the gospel in creative ways, as well as other people groups .*

Friday 28 August 2009

Justice focus: South Africa

SA is number 9 in the world on the highest crime rate, number 2 on the highest murder rate and number 7 on the highest prison population. (Top 10 of everything, 2009). Some of these numbers have come down over the past 3 years. Let us give thanks to God, for He is faithful and true and He is answering our prayers. Let us persevere in crying out for righteousness and justice to be established in our country as the foundation of His throne (**Ps.97:2**).

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 7

Prayer for the peoples: The Kaili Unde of Indonesia

Thoughts and facts: The 22,000 Kaili Unde live on the west coast in the province of Central Sulawesi in Indonesia. Most Kaili Unde are dedicated Muslims. They are convinced that they will eventually be judged according to their way of life. However, their religious life is mixed with ancient animistic beliefs too. Many of them regularly seek help from the local Dukun (shaman or magic priest) to be cured of illness or evil spirits. There are only a few Kaili Unde Believers but no Bible or Christian material in their language yet.

Pray today: *Father of the nations, we pray for the Kaili Unde people to experience openness and willingness to receive the gospel (**Rom.1:5 and 16:26**). Please raise up people who will be able to start with the translation of Scripture into their native language. Also let it be that in some way they will happen to listen to the Indonesian Christian radio and TV channels proclaiming the gospel.*

Saturday 29 August 2009

Health focus: SA's own ARVs?

South Africa's *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)* has developed a low-cost method of manufacturing the anti-retrovirals used to treat HIV/AIDS, paving the way for more extensive HIV treatment across Africa. The *CSIR's* new technique will reduce the production costs of thymidine, a valuable ingredient in the anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs AZT and stavudine. By using two drugs of different classes, combination therapy minimises both HIV virus resistance to ARVs and the development of serious side-effects. (Website: <http://health.iafrica.com/features/1449840.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answers to prayers for research on HIV/AIDS treatment and the fact that it happened through a South African company! Continue to pray that a cure will be found soon. Pray for researchers on this project, that they will become believers as they unravel the mysteries of HIV/AIDS under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 8

Where does Mohammed fit in?

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Mohammed is revered by all Muslims as the last and greatest prophet. Mohammed is in no way considered divine, nor is he worshipped, but he is the model for all Muslims on how they should conduct themselves. No images of Mohammed are permitted (in order to prevent idolatry). At the age of 40, in AD 610 Mohammed supposedly began to receive revelations and instruction that he believed were from the archangel Gabriel. These "revelations" form the basis of the Qur'an. Mohammed's personal habits and actions serve as a guide for all Muslims. The eyewitness accounts and other stories about his life are called the "hadiths," helping Muslims discern what they believe is good and right.

🙏 **Pray today:** *Father God, we bring every Muslim person called by the name of Mohammed before You in prayer today. Please reveal Yourself through Your Son Jesus Christ in ways that will make them realise You are the one and only Living God. Help them believe and love You as the one who is honoured in heaven and earth and who has a name above all names (Acts 4:12, Phil.2:10).*

Sunday 30 August 2009

Memorise

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble (Ps.119:165).

Establish your personal house of prayer: Power focus

And the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

To enter into the fullness of what God has planned for our lives, we have no greater need than to be plugged into the power source of the Holy Spirit. For this to happen, we begin to pray for a new dimension of the Holy Spirit's power in our lives and those we are praying for (**Eph.6:18**). Praying with power can take various forms (**1 Cor.14:5,15**). It is important once more to mention that we do not have any power outside of God, other than through Jesus Christ expressing Himself through us, through the working of the Holy Spirit. This is why we boldly pray that God would grant us, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man (**Eph.3:16**). Power belongs to Him.

Focus on God's perspective: Have you ever experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your prayer life or at a meeting? Trust Him and allow God to fill you with His Spirit. Be sure to be on the lookout for opportunities during the day where you can pray for someone in need. Remember, when God answers your prayers, to give Him the glory for His power. When taking time in prayer every day, in this 'room' of the 'Our Father' house of prayer, remember to make a point of giving Him the glory for working in and through you every day.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 9

Prayer for the peoples: Mashhad in Iran

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Reza (eighth Imam or head spiritual leader of Shi'a Islam), was known for his piety and he is now revered by Iranian Shi'a Muslims. His life and position made his tomb a sacred place for pilgrims. Over ten million people (mostly Iranians) visit his tomb each year in the town Mashhad. Mashhad has grown significantly during recent years. Large malls and supermarkets, parks and other attractions have popped up in the city. Mashhad has become the second largest city in Iran with a population of about 2.5 million people. No one really knows how many Believers there are in Mashhad as all of them are under the threat of government persecution. The vast majority of people in the city have very little understanding of the gospel. Yet, the number of Iranian Believers continues to grow even during persecution.

