

# Jericho Walls prayer guide – August 2010

Sunday 1 August 2010

## **The fear of God is intermingled with INDUSTRY**

*I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground (Matt.25:25).* Three people received different responsibilities, all knowing exactly what kind of man their master was. Two of them laboured hard, doing the task their master put before them and exercised stewardship. Another shied away, he became afraid of personal failure. The fear of the Lord leads to a willingness to work.

**Food for thought:** Do you struggle with the fear that you might disappoint God? It happens to many people when they attempt the exploits in His kingdom which He called them to. Were there times in your life that you have retreated in stead of moving forward? Bring these before the Lord and ask His forgiveness and another opportunity to serve Him wholeheartedly and without fear.

**Prayer:** Father who forgives, I confess that an emotional reaction often makes me retreat in situations where you call me to do things. Forgive me for times I let my personal feelings jeopardise the advancement of Your kingdom. Teach me the fear of the Lord that stirs me up to do what You call me for.

Monday 2 August 2010

## **Salvation focus: Photographers**

It is quite a challenge for photographers to make a living. Some turn to photographing extreme themes to distinguish themselves from others. Not all of these are wholesome. Please pray for photographers in all spheres of life to find Christ. Ask for their testimonies to also draw many other photographers into surrendering their lives to Jesus as their Lord.

## **Focus on nations: Costa Rica**

The Central American nation of Costa Rica elected its first female president on 7 February 2010 and she is a pro-life advocate. The election victory in Costa Rica is also a victory over international agencies and pro-abortion groups wanting the nation to allow abortions. (Website: <http://www.lifenews.com/int1459.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for this breakthrough in answer to a specific prayer focus on abortions worldwide a while ago. God indeed hears the prayers of His people. Pray for the new president of Costa Rica to remain firm in her convictions and for many people to turn to the Lord Jesus in this nation.

## **Join the *Citywide Watch* in Pretoria for regular prayer meetings**

We want to invite you to join and come to pray with us if you live in or are planning to visit Pretoria at any time. There is a 24/7 prayer room in Lynnwood Manor in Pretoria at the offices of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*. Join us as individual, family, church or other group in prayer for the church and city, our country and also the nations of the world. Prayer times are scheduled in different time slots that are available and suit those who come to pray. There is a lot of prayer information available to use in the prayer room. Every month we focus on different issues. Different 'prayer stations' are also set up where you can pause for prayer e.g. worship, reading the Word and prayer, thanksgiving, a world map to pray for international issues. Prayerfully consider a regular prayer slot to stand before God's throne of grace every week for those things He puts on your heart. For more information or to book a slot, please contact Lana Botha at tel.: 012 365 3213 or 072 379 3842 or e-mail: [pretoriawatch@jwipn.com](mailto:pretoriawatch@jwipn.com). You are also welcome to join us for a monthly prayer meeting for our city, usually held on a Thursday, 08:30 – 12:00. Watch our website [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) for the coming dates for these events or contact Anneke at 012 365 3213 or e-mail: [info@global24-7.org](mailto:info@global24-7.org)

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Tuesday 3 August 2010

**Focus on morality: Exploitation and trafficking**

Cape Town is showing growing commitment to the fight against prostitution, the large number of brothels, pimping and sex trafficking. Several prominent city brothels masquerading as beauty salons & massage parlours were already shut down in February. These establishments were operating without licenses. Despite mounting and credible evidence that vulnerable teens are being lured into prostitution by these 'salons' through false and misleading advertising, newspapers continue to publish their ads thereby indirectly promoting prostitution & sex trafficking. (Family Policy Institute. Tel.: 021 462 7888 or fax: 021 462 7889. Website: <http://www.familypolicyinstitute.com/> or e-mail: [info@familypolicyinstitute.com](mailto:info@familypolicyinstitute.com)). Give thanks to the Lord for the closure of unlicensed 'salons'. Pray for police to have continued success in their efforts to restore law and order. Also pray for owners of these places to have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus. Ask that newspapers countrywide will stop placing these advertisements.

**Focus on the nations: Mumbai in India**

Mumbai has a total population of over 16 million (2001 census) and is the financial capital of India and the home of India's Bollywood industry. The city is well known for its extreme standards of living, fast-paced lifestyle and the making (or breaking) of dreams. There are over 200,000 sex workers, between 70,000–200,000 leprosy sufferers, and at least 400,000 drug addicts in the city. Slum people have lived there in sub-human conditions for generations, and it is called the "Forgotten city" of the Christian organisations. (Church Planter. E-mail: [ecichurchplanter@gmail.com](mailto:ecichurchplanter@gmail.com)). Continue to pray for workers to this harvest, that citizens will be open and responsive to the gospel, and for workers to alleviate desperate living circumstances of especially slum people in practical ways.

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Wednesday 4 August 2010

**Focus on health: Organ donor month**

There are currently, only ± 30,000 registered donors in South Africa. Many people with healthy organs die every year. One person's organs can save up to 15 lives. There are currently 1,400 patients awaiting organ transplants and 3,000 awaiting cornea transplants. Any healthy person can become an organ donor. (Website: <http://medical.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/148/38366.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for those who have benefited and lived normal lives because of an organ donor. Pray that more lives will be saved through donor organs, and that people awaiting organ transplants, will come to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, surrendering their lives to Him. Pray also that God will heal miraculously and that young people will not die unnaturally.

**Focus on evangelism: The Deaf of Kenya**

There are over 220,000 deaf Kenyans, most of whom are still waiting to hear the gospel. A new Bible translation is a sign language Bible recorded as a DVD so that those who are deaf or hearing-impaired can see in sign language someone signing out the Scriptures in their heart language. After a viewing of the sign language DVD at the dedication, one man was overjoyed to hear the Good News and asked why it hadn't come sooner. Another woman asked to receive Christ right there. (Website: <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/13838>). Give thanks to the Lord for this amazing opportunity for people with this disability to also 'hear' the gospel. Pray especially for more opportunities for other disabled people to come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour.

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Thursday 5 August 2010

**Gospel focus: Every Home for Christ Anglo Africa (EHCAA)**

*EHCAA*, partnering with the *Disciple Nations Alliance*, is committed to serving the church in restoring God's glorious vision for the nations, also to help the church practise ministry that provides tangible demonstrations of Christ's love to broken people. (Contact: Hein van Wyk, *EHCAA/Hope for Africa*, P.O. Box 9463, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 665 0343, fax: 012 665 0381, cell: 082 349 8465. Website: <http://www.ehcaa.co.za> or e-mail: [hein@ehcaa.co.za](mailto:hein@ehcaa.co.za)). Please pray for ministries like these to serve with wisdom and humility and to be effective in their work and efforts. Pray that God's Word and prayer will form the foundation of all their exploits.

**Focus on health: Hepatitis C breakthrough**

Researchers have identified two cellular proteins that are important factors in hepatitis C virus infection, a finding that may result in the approval of new and less toxic treatments for the disease, which can lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis. An estimated 270-300 million people worldwide are infected with hepatitis C and the conventional

treatments (interferon and ribavirin) can have significant side effects. (Website: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100105100033.htm>). Praise the Lord for breakthroughs like these. Continue to pray for the testing, production and distribution of this medicine. Pray for scientists to admit God's supernatural intervention and revelation of breakthroughs in their work.

