

## **But God**

Dear praying Christian

I want to share a few thoughts with you. May some of them encourage and edify you as they did me.

Too often we find the spirit of David in us when we do what David did when he started to "count his men". Joab warned him, but he didn't listen. There was pride in David's heart, but we are also inclined to 'count our men' to see if we are strong enough to gain the victory. Somehow God was trying to say to David: You are counting your men, because you think your power lies with your men. But all you need to count is Me. You have not counted Me! Even in the darkest nights, we need to count God first. God and His many and good promises will unlock all the doors and give us all the men we need to do the work. Our strength must never be in "princes, men and the power of horses".

Too often we are 'counting evil'. We see all the dark things in the world and the country. But we do not count all the goodness of God and the power of love through the life of His Son and His Body on earth. God can work through big or small things. Let us not despise small things, or as Scripture says: *For who has despised the day of small beginnings?* (**Zech.4:10**). God uses 'little people', faceless people. It is the millions of 'little people' that are changing the world.

We are counting our weaknesses, and forget to count the power of God that manifests even more powerfully when we are weak. Acknowledge your weakness, but look to the power of God. That will set you free. We need to be merely channels that the power of God flows through – to reach the lost and a world in need and darkness. We count our lack of resources and we don't seem to see with our eyes of faith the storehouses of God. We count our enemies, but not God's protection and His mighty angels that are serving us (**Heb.1:14**).

A second thing that struck me is that we do not have the right to give up unless God says we must give up. What a sobering thought that was. So often we just lay down our work and responsibilities and move on. We move on to a better job, better salaries, another church, even another city or country. Yes, God can tell us to move. But do not move unless God says so. He will not provide for us in the place where we are going unless He has told us to move. His power and promises are valid only where He establishes us.

### **In this issue**

In this issue of *Jericho Walls* we focus on things like how a father can pray for his son, how to pray when I have an incurable illness and for young people, how to pray about dating. We focus on discipleship, diseases that are threatening the world like swine flu/bird flu/cholera in Zimbabwe, HIV/AIDS etc., and to pray for the millions of Muslims all over the world. We want to encourage you to pray for the *Persecuted Church* during November and for revival in the Church over December. What a responsibility and privilege to pray for a world in need, knowing that our God listens to our prayers and that our prayers will touch people in any nation, city or home. Let us draw close to God's compassionate heart. Stay with God till your heart understands God's heart and then you start to pray. Only then the Cross and the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ will make sense to you and only then you will be at liberty to ask boldly.

*The famous theologian Karl Barth said: To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.*

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

Eph.3:20

## What, where and when

### International

#### **18 September - 2 October 2009: All Nations Convocation in Jerusalem**

Tom Hess, President *All Nations Convocation Jerusalem*, says delegates from at least 120 nations are expected to join in this year's convocation. For more information, visit (Website: <http://www.jhopfan.org/convocations.html>).

#### **1-4 October 2009: International 24-7 Prayer Movement gathering 2009**

From 1-4 October *24-7 Prayer* organisers will have a *24-7 Prayer* gathering in central Amsterdam, Holland. The primary focus will specifically be to look at *24-7 Prayer's* vision for Boiler-rooms and Boiler-room centres as a strategy for mission in the coming years. (Website: <http://www.24-7prayer.com/content/970>).

#### **10-13 November 2009: South-East Asia Prayer Consultation (SEAPC) Bangkok, Thailand**

The Consultation's programme ends on 15 November 2009, which is Thailand's National Prayer Day to mark the end of their annual 40-day fast and prayer for their nation. For more information, visit <http://transform-world.net/newsletters/2008/08/SEAPC08.pdf> or e-mail: [lena@silkiss.biz](mailto:lena@silkiss.biz)

#### **December 2009: Swazi 1000**

As most people would still remember, the year 2008 ended with a huge bang. More than 350 volunteers attended *Swazi 1000* in 2008 with an additional 45+ that went to Botswana & Zambia, and 20+ that pioneered the first ever *MOTE level 2* in Kenya. In Swaziland 15 community buildings and 183 houses were completed, 345 houses sprayed, 461 houses prepped, 2 murals & 1 signboard painted. It has been an unforgettable time and the organizers are now looking forward to the next *Swazi 1000* experience due in December 2009. For more information, *MOTE*, tel.: +27 12 343 5206, fax: +27 12 343 1167. Website: [www.mote.co.za](http://www.mote.co.za) or e-mail: [info@mote.co.za](mailto:info@mote.co.za)

## What, where and when

### National

Angus Buchan will have the following stadium outreaches: 12 September – Upington, 10 October – Vredendal, and 14 November – Worcester. For more information, contact *Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal. Tel.: 033 413 2287 (Intl.) or 033 417 1695. Website: [www.shalomtrust.co.za](http://www.shalomtrust.co.za) or e-mail: [shalom@futureqtn.co.za](mailto:shalom@futureqtn.co.za)