☞ **Pray today:** *Father of all creation, we lift up each of the 2.5 million people in the city of Mashhad before Your throne of grace. Reveal Yourself to them as the living God, the Way, the Truth and the Life everlasting. Teach them Your love in their hearts. (Scriptures to meditate on and to proclaim in prayer: Acts 7:55-60, Lk.23:34, Lk.11:4).*

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.

Monday 31 August 2009

Salvation focus: The deaf

This week is the week of prayer for the deaf. The mother tongue of deaf people is sign language. Although 90% of them are born into hearing families, only a few manage to learn a spoken language. Deaf people cannot benefit from any spiritual television or radio messages without accompanying sign language and many have a deep spiritual hunger. Please lift up deaf people in prayer. They often feel extremely isolated. Ask for them to find ways to meet with others so they can sign-speak on matters of concern to them. Pray that many will testify about Jesus as their Saviour to other deaf people. (*Institute for the deaf*. Tel.: 021 948 6631 or fax: 021 948 6632).

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 10

Prayer for the peoples: The Khorasani Turks of Iran

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** More than 830,000 Khorasani Turks live in the northern part of the Khorasan province of Iran. The Khorasani Turks are 100% Muslim, and their society is organised around traditional Muslim rules. There are no known Khorasani Turk Believers. Living in a very remote corner of the world, they are currently without gospel resources in their own language, and there is no specific effort to implant believing congregations among them.

☞ **Pray today:** *Lord of the harvest, we pray that You will open doors for Christian businessmen and missionaries to share Christ with the Khorasani Turks. Please call by name qualified linguists to translate the Bible into the Khorasani language soon. Visit these people in dreams and visions so they may come to know You.*

Tuesday 1 September 2009

Crime focus: SMS tip-off initiative

The *Crime Line* initiative was started in June 2007 and operates independently and anonymously and is aimed at getting criminals off the streets. This project has been endorsed by the *South African Police Service (SAPS)*. If someone suspects someone else (even family or friends) to be involved in crime, they can now anonymously

report it. Any information about criminals passed on to *Crime Line* will be acted upon – whether the perpetrators be murderers, rapists, robbers, hijackers, drug dealers, gangsters, child abusers, etc. (Website: www.crimeline.co.za). People can send a SMS to 32211 or visit www.crimeline.co.za enabling them to send in anonymous tip-offs relating to any crime or suspicious activity. Give thanks to the Lord for initiatives like these in answer to much prayer over the years! Pray that people will become aware of this initiative, and for many criminals to be put to trial for their deeds.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 11

Thoughts and facts: Today is the 40th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution which brought Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to power in Libya. Sixty-seven year old Qadhafi was elected new chairman of the *African Union (AU)* earlier this year. For a long time now the new chairman of the pan-African organisation has campaigned for the establishment of a continental government. Forty years ago very few people in Libya knew the Lord and this is the case to this day. Native Libyans who believe in Jesus probably number less than fifty people out of a population of 6.2 million.

Pray today: *Father, our hope of glory, we cry out on behalf of the people of Libya and their leader. Please reveal Yourself to them this year as the One and only Living God. We pray that Your will be done and Your Kingdom come in this situation as it is in heaven. Also send labourers into the Muslim harvest of Libya.*

Wednesday 2 September 2009

Salvation focus: Hindu people

South Africa rates number 9 in the world on the number of Hindu people living in the country. (Top 10 of everything, 2009). This means that we have huge responsibility towards being living testimonies of Christ to them as a group of individuals. Most South Africans do not really know what Hindu people believe or even that there are people practising Hinduism living in our country. Please pray for the local church to realise this vast mission field in our midst. Ask for Christian spiritual leaders to begin teaching their congregations how to understand and minister to Hindu people.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 12

Was Jesus a Muslim?

Thoughts and facts: In Islam Jesus is considered to be a messenger of God, a prophet, who was sent to guide the Israelites. His message was given with a new scripture, the Injil (Gospel). The Qur'an affirms that Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary (Maryam) by the decree of God. Jesus had the ability to perform miracles by God's command. For Muslims Jesus was actually preaching an earlier form of Islam. In their understanding He is in no way more than a prophet.

Pray today: *Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up the understanding of Muslims worldwide before Your throne of grace. Enlighten the eyes of their hearts to know and understand and comprehend how high, deep and wide Your love for them is as the true Living God. Please raise up Muslim converts to Christianity to boldly speak on these issues and bring the gospel to them on radio, television etc.*

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.