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Friday 6 August 2010

#### **Focus on education: More attend and finish school**

The percentage of South African children attending primary school has grown substantially since 2002. Also the percentage of secondary school students who completed grade 12 increased from 22.8% in 2002 to 24.6% in 2008, while the proportion of adults with no formal education decreased over the same period, from 10.3% to 8.8%. Among children aged 7 years and above, lack of money for fees remained the most common reason given for not attending school. (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking\\_progress/life\\_gets\\_better\\_for\\_south\\_africans.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking_progress/life_gets_better_for_south_africans.html)). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers for the children of our nation. Do not grow weary in lifting up these issues in prayer, so that more may have opportunities and finances to complete a proper education.

#### **Focus on nations: Haiti debt cancelled**

The *Group of Seven countries (G7)* has told earthquake-ravaged Haiti that any debt it owes them need not be repaid. It is expected that other nations may do the same. (Website: <http://www.sabcnews.com/>, February 2010). Give thanks to the Lord for this aid to the nation of Haiti. Please continue to pray for other nations to continue their involvement in rebuilding this country over the next 5 years.

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Saturday 7 August 2010

#### **Focus on SA living conditions**

The living conditions of South Africans are steadily improving, according to *Statistics South Africa's* latest *General Household Survey*, which registered increases in school attendance, ownership of houses, television sets and mobile phones. Access to electricity and proper sanitation has also improved, although piped water services are lagging. The number of South Africans receiving state social grants has more than tripled since 2002. (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking\\_progress/life\\_gets\\_better\\_for\\_south\\_africans.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking_progress/life_gets_better_for_south_africans.html)). Give thanks to the Lord for answering thousands of prayers over the past 10 years. Continue to pray into each of these areas to improve, and especially other areas also, like for example that at least one decent meal a day for every citizen will become possible.

#### **Focus on agriculture: Coffee disease in East Africa**

A devastating disease ravaging coffee plants over the past ten years could finally be brought back under control after the rapid development of resistant varieties. The disease (coffee wilt) is caused by a fungus and is present in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. It is not only lethal, but also leaves the soil infected for many months. New varieties could be rolled out to farmers within the next year. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/fight-against-coffee-disease-gathers-strength.html>). Give thanks to God for His favour towards the development of new coffee varieties, thus also keeping people employed. Ask that farmers will have confidence in planting new varieties. Also pray that child labour in coffee plantations will come to an end.

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Sunday 8 August 2010

#### **The fear of God is intermingled with BOLDNESS**

The person who *fears God* has nothing to hide. To fear God means to approach the Throne of grace with confidence, to give Him the place of glory, honour, reverence, thanksgiving, praise, and pre-eminence He deserves. You hate what He hates and love what He loves. You desire passionately to live according to the truth. (**Ps.51:6**).

**Food for thought:** How would you feel if God would sit across the room from you? Are there things you feel ashamed of? Anything at all? Things you have never spoken to Him about? Write down these things so you will not forget to pray about them. Take time in prayer. Be honest with Him about every detail. Jesus paid the price, therefore you may freely and confidently go to the throne of grace.

**Prayer:** Father God who created me, thank you for showing me things that seemed insignificant until now. Thank you for teaching me to be honest with You – with freedom and confidence.

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Monday 9 August 2010

**Salvation focus: Film producers**

There are quite a number of South African film production companies. Lift up in prayer every film producer, asking for their salvation. Pray that they will produce professional, pure and uplifting films, stories and documentaries that glorify God. Also ask that God will send them godly mentors so they may grow spiritually.

**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 women's 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](http://www.christianaction.org.za) or e-mail: [info@christianaction.org.za](mailto:info@christianaction.org.za)).

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Tuesday 10 August 2010

**Focus on gender issues: Representation in parliament**

Women's representation in the South African national assembly has jumped to 45% since the 2009 elections, putting South Africa in the third place in the global women in parliament rankings (Rwanda, 56% and Sweden, 47%). (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking\\_progress/sa\\_is\\_ranked\\_3rd\\_for\\_womens\\_representation\\_in\\_parliament.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/benchmarking_progress/sa_is_ranked_3rd_for_womens_representation_in_parliament.html)). Please pray that these women will wisely exercise their influence to really benefit the nation. Continue to pray for the salvation of women in parliament.

**Focus on evangelism: FEBA Radio in Kenya**

*Baraka FM* broadcasts in Mombasa, Kenya, where conflict reigned between Christians and Muslims. The station played a major role in resolving the conflict by bringing the warring parties together for meaningful dialogue. Please pray for our production team who goes through much trouble to ensure that listeners are properly introduced to Jesus Christ. (*FEBA Radio SA*. Tel.: 012 335 5708/764. Website: [www.febaradio.co.za](http://www.febaradio.co.za) or e-mail: [jpotgieter.febara@corpdial.co.za](mailto:jpotgieter.febara@corpdial.co.za)).

**Ramadan 11 August – 9 September 2010**

This call to prayer for Muslims originally came during a meeting of several Christian leaders in the Middle East in 1992. Several believers strongly sensed God's desire to call as many Christians as possible to pray for the Muslim world. A prayer movement was planned to coincide with the Islamic month of Ramadan which follows a lunar calendar. (In 2010 this is from 11 August through 9 September). It was intended that these "30 Days" should be during the month of Ramadan for at least two reasons: (1) As a means for Christians to identify themselves with Muslims during a fixed period of the year, and (2) to call upon God's sovereign intervention in the lives of Muslims during a time of the year when they are particularly religious. Please note that praying during the month of Ramadan does not mean that we conform ourselves to the Muslim practices of fasting and prayer. As believers in Jesus we disagree with Islamic ideas, theology and practice in several areas. However, the "30 Days" movement emphasises God's love for Muslims. We encourage all believers to cultivate a spirit of humility, love, respect and service toward Muslims. For more information please visit: *The 30-Days Prayer Network*. Website: <http://www.30-days.net>

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Wednesday 11 August 2010

**Focus on health: TB vaccine for HIV shows promise**

Researchers have reported results of a clinical trial showing that a new vaccine - *Mycobacterium vaccae* (MV) - is effective in preventing tuberculosis in people with HIV infection. TB is the most common cause of death from HIV in developing countries. Since newly-infected HIV patients risk contracting TB almost immediately, the strategy is immunisation with MV before patients need to start taking antiretroviral drugs. (Website: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032633>). Give thanks to the Lord for breakthroughs like this. Please pray that

research will continue and for many lives to be saved because of these findings. Pray for scientists to see God's hand in their everyday work, and that many will begin to seek His face.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 1: Toward Christlike Relationships with Muslims**

Pray for Christians, when they relate to Muslims to do it on the basis of the core convictions of Christian faith, not by hiding or diminishing them. Ask that they will unashamedly present Jesus, the Essence of the gospel (**1 Cor.2:2**) and that they do not confuse the good news with Christianity, patriotism, culture or our civilisation. Pray that their words and witness will be in line with Scripture, containing no overstatement, exaggeration or words taken out of context (**Matt.12:36, Ex.20:16, Matt.7:12, Matt.22:39**). Above all, ask that Christians will share their faith wisely, but not hesitate in making the best of every opportunity (**Col.4:5, James 3:17-18**). A Christian should treat others with respect, never attacking the other party (**1 Peter 3:15**).

### **HOW CAN I PRAY DURING RAMADAN?**

Over the coming weeks, you may pray and fast in a variety of ways, as God leads you. Some days five minutes may be all that God will ask from some in this prayer effort. However, participants will sometimes be guided to pray for much longer periods. You can use this booklet to pray during your own prayer times, or join others to pray together. Jesus gave special promises of blessing for Christians who pray and agree as a group (**Matt.18:20**). *Please use the Bible as much as possible in prayer. We have included various Bible references throughout the booklet. It would be good to meditate on these texts and speak them in prayer. Proclaim them before God; ask Him to inspire you. This will build your faith and God can give you new insights for prayer based on His Word.*

We would encourage you to find creative ways to involve as many people as possible in this prayer focus. You could organise some weekly or twice-weekly meetings over the 30-day period with your church, your youth group, cell groups or children's groups. Have others join you in a special meal using the prayer topic for that day as theme. Do a bit of research on a particular Muslim culture, including food and dress, music, etc.

Guidelines: It is helpful if one person is chosen as the leader/facilitator of the group for that time of prayer. (This person can give direction and cohesion to the group). It is helpful if the group focuses its prayers on one subject area at a time, rather than constantly changing focus. Each person should wait before moving on to a different topic, allowing each one to pray their prayers over the current subject area (**1 Cor.14:40**).

God is creative, and has made us in His image, so we can expect creative ideas and prayers as we seek Him. The Holy Spirit will lead you (**Rom.8:26**).

*Jesus says, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Are my ideas and attitudes toward Muslims shaped by this commandment? (The 30-Days Prayer Network. Website: <http://www.30-days.net/>).*

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Thursday 12 August 2010

#### **Focus on community upliftment: Valcare Trust**

*Valcare Trust* is a Christian non-profitable organisation with the aim to reduce poverty in the Paarl Valley. Their function is to act as information and network organisation, providing their services to churches, projects or organisations, businesses and other service providers. Give thanks to the Lord for those who are willing to reach out in projects to better the physical circumstances of those in the Paarl Valley. Ask for more to become involved and that practical solutions will be found. (*Valcare Trust*, 2 Louie Street, Paarl, 7646. Tel.: 021 872 2365, fax: 021 872 2376. Website: [www.valcare.org.za](http://www.valcare.org.za) or e-mail: [admin@valcare.org.za](mailto:admin@valcare.org.za)).

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 2: Toward Christlike relationships with Muslims**

Dialogue between Muslims and Christians provides us with opportunities to understand Muslims, build relationships, engage in peacemaking and share our faith. Ask that Christians will seek to share the gospel respectfully and boldly, without compromise – as Paul “reasoned with” people (**Acts 17:2, 17**). We have been entrusted with the ministry of

reconciliation (**2 Cor.5:18-19**). *Pray for Christians ministering to Muslims, for breakthroughs in making disciples of these precious people. Pray that they will receive grace to demonstrate sacrificial love and to work toward peace. Ask for special opportunities to share Jesus' love with Muslims during the next 30 days.*

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Friday 13 August 2010

**Focus on prayer: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network* across the country. Pray for those working on the websites, database, with the finances, those writing material and conducting seminars, those answering letters, e-mails and telephone calls, those participating in prayer journeys, etc. Ask for God's strength, health and protection for them, their families and especially the children. Also pray that God will provide for their practical and physical needs. Please pray that the printing and distribution process will be running smoothly this month, as the next issue of *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide* will be posted during the next 10 days. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)).

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 3: Praying for the Muezzin**

Each day across the entire Islamic world, the 'muezzin' call the men to prayer five times per day over a loudspeaker located on a minaret (tower) attached to the mosque: at dawn (fajr), noon (dhuhr), in the afternoon (asr), at sunset (maghrib) and nightfall (isha'a). On Fridays (like today) all male Muslims are supposed to attend the noontime prayers which are usually accompanied by a sermon. Sometimes recordings are used but most people prefer a live voice. In Western and non-Islamic countries muezzin often cannot make the call to prayer except on the radio or in the courtyards of local mosques because of laws restricting loud and intrusive sounds. *Their own honour and prestige are temptations, as with any public figures like pastors and politicians. Pray for the muezzin in your own country and around the world today to have a personal encounter with the living God, through Jesus Christ. Pray that in the midst of many 'voices' and messages, Muslims will hear the voice of God through the working of the Holy Spirit.*

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Saturday 14 August 2010

**Word focus: Precept Ministries SA**

*Precept Ministries* is a ministry that equips people in studying God's Word. Their vision is to reach people from all age-groups, across the world. Please pray with them as they translate *Precept* studies into Afrikaans and other African languages. Pray that God would show them the way forward. (*Precept Ministries S.A.*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836. Website: [www.precept.org.za](http://www.precept.org.za) or e-mail: [info@precept.org.za](mailto:info@precept.org.za)).

**Focus on youth: Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games 14-26 August 2010**

Singapore will host the first-ever *Summer Olympic Youth Games* this year. The 2010 *Summer Youth Olympic Games* (officially known as *Olympic Games*) is the inaugural event of the *Summer Youth Olympics*. At least 26 sports will be part of the events, including at least 5,000 athletes and officials and 500,000 spectators! Apart from sports, many opportunities will be available to minister to those nations gathering for this event. (Website: <http://www.singapore2010.sg>). Pray for the opening of this event today. Ask for God's Spirit to rest on those gathering, that many will have an opportunity to speak to Christians about Jesus Christ in a meaningful way. Pray for this event during the rest of this week.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 4: Pray for Syria**

In Jesus' day the "news about him spread all over Syria" (**Matt.4:24**) and large crowds came to Him and followed Him. Some of the oldest churches in Christianity are found in Syria and are evidence of the extent of Jesus' impact in the region. Today more than 90% of the Syrian people are Muslim. But one predominately Muslim people group, the Kurds, is responding to the gospel. Several believe in Christ and are even meeting in their own Kurdish fellowships. *Please pray that the gospel would again be heard all over Syria and that Muslims may come to faith and start meeting and encouraging each other. Praise the Lord that Muslim Kurds are turning to Jesus. Pray for their spiritual growth and that God would raise up local evangelists from Christian and Muslim backgrounds to reach out to them.*

## **DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT MUSLIMS**

*Initial Revelations:* According to Muslims, it was at the age of 40, in AD 610, that Muhammad supposedly began to receive revelations and instruction that he believed were from the archangel Gabriel (Gibrail in Arabic). These 'revelations' form the basis of the Qur'an. Muhammad proclaimed that his revelations were the final and superior message from the One Supreme God, although at the beginning even Muhammad doubted that he was a prophet. He banned the worship of idols and established civil and religious order in Medina and eventually Mecca. Muhammad died of natural causes in AD 632 in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

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Sunday 15 August 2010

### **The fear of God is intermingled with UNDERSTANDING**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Ps.111:10). Friendship with the LORD is reserved for those who fear him. With them He shares the secrets of his covenant (Ps.25:14).* If we do not truly fear or understand the fear of God, we will grow distant from Him. A lack of the fear of the Lord will resist the work of the Holy Spirit in us. He must take pre-eminence in a person's life in a deep-rooted heart decision: *My life is not my own; it belongs to my Lord, Jesus Christ.*

**Food for thought:** The one main difference between the Old and New Testament is that we no longer have to bring sacrifices for our sins. Jesus was sacrificed for us. The God of the Old and New Testament is the same God, who wants us to be holy and to serve Him in holy fear. Let us seek His face, asking Him to reveal Himself to us as God – holy and awesome.