Thursday 3 September 2009

Evangelism focus: Growth of Alpha in South Africa

The *Alpha Evangelism Course* has been running in South Africa for the past 14 years and has been growing steadily. There are also now just under 3,000 Alpha courses running in 38 countries across Africa, a direct answer to prayer! Give thanks to God for every life that has been transformed. Please pray for new and young Believers to continue to grow. Ask for many more individuals to become involved and transformed through the Alpha course. Lift up the different Alpha courses to the Lord in prayer: Alpha at churches, Alpha for Prisons, Alpha in the Workplace and The Marriage Course. (*Alpha SA*. Tel.: 012 998 8144. Website: <http://www.alphasa.co.za/> or email: communications@alphasa.co.za).

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 13

Prayer for the peoples: Pray for the Iraqi Tribes

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** A large percentage of Iraqi Arabs trace their ancestry back to one of several tribal confederations. Each of these groups is divided into tribes, clans, houses and extended families. There are possibly 20-30 confederations with over 100,000 people and possibly over 1,000 tribal organisations in the country. Tribalism is central to Iraqi cultural identity.

☞ **Pray today:** *Lord God Almighty who calls us by our names, we lift up by name the main tribal confederations of Iraq before Your throne of grace: the Muntafiq, the Zubayd, the Dulaym, the 'Ubayd, the Khaz'al, the Bani Lam, the Al Bu Muhammed, the Rabi'a, the Ka'b, the Shammar, the Anaza, the Bani Tamim, the Zafir, The Bani Malik. Pour out Your Spirit of wisdom and revelation upon them, so that people from every tribe and tongue will one day stand before Your throne (Rev.5:9). We pray for heads of tribes, clans, houses and enlarged families to discover new life in Christ and be completely changed to Your glory.*

Friday 4 September 2009

Youth focus: Why children use drugs

Children say that they choose to use drugs because they want to relieve boredom, feel good, forget their troubles and relax, have fun, satisfy their curiosity, take risks, ease pain, feel grown-up, show their independence, belong to a specific group and be cool. If parents know this, they may be better equipped to address the needs of their children. Encouraging children to become involved in sports, clubs, music lessons, community service projects, church and other after-school activities, can keep children and teens active and interested, while building their confidence and interpersonal skills. These activities will also bring the youth closer to parents and to other adults and peers who can influence them in positive ways. (Website: <http://www.yic.gov/drugfree/whykiduse.html>). Lift this situation up in prayer. Pray for parents across cultural divides to become more involved in their children's lives.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 14

Somalis in the USA

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Since 1991, hundreds of thousands of Somalis have died in their own brutal civil war. Millions have fled their homes seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and around the world. Tens of thousands

now live in European cities. Minnesota in the USA is home to between 30,000 and 70,000 Somalis. Many first generation immigrant Somalis (age 35 and older) dream of returning to a restored, peaceful Somalia. They live in tight-knit communities that emphasise adherence to Islam and are not generally open to other beliefs, although they are very hospitable. The vast majority work hard at learning English and adapting while trying to earn enough money to support themselves, as well as their families back in Somalia.

✞ **Pray today:** *Lord God of the whole earth, we lift up in prayer all Somalis living abroad and especially those in the USA. Will You give favour to Christians to form friendships with them and tell them of Your love for them. Renew their mind and show them Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

Saturday 5 September 2009

Missions focus: SA missionaries abroad

Lift up in prayer thousands of South Africans who serve as missionaries abroad, often in closed countries, especially those who cannot be united with their families during this time. Ask for God's favour and blessing on their work, families, marriages and interpersonal relationships with other Believers. Pray for a raise in their financial support, to have time and a pleasant place to rest and to experience God's presence in their relationship with Him. Ask that God will affirm their vision and work and speak clearly to them about their purpose in these countries.

Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009: Day 15

The plight of barren women in Islam

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** The impact of infertility is compounded because women are generally held responsible for reproductive failure. This blame may result in divorce or husbands taking a second wife, difficulties with the in-laws, domestic violence, economic abandonment, and even murder in some cases. In some places motherhood is the only way for women to enhance their status within the family and community.

✞ **Pray today:** *Father, You are the God who sees everything and have authority to open and close the womb. We pray that You would reveal Yourself to Muslim women as the One who answers prayer. We pray that many would begin to seek You as answer to their problem. Let the testimony of Jesus Christ fill their hearts with hope and much joy as they testify to others who you are, in this way drawing many into Your kingdom.*