**Prayer:** Father of creation, you are a holy God. Teach me to understand the fear of the Lord so that I may truly become a friend of God.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 5: Saudi Arabians in the oil business**

Saudi Arabia has the largest share of oil of any nation as well as the very best technology in the oil industry. Saudis are largely Sunni Muslims; from their perspective they are all Muslims by birth. The Qur'an and the traditions concerning Muhammad are the foundations of Saudi law. Shi'ite Muslims are persecuted, but they are permitted to practise their religion in their villages and towns. Proselytising (attempt to convert someone to another religion) is not punishable by death, but by imprisonment and deportation (for some the loss of a job is as bad as death). Conversion is forbidden by the Qur'an and the penalty is death. Many of them have never had any opportunity to hear a presentation of the gospel in a way which would incline them to obey the risen Lord Jesus. *Pray for the thousands of Saudis involved in the oil industry, that they could come "to know the glory of God in the face of Jesus the Messiah" (2 Cor.4:6). Many of them live in the following cities, towns, ports and drilling settlements: Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Jubail, Dammam, Al-Khobar, Hofuf, Abqaiq, Udhailiyah and Shaybah. Take a moment to lift up in prayer each of these cities by name.*

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Monday 16 August 2010

#### **Salvation focus: Actors, actresses/movie stars**

Numerous actors/actresses struggle to get work – competition is strong and only a small percentage of them are selected for roles, and television and radio programs are normally only temporarily. Pray that they would not get obsessed with their own fame and popularity that they would loose tread with reality. Pray that they would meet Christ as their personal Saviour, that they will have a personal understanding of God as their Father and Provider. Pray that they, through their testimonies, will lead many of their fans to also search and accept Christ as Lord.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 6: Fulani of Nigeria**

In Nigeria many of the 15+ million Nigerian Fulani stay in small settlements and cities in Nigeria's predominantly Muslim northern region. There are numerous sub-tribes and clans of the Fulani but in Nigeria they generally fall into five large groups: The Adamawa (1.1 million) the Haabe (2.6 million), the Sokoto (2.7 million), the Toroobe (7.5 million) and the Mbororo (2.3 million). Fulani households consist of a male leader, one or more wives, 6-12 or more children, and other family members. (For more information on what God is doing among the Fulani visit:

<http://www.morethandreams.tv>). *Pray for labourers to the Fulani and that God will touch and bring Fulani leaders and imams to salvation. Pray for peace and reconciliation – there are decades of strife and civil unrest between Muslims and Christians in this area.*

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Tuesday 17 August 2010

**Focus on infrastructure: SA's blessings**

South Africa generates two-thirds of Africa's electricity, the Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto is the biggest hospital in the world and Durban is the largest port in Africa and the ninth largest in the world. (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast\\_facts\\_and\\_quick\\_stats/index.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast_facts_and_quick_stats/index.html)). Give thanks to the Lord for the specific role He grants SA to play in Africa and the world. Please pray that likewise, our country will be faithful in sharing the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ in Africa and the nations of the world.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 7: Muslims of Rajasthan in India**

Muslims living in the state of Rajasthan, in Western India, consist of about 60 different peoples. Out of the estimated 61 million Rajasthani population Hindus account for 88.8%, Muslims make up 8.5%, Sikhs 1.4% and Jains 1.2%. The Muslims mainly speak Hindustani which is a mixture of Hindi and Urdu. However, most read from the Hindi script. A full Bible in Hindustani is still needed. Christians have been reaching Muslims using a simple 'kurbaan story' which describes the major sacrifices in both the Old and New Testaments. Some, who have come to know by word of mouth, the story of God and man based on the Bible, are capable of telling it in a logical way. This is very helpful to illiterate believers and those seeking God. *Pray for Rajasthani Muslims who have discovered the Messiah in His fullness to be obedient to the only true and living God. Continue to pray for their spiritual growth and a completed Bible translation in Hindustani soon! Pray by name for the salvation of Rajasthani Muslims from each of the major peoples: the Pathan, Shaikh and Sayyid ethnic groups.*

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Wednesday 18 August 2010

**Focus on world evangelism: Leaders meet in Cape Town**

From 16-25 October 2010, more than 4,000 Christian leaders will meet in Cape Town for 10 days, facing major obstacles to world evangelisation. They trust God for breakthroughs in six main areas: portraying the uniqueness of Christ in a pluralistic world; religious fundamentalism; obstacles to world evangelisation within the church; the shift within the world church from the Global North to South and West to East; the development of a theology of suffering and reconciliation and the building of new partnerships to help the church advance in the unfinished task of world evangelisation. (Website: <http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/article.htm?id=2409&cat=press>). Please pray for these different focus areas, so that leaders will be able to hear God's voice on these issues when they gather and that they would not make their own plans. Pray that each one of these men will be humble and broken men of prayer.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 8: Peoples of Sudan**

Sudan is a nation made up of hundreds of ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups and clans estimated at about 2,200 groups including local clans. The following is a list of 15 out of the 36 people groups of over 100,000 people, considered by some believers to be most in need of the gospel in Sudan. In fact, none of these groups has an established, long-term, native language outreach to them involving either foreigners or local Sudanese believers. Altogether these 15 groups number possibly more than 20 million people with no known believers. *Take a moment to call out each group's name to the Lord in prayer: 1. Daju, 2. Danaagla/Kanuuz, 3. Darfur Region NSA (Northern Sudanese Arabs), 4. East Region NSA, 5. Fellata: Fulani-speaking, 6. Fellata: Hausa-speaking, 7. Kanuri, 8. Kordofan Region NSA, 9. Masalit, 10. Nile Region NSA, 11. North Region NSA, 12. Rashaida, 13. South East Region NSA, 14. White Nile Region NSA, 15. Zaghawa. Also please pray for the Bible to be translated into the Daju language very soon.*

**DID YOU KNOW ABOUT A PEOPLE GROUP?**

A people group can be defined as: The largest group of those who perceive themselves to have a common affinity with each other, and within which the gospel can spread without encountering significant barriers of understanding

and acceptance. The barriers could be (1) Religious (2) Language (3) Social Interaction and (4) Geography (e.g. Sudan is the biggest country in Africa).

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Thursday 19 August 2010

**Road safety focus: Highway Ministry Prayer Patrol**

*Highway Ministry* is an interdenominational ministry directed at the trucking and taxi industries, as well as all 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*. *Pray for God's grace and that there would be no recklessness and aggression in the hearts of road users.* (*Highway Ministry*. Tel.: 016 349 1996, fax: 086 502 8441 or e-mail: [highwaymin@lantic.net](mailto:highwaymin@lantic.net)).

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 9: Muslims in Norway**

In Norway some estimate the Muslim population at around 150,000 people out of a total population of 4.8 million. The first mosque was built in 1974. More than 80,000 Muslims are registered members of almost 100 Muslim congregations. Today, Norway appears, as the rest of Europe, as a multi-cultural society. The vast majority of Norwegians are members of the Lutheran Church (over 80%) but relatively few are active members and many have beliefs which actually do not reflect Biblical faith. According to one poll, 32% of Norwegians indicated that they "believe there is a god / God", whereas 47% answered that they "believe there is some sort of spirit or life force" and 17% that they "do not believe there is any sort of spirit, god, or life force". Some churches have been ministering to Muslim communities for many years. *Pray for all Christian individuals and churches reaching out to Muslims to be bold and that God will, through His Spirit, bring new life to those they are ministering to. Pray for all Muslim immigrants, that they will meet believers wherever they settle, and that these will show them Jesus. Also ask for God to reveal Himself in Norwegian society, in the media and through the churches and believers.*

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**DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE QUR'AN**

Muslims around the world look to the Qur'an for direction in both faith and life. The Qur'an is made up of 114 chapters, called *suras*, arranged approximately in order of length from the longest chapter (*sura* 2) through the shortest (only a single line for *sura* 108). Acting as a short introduction to the scripture is the first chapter, called "The Opening", *al-Fatiha*, which is a prayer-like segment used within the Muslim *salat* (prayer) ritual. Each chapter is divided into verses, *ayas*, the total number being reckoned somewhere between 6204 and 6236, differing according to various schemes of counting. The Qur'an is roughly the same length as the New Testament. (Visit: [www.quran.com](http://www.quran.com)). The Qur'anic 'Jesus' is emphatically not God, not the Son of God, not to be 'associated' with God, and not the "third of three".

The Qur'an shares with the Bible a common belief in a Creator God that humans are accountable to. In Islam, there is little indication to show what God is like. The god of the Muslims is not the same one Christians worship. The Qur'an describes the love of god/Allah for humans as conditional, and contains no command for humans to love either god/Allah or each other.

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Friday 20 August 2010

**Focus on evangelism: Trans World Radio in KwaZulu-Natal**

*Trans World Radio* is reaching out to families in KwaZulu-Natal through a new programme called *Isolomndeni* (family life). Broken families and felt needs (physical as well as emotional) in communities are very relevant issues. This Zulu programme touches on real-life issues in the family today e.g. the role of family members (especially men and women in a changed society), handling financial pressures, extramarital relationships, divorce, etc. Pray that the Lord will restore families to Him through this programme. (*Trans World Radio-SA*. Tel.: 011 974 2886 or fax: 011 974 9960 or cell: 083 387 3037. Website: [www.twr.org.za](http://www.twr.org.za) or e-mail: [ddupreez@twr.org.za](mailto:ddupreez@twr.org.za) Listen to TWR on DStv radio channel 155).

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

### **Day 10: Preparations for Prayer**

Today again, Muslims worldwide will be preparing themselves for Friday prayer. Indeed, all week long, practising Muslims do these ritual washings in order to be pure for prayer. Ritual cleansing is very important to Muslims, as well as the specific times. This differs significantly from Christian teaching about prayer. In Islam it is impossible to pray correctly without the ritual cleansing with water, or in the absence of water, with sand. Islamic instruction about prayer is filled with long passages on exactly how to go about the cleansing process. None of the steps can be sidestepped or done in an improper way otherwise Islamic prayer loses its merit and validity. Unfortunately, no one can be saved or sanctified by ritual cleansing. *Pray for Muslims to discover the depths of sin and God's holiness so that they may forever be freed from the idea that water can ever make them fit to meet God. Pray this for people that you know personally, pray for Muslims in your city and elsewhere (Heb.8:9-12).*

### **PILLARS OF ISLAM**

*The Islamic religion is lived according to five main "pillars" which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims:*

- 1. Reciting the Creed (shahada) "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."*
- 2. Prayer (salat) - Five times each day.*
- 3. Almsgiving (zakat) - Both obligatory and voluntary giving to the poor.*
- 4. Fasting (saum) - Especially during the 'holy' month of Ramadan.*
- 5. Pilgrimage (hajj) - At least once in a lifetime to Mecca, known as the Hajj.*

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Saturday 21 August 2010

### **Focus on thanksgiving: SA's positive side**

The *Western Deep Levels* is the world's deepest mine (3,777 m) and SA has the world's largest deposits of gold, chromium, platinum and manganese. South Africa is the only country to house an entire floral kingdom (*fynbos*), one of only 6 on the planet, and Cape Town has the fifth-best blue sky in the world! (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast\\_facts\\_and\\_quick\\_stats/index.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast_facts_and_quick_stats/index.html)). Give thanks to the Lord for blessing our nation with so many physical blessings. Pray that we would continue to be good stewards of that which is entrusted to us, especially our environment.

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

### **Day 11: Pain in Basrah, Iraq**

Al Basrah, (also called Basorah) is the capital of Basra Province in Iraq with an estimated population of about 3.8 million. Basrah is a significant port. It is estimated that at least 90% of the city is built on oil fields. The gas and petrol fumes are part of the daily life of Basrah's residents. About 20% of the population are Sunni Muslim but the vast majority are Shiites. A very small number are believers. *Pray that God would raise up officials and community leaders who seek the well-being of their people more than their own prosperity and self-indulgence. The people of the city are suffering greatly. Pray for breakthroughs in the field of education and jobs. Many people see no future. Pray that many of Basrah's Muslims would encounter the Messiah, the Giver of hope, through television, radio and personal witness.*

### **DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT MUSLIMS**

There are probably about 1.5 billion Muslims around the world. All the figures are approximate. Muslim Population Worldwide: *Africa 400 million, Middle East 250 million, Asia 800 million, Europe (Russia Included) 38 million, Americas 5 million.*

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Sunday 22 August 2010

### **The fear of God is intermingled with DILIGENCE**

*My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him (2 Chr.29:11).* Once you are a believer, you have to take up your position in prayer and be watchful to hear what He will say to you (**Hab.2:1**). Likewise, the bride is watchful, fearing the bridegroom should come before she is ready, and prepares herself to meet him. Godly fear causes a watchful eye and a working hand. Fear draws the sluggard from his laziness. Holy

fear is manifested by our unconditional obedience to Him, whether we understand what He is doing or not. We must allow the Word of God to penetrate deep into our hearts to judge our thought processes, perceptions and intentions, and so doing change the way we behave.

**Food for thought:** Growing spiritually does not happen by itself. Everyday troubles can easily entangle and paralyse us into believing that God is against us. Be watchful in studying the Word, so as to be reminded of who God is. Make a decision to set your heart and mind on Him, giving Him time every day to prepare and speak into your heart.

**Prayer:** Father, please forgive me for the excuses I make for not having time to spend with You. Today I choose to set my heart and mind on You alone (**Ps.123:2**). Teach me diligence and the fear of the Lord.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 12: Iran**

Of Iran's population of 71.2 million, only 0.35% is Christian. Iran has overtaken Saudi Arabia and now holds the second position on the *World Watch List (WWL)* of countries that persecute Christians. Many released Christians are being monitored and threatened. As a result of the arrests, there is great fear among Christians. Iranian authorities closed some churches during 2009. The primary reason for the church closures is the fact that their services were being attended by many newly converted Muslims. *Give thanks to the Lord for Muslims that are turning to Christ in this nation. Please pray for many more workers to this difficult harvest field, especially with so many missionaries returning to their countries because of fear and threats. Also pray for those seeking to provide Bibles, training and encouragement to around 125,000 believers from a Muslim background and new Muslim background believers.* (Website: [http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=World\\_Watch\\_List\\_2010](http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=World_Watch_List_2010)).

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Monday 23 August 2010

#### **Salvation focus: Talk show presenters**

Lift up in prayer and by name all talk show presenters God lays on your heart. Ask that each person will come to the personal knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Pray that they will openly testify and grow spiritually. Ask for their testimony to draw thousands into God's kingdom. Pray that Christian presenters will be courageous and will not compromise.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 13: Khadijah**

While Muhammad was married to Khadijah, he took no other wives because of his love for her. She was equally devoted to him. When he received his first revelations, she played an important role in convincing him that he was becoming a prophet. She even used her wealth to help promote Islam, to the point of being persecuted for her support of her husband. *Around the world literally hundreds of thousands and even possibly well over a million Muslim women are named Khadijah. Many of them know very little about the wife of Muhammad or her positive example in many aspects of life. Pray for the living Khadijahs that they find the Lord Jesus through friends, radio, literature, television and other media. Pray for the salvation of Muslim women and that they will influence their husbands to accept Jesus as the Saviour.*

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Tuesday 24 August 2010

#### **Focus on safety and security: SMS tip-off initiative to tackle crime**

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](http://www.crimeline.co.za)). People can send an SMS to 32211 or visit [www.crimeline.co.za](http://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. Pray that no one will misuse this initiative for their personal vendetta.

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

### **Day 14: Luo people of Kenya**

The Luo are the second largest ethnic group in Kenya adding up to about 5 million people (the biggest being the Kikuyu amounting to about 7.5 million). Traditionally they live in the area near Lake Victoria, but are also found scattered throughout the country, particularly in the urban centres. There are about 39 million people in total in Kenya. There is hardly any information available about Muslims among the Luo, Luhya, Kikuyu, Kalenjin or Kamba in Kenya – ethnic groups which have a tribal majority of Christians. *Lift up in prayer the 5 million Luo people of Kenya, and ask for labourers to this harvest. Also lift up in prayer the body of believers in East Africa; that they do not avoid Muslims around them, but make contact with them in love and share Jesus with them with boldness.*

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Wednesday 25 August 2010

### **Focus on children: Pedestrian deaths**

Pedestrian injuries are one of the leading causes of death and disability of children. In South Africa alone, 33,500 children are injured and 565 die each year. Childhood pedestrian fatalities have the highest concentrations in children aged 5-14. Nearly 40% of these fatalities occur on rural roads. (Website: <http://www.childsafe.org.za/pressreleases/pressrelease01.htm>). Please lift up this situation in prayer, asking for the safety of children on our roads. Please pray for adults to teach children about road safety from a young age.

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

### **Day 15: What is happening in Dubai?**

In recent years the city has become a world-class city of gleaming towers and walled villas. About 85% of the inhabitants are non-Emiratis. A majority of the foreign workers come from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other Arab countries. The United Arab Emirates has a population of 5 million: Muslim 65%, Hindu 17%, Christian 9%, Buddhist 4%, other or unknown 5%. The city definitely has its dark side. The large amount of money in Dubai's financial and real estate markets attracts all kinds of legal and illegal activities. Many of the foreign workers who consider themselves Christian are actually fairly nominal in their faith. *Pray that these believers may really provide an example to Muslims and non-Muslims of what it means to walk in God's ways (Matt.4:16, John 8:12). Pray for the salvation of many among the Emiratis, other Arabs, the Pakistanis and the Bangladeshis. The Emirati society is exclusively closed to outsiders. The actual contact between Emiratis and non-Emiratis is fairly limited. Pray for opportunities for all those living specifically in Dubai to encounter the Lord Jesus.*

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Thursday 26 August 2010

### **Focus on the economy: Internet crime on the rise**

According to the *South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC)* the number of schemes to fraudulently obtain confidential information from Internet banking users has grown. For example, fraudsters pretending to represent the *South African Revenue Service*, enticed victims via e-mail to supply their banking details in order to receive tax refunds. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/2217000.htm>). Pray for those engaging in this form of crime, that they will be found out and these syndicates be shut down. Pray that South Africans will be alert and not be caught with such schemes. Also continue to pray for the salvation of criminals.

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

### **Day 16: Muslims in Toronto**

Greater Toronto, probably the most multicultural city on earth, is now possibly home to more than 300,000 Muslims from many nations (statistics vary). Three of the city's most densely populated high-rise apartment clusters, Thorncliffe Park, Crescent Town and Dixon Park, are mostly Muslim. Comprised of people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Somalia, each square kilometre of these neighbourhoods has as many as 20,000 people stacked on each other. In recent years, some believers have been able to proclaim to their friends the hope that they have in Christ. In many cases Muslims are invited to enter a Christian home for the first time in their lives. As Muslims start to see Jesus, some turn away, others are strongly attracted to Him! *Pray that Jesus would be honoured both in the lives of believers and those who hear about Him for the first time. Pray that Canada's Muslims find jobs, peace and a sense of belonging in their new country. Pray for their salvation.*

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Friday 27 August 2010

**Focus on evangelism: *Every Home for Christ South Africa (EHCSA)***

*Every Home for Christ South Africa (EHCSA)* currently has 168 registered home-to-home, school, prison and hospital projects in different provinces in the country. *EHCSA* networks with Christian organisations, churches and outreach initiatives to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to every household in South Africa. Since 1995 *EHCSA* has reached approximately 4.75 million homes and 1.2 million people committed their lives to Jesus Christ. Praise God for homes and hearts that are still open to listen to the message of hope. Pray for the spiritual growth of new believers. (*EHCSA*, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587. Website: [www.ehcsa.co.za](http://www.ehcsa.co.za) or e-mail: [info@ehcsa.co.za](mailto:info@ehcsa.co.za)).

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 17: The Friday Sermon**

Today in the big cities of Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as hundreds of villages and towns in between those cities, thousands of largely illiterate Pashtun men will hear sermons preached over loudspeakers. Pashtun women generally work physically hard at daily chores. Knowing that they need help with many practical aspects of life, they involve themselves in occult practices, hoping to survive and prosper in a world of unknowns. It is possible that many of them would respond positively to the parables of Jesus if they could hear them. *Pray for the leaders of mosques who are preaching sermons today. May their zeal for their god/Allah become rooted in real knowledge of the Living God (Romans 10:1-4). Also pray for the Pashtun people for divine intervention so that they may taste salvation in every Pashtun community.*

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GO AND PRAY IN A MUSLIM NATION?**

Praying 'on site' can give many new insights and open doors about the people and their country as you are experiencing it first-hand. The following websites will give you information about different nations, and info on unreached people groups: [www.30-days.net](http://www.30-days.net); [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net), [www.win1040.com](http://www.win1040.com). You will find information on prayer journeys and prayer-walking on [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org) or you can connect with *Project Macedonia* if you want more info on prayer journeys: *The Macedonian Project*. Private bag X07, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 997 3195 or fax: 086 630 3193. Website: [www.macedonian.org.za](http://www.macedonian.org.za) or e-mail: [macsa@mweb.co.za](mailto:macsa@mweb.co.za)

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Saturday 28 August 2010

**Focus on environment: SA to invest in water security**

South Africa is to embark on a number of programmes to conserve and diversify its water sources and to invest in water delivery infrastructure over the next 8 years. Some areas include the desalination of sea water in coastal areas and the strengthening of effluent reuse. (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/infrastructure/sa\\_to\\_invest\\_in\\_water\\_security.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/infrastructure/sa_to_invest_in_water_security.html)). Please pray for all those involved, that these efforts will be thoroughly researched before they are implemented and that the implementation will be successfully.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 18: Morocco**

Muhammad VI, who became king in 1999, is the highest political, military and religious authority in Morocco. In spite of his efforts to change things in the country, a large proportion of the population is very poor, and often rich and powerful people employ poorer people with promises to pay them, but which often do not materialise. *Pray for the king to have a personal revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that he will lead his country in a wise and godly way. Some authorities have persecuted Moroccan believers, many have been threatened and some jailed. Pray for the persecuted church to grow and be fearless amidst these difficult circumstances. Ask for many new opportunities to provide a proper income for poor people.*

**WHAT MUSLIMS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS**

- Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus is only a prophet, He is not divine (not the Son of God, not God in the flesh).
- 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. Judas had his face transformed and died in the place of Jesus as a judgment from God.
- Jesus will come again one day, He will marry, He will have children. He will correct the errors which Christians have spread about him. He will die, He will be buried in Medina and be judged like all men at the Last Judgment.

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Sunday 29 August 2010

### **The fear of God envelops us in His power and love**

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim.1:7).* The "fear" we read about in this verse is not identical to the "fear" of **Romans 8:15** or **Proverbs 1:7**. The holy fear of the Lord fills us with all of His power and love and gives us the mind of Christ. We therefore do not fear as or what ordinary men fear. When walking in the fear of God, nothing is impossible (**Matt.19:26**), we love Him with all our hearts and put our hope and trust in Him completely (**1 John 4:16**) and because we understand these things, nothing can convince us otherwise! (**1 Cor.2:16**).

**Food for thought:** Ask God to continue to show you the mystery of His unfailing love through His Spirit resting upon you.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, teach me the fear of the Lord that enables me to turn my back on evil (**Prov.3:7**), to hate evil, pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech (**Prov.8:13**), that keeps my heart from envying sinners (**Prov.23:17**) and prevents me from joining the rebellious (**Prov.24:21**).

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 19: Saudi Arabia**

King Abdullah is the leader of Saudi Arabia. This country has a population of 24.7 million of which only 2.2% is Christian, and is listed third on the *World Watch List (WWL)* of countries that persecute Christians. Public non-Muslim worship is forbidden, at the risk of arrest, imprisonment, flogging, deportation, and sometimes torture. Most Christians are expatriates; they are generally allowed to worship privately but some have been arrested, issued with death threats and forced into hiding. Saudi believers must keep their faith secret. *Pray that those who find Jesus through satellite TV programmes and the Internet will find fellowship and spiritual encouragement. Ask for expatriate and Saudi church leaders to be kept safe and have courage and wisdom to remain standing. Continue to ask that God will reveal Himself in visions and dreams to the millions who have never heard His Name in Saudi Arabia.* (Website: [http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=World\\_Watch\\_List\\_2010](http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=World_Watch_List_2010)).

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Monday 30 August 2010

#### **Salvation focus: Singers and musicians**

Lift up in prayer all well-known South African and international singers and musicians. Pray that they would not be proud, but will remember that all people receive their talents from God. Pray that their fans will not make them to be idols, thus being a snare to them. Pray for them to be open and willing to listen when people share Jesus with them in a truly meaningful way. Ask that the recent deaths of well-known artists will open the hearts of people to consider and ask questions about life and death.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

#### **Day 20: Muhammad's wives**

Commonly referred to as Muhammad's favourite wife, Aisha bint Abu Bakr was formally engaged to the Prophet at the age of six. (This practice was not unknown in Arabia at the time). Aisha was Muhammad's only virgin bride, which some have seen as a divine indication that she should have a role in designating Muhammad's successor as leader of the Islamic community. Aisha herself did not bear any children. Sunni Muslims hold her in very high esteem as they consider her to have been Muhammad's favourite wife and one of the foremost women of her time. She is reputed to be the source of many sacred traditions concerning Muhammad (Hadith). When Muhammad was approaching death, he spent his last moments in the company of the 18-year-old Aisha and died with his head in her lap. Muhammad's death left Aisha an unmarried widow for the rest of her life because of the Qur'an statement that no man is to marry a wife of the Prophet (Qur'an 33:53). Aisha died at the age of 65 during the month of Ramadan. As with the Khadijahs, many parents call their daughters Aisha. Worldwide they certainly number hundreds of

thousands. Ask God to open doors of opportunity for the Aishas to hear the stories about the life of Jesus and believe in Him. Pray for all Muslim girls to have opportunities to hear about Jesus as they grow up. Pray for healthy marriage relationships and the restoration of women's dignity.

## **What is really different about what Christians and Muslims believe?**

This year Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast and pray is from 11 August – 9 September. Many Christians are uncertain of the differences in the central beliefs of Christianity and Islam. It is very important to understand that there are definite differences, otherwise we would not be able to effectively witness Christ to a Muslim person, or we may even become confused if they ask us questions about our own beliefs. The following article aims to serve the purpose of giving an introduction to some of the key differences; what they are, and how to pray for Muslims. It is by no means a complete document, but will provide a simple guideline to be used in Bible study and or prayer groups in your congregation, as the Holy Spirit leads you.

### **(1) Some of the central beliefs of Islam**

Muslims accept six basic beliefs, or articles of Islamic faith. The first is *Faith in Allah*. Muslims believe there is only one god. His will is supreme and they call him Allah. The second basic belief of Muslims is *Angels*. They believe in angels such as Gabriel, who supposedly brought the message of the Qur'an to Muhammad. The third basic belief of Muslims is *The Holy Books*. They believe that Allah gave revelations, including the Old and New Testaments, especially the Torah, Psalms and Gospels. But these revelations end with the Qur'an, which for all intents and purposes, supersede the others. Christians believe in a triune God who is One God; that God the Father sent His only Son to redeem us from sin and reconcile us with God. God speaks to us primarily through His Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible and has a personal relationship with each of His children.

*\*Pray that Muslims may have understanding, and faith in the triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ask that they will start to enquire and search for answers about Jesus Christ.*

### **(2) Some of the central beliefs of Islam**

Muslims accept six basic beliefs, or articles of Islamic faith. The fourth belief of Muslims is *The Prophets*. They believe that Allah sent numerous prophets to mankind e.g. Adam (Allah's chosen), Noah (Allah's speaker), Moses (Allah's speaker), Jesus (Allah's word), Muhammad (Allah's apostle/prophet). Muhammad's revelation is considered the greatest of all. They believe he is the *Seal of the Prophets* and *Peace of the World*. The fifth belief of Muslims is *Predestination*. They believe that everything that happens, both good and evil, is predestined by Allah's will and is his final decision. The sixth belief of Muslims is *The Day of Judgement*. They believe that the good and evil deeds of men are placed on a scale. With sufficient personal merit and righteousness and the favour of Allah, they will go to eternal heaven. All others are believed to go to eternal hell.

Christians know that Scripture as a whole is inspired by God, and that God spoke His promises through the prophets, but that the testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy (**Rev.19:10**). We are saved through grace and God listens and heeds the prayers of believers. It is the will of our heavenly Father that even the wicked be saved and not die (**Ezek.18:23-24**). Salvation is not from works, but because of what Christ did for us on the cross.

*\*Pray that Muslims will have a supernatural revelation of the grace and love of Christ. That they will not fear Judgment Day, but rather look forward to Christ's return. Ask for a hunger and thirst to come into the hearts of Muslims, so that they will seek to read the Bible and come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour.*

### **(3) Some of the central beliefs of Islam**

Every Muslim must practise at least five fundamental religious duties known as the 'Pillars of Religion'. They must recite prescribed prayers five times a day.

Once again, Christians believe in a triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the three in one. Therefore the god of Islam and that of Christianity can never be the same god. They do not believe that Allah has a son and for them it is unthinkable that he does. For Christians, Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the only way to the heavenly Father. They who reject Jesus Christ, reject the Father who sent Him (**1 John 5:10-11**).

*\*Pray that Muslims will have a growing longing in their hearts to find out more about the God of the Christians. Pray even that those who spend more time in prayer calling out to Allah, will suddenly have a longing to find out about Christ. Ask that God will answer many Muslims who are sincerely seeking for meaning in life, and reveal Jesus Christ to them.*

#### **(4) Some of the central beliefs of Islam**

The third fundamental religious duty of Muslims is observing the month of fasting known as *Ramadan*, where they are to fast during the day. The fourth pillar of Islam is giving to the poor. The fifth fundamental religious duty of Muslims is that of a pilgrimage to Mecca (where Muhammad was born). A last religious duty often associated with the five pillars of Islam, is *jihad*. When the situation warrants it, this duty requires Muslims to go to war and defend Islam. *Jihad* can be interpreted as internal (as spiritual struggle) or external (physically defending Islam).

Christians are under no obligation to fast, although it is a wonderful discipline. Giving to the poor is also Biblical, yet it is done as an act of love. Christians believe that they are saved by grace and do not have to do works to gain salvation. Good works follow as a natural result after a Christian's salvation and testify about the supernatural work God had done in one's life (**1 Pet.2:12**).

*\*Pray that many Muslims worldwide will start to consider and question some of the pillars and duties of their faith. Ask that at the right time, many will have a supernatural encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ in a way that will turn their hearts to choose and serve Him alone.*

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Tuesday 31 August 2010

#### **Focus on thanksgiving: Things to be thankful for**

South Africa accounts for almost 25% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the entire African continent, with an economy more than twice the size of the second biggest (Algeria). The *JSE Securities Exchange* is the 14th largest equities exchange in the world, with a total market capitalisation of some R2.3 trillion (JSE). The black middle class grew by 30% in 2005, adding another 421,000 black adults to SA's middle-income layer and ramping up the black population's share of SA's total middle class to almost a third. (Website: [http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast\\_facts\\_and\\_quick\\_stats/index.html](http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/fast_facts_and_quick_stats/index.html)). Give thanks to the Lord for answers to prayer that can now clearly be seen in statistics. He is faithful in all His ways. Give praise to God for keeping His hand over our nation in so many invisible ways.

#### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

##### **Day 21: Bahrain**

The half-million Bahrainis are descended from a mixture of indigenous peoples and settlers from the Arabian Peninsula and Iran. Some tensions exist between the poorer Shia Islamic majority, and the politically-dominant Sunni minority, and between the Arab and Persian background inhabitants. Christians may be more restricted in the future as competition occurs between Saudi-inspired government ministers and Shia parliamentarians to show which of them is the most 'Islamic'. *Lift up in prayer these tensions, and ask the Lord to supernaturally intervene in the lives of Bahrainis. Bahrainis sometimes have opportunities to hear the gospel through foreign believers and to observe their example; please pray that these will be good and godly examples which may draw them out of darkness into His kingdom.*

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Wednesday 1 September 2010

#### **Focus on salvation: Alpha SA**

Over 400,000 people in South Africa and 13 million worldwide have now attended an *Alpha* course, running in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations across the world and presenting an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. *Alpha SA* has also expanded in prisons, bearing great fruit. Give thanks to God for blessing this initiative. Pray for more volunteers to become involved in this ministry and for many to be touched with the gospel of Jesus Christ in a practical way. (*Alpha SA*. Tel.: 012 998 8144. Website: <http://www.alphasa.co.za/> or e-mail: [communications@alphasa.co.za](mailto:communications@alphasa.co.za)).

#### **Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

##### **Day 22: India**

Please pray with us by name for the 25 Indian Muslim people groups comprising 100,000 people who have no known gospel witness. Not only have these peoples not heard the gospel, they have no known Christian witness among them. One example is the Kunjra people living in the Indian state of Bihar, which is one of the most caste-conscious states among Sunni Muslims. Religiously, the Sunni caste system (different from the Hindu caste system) not only assigns social status based on birth, it also generally restricts a person to a traditional occupation or role.

Consequently, the Kunjra are a lower caste and have historically been fruit and vegetable sellers or farmers. They have not rejected the gospel; they have simply never heard it. *Pray for more information to be learned about the Kunjra and the other people on the list. Ask God for committed workers to live among the Kunjra and the other groups and to share the love of Christ with them. Ask the Lord to raise up prayer teams for these peoples. Lift up in prayer before the throne of grace the different peoples groups, speaking their names: Kunjra 822,140 - Turk 530,187 - Makhmi 469,871 - Sudhan 446,757 - Rawther 682,072 - Bhatiara 259,188 - Mahur 243,687 - Yashkun 235,511 - Bhatia 190,957 - Jhojha 175,779 - Nikari 147,684 - Baloch 129,950 - Molesalam 128,738 - Shaikh (Marathi) 2,429,481 - Shaikh (Marwadi) 1,541,534 - Shaikh (Gujarati) 1,057,975 - Shaikh (Maithili) 774,017 - Shaikh (Magadi) 322,135 - Shaikh (Oriya) 235,524 - Shaikh (Mewari) 151,368 - Shaikh (Konkani) 116,051 - Pathan (Marwadi) 215,895 - Shaikh (Dhundari) 404,463 - Shaikh (Nimadi) 110,046 - Shaikh (Shekhwati) 222,665.*

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Thursday 2 September 2010

**Focus on children: Fatherless homes**

There are 15.4 million children (aged 0 to 17) in South Africa whose fathers are currently alive. About 54% of them say their father is not part of their household. (Eighty20 Fact-a-Day. Website: [www.eighty20.co.za](http://www.eighty20.co.za) or e-mail: [fact.a.day@eighty.co.za](mailto:fact.a.day@eighty.co.za)). Please pray today for every child who lives without a father, that they will experience the love of our Heavenly Father in very practical ways. Ask for God to stir up the hearts of those fathers in our country who abandoned their children, to return to and care for their children.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 11 August – 9 September 2010**

**Day 23: The Jola People of West Africa**

Most Jola have never heard any of the stories about Jesus and the Kingdom of God from the Bible, but many of them are willing to listen. About 560,000 Jola people live across three countries in West Africa (Senegal, the Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau). Most people – both Muslims and Catholics – maintain various degrees of the traditional animistic beliefs and practices, including the fear of witchcraft, evil spirits, and curses. At present 90% of Jolas claim to be Muslim, with only about 2% Christian. *Pray that the light of Christ will shine into the Jola villages and towns. Ask that every person may have dreams and visions of Jesus and put their trust in Him. Ask especially for the salvation of chiefs, religious leaders, and elders. Pray that local and non-native believers will be able to get the Word of God to all the Jola by various means, and for the remainder of the New Testament to be available to them soon. Ask for the Jola to be open and receptive to hear the Word in their language, to understand it and believe.*