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

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

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

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

## Did you know?

### Feedback on National Day of Prayer on 20 March 2009

March 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 will be remembered as the day of prayer for government and the elections. Christians across the nation and also abroad humbled themselves before God. *Rippel 90.5 FM*, a community radio station in Pretoria called listeners to pray too. Different congregations and organisations prayed over the air. One man testified how he turned on his radio just when these prayers were being broadcast. God touched his heart there and then, so much so, that he cancelled the rest of his appointments for the day, to spend time alone with God! (Radio *Rippel 90.5 FM*, P.O. Box 912 1905, Silverton, 0127. Tel.: +27 12 349 2574, fax: +27 12 349 2578. Website: [www.rippel.co.za](http://www.rippel.co.za)).

### Evangelism series for the Deaf

*DOOR International (Deaf Opportunity OutReach)* is working to complete the *Evangelism Series*, which is 32 Bible passages, in Kenyan Sign Language and Kerala (Indian) Sign Language during 2009. The passages have to be approved by a translation consultant. This involves crafting the story into sign language, translating it back so that a translation consultant can check it, and then testing it in deaf communities. These steps have to be completed as often as three times before being approved, which in the case of sign language translations, means re-videtaping and editing each time. (Full report, website: <http://www.doorinternational.com/news/anticipation>).

### Sudan: Bibles to RSA Military

In March, a group of South Africans together with *Gideon's International SA*, took 1,700 Bibles to both Christian and Muslim soldiers who have been deployed in Sudan. The senior staff of the military camp has requested complete Bibles. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se) or [Intercessors.Network@Telia.com](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Telia.com)).

### Shocking hunger statistics

Today 850 million people worldwide will go to bed hungry - that's one out of every six people on earth. About 26,000 children die each day from preventable causes like hunger, disease and malnutrition. Chronic poverty, affecting half the people on earth, is the cause. Nearly 3 billion people live on less than \$2 (±R17) a day. (Website: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)).

## What's online

Here are a few ways to keep the nations in your prayers. Each works a bit differently, but all are free of charge. See if you can find creative ways to use them in your church, class, family, or small group.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/> and <http://www.prayerguard.net/>

*Joshua Project* - View and pray for the Unreached People of the Day. *Prayer Guard* has something very similar.

<http://www.theseedcompany.org/>

Affiliated with *Wycliffe Bible Translators*, this ministry supports the work of national workers to accelerate Bible translation.

<http://www.jwipn.com>

Find information to set your church to prayer. Visit *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* for downloads on various subjects and also daily prayer pointers for revival and the lost peoples of the world. To register your church as part of a network of churches that commit themselves to night-and-day prayer, visit <http://www.global24-7.org/>.

<http://www.japanmission.org/>

*Japan Mission* is interdenominational, linking those reached through many avenues of ministry to already existing evangelical churches that believe and teach the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. They also seek to serve the Church in Japan with video material and evangelical programmes and literature.

## Quotes

The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe. - D.L. Moody

Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all. - D.L. Moody

Prayer is weakness leaning on Omnipotence. - W. S. Bowden

Jesus Christ carries on intercession for us in heaven; the Holy Ghost carries on intercession in us on earth; and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men. - Oswald Chambers

Work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended upon your prayer. - William Booth

A zealous man feels that like a lamp he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach and work and give money, he will cry and sigh and pray. - J. C. Ryle

The Azusa revival began where every revival should rightly begin – in repentant tears. It began in tears, it lived in tears, and when the tears ended the Azusa revival ended. - A. G. Osterberg

The prayers and supplications that Christ offered up were joined with strong cries and tears, herein setting us the example not only to pray, but to be fervent and importunate in prayer. How many dry prayers, how few wet ones, do we offer up to God! - Matthew Henry

It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. We must conquer all our circumstances there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world? - J. H. Jowett

When we finally have our meeting with God, it has to be alone in the depths of our being. We will be alone even if we are surrounded by a crowd. God has to cut every maverick out of the herd and brand him all alone. It isn't something that God can do for us en masse. - A. W. Tozer

## **24-7 Prayer watch focus: September – December 2009**

These prayer focuses are to encourage those involved in a 24-7 house of prayer to focus on the same things at the same time in prayer. These are only guidelines and watch coordinators may add their own focuses as the Holy Spirit leads them. Will you not consider **putting up these prayer pointers in your prayer room** in creative ways, or use them in your quiet time? Also inform others and encourage them to pray for these issues during each of the monthly focuses. More information on these issues is available free of charge from our website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com). Also remember to subscribe to our weekly *Prayer Alert* at [cape@jwipn.com](mailto:cape@jwipn.com), which covers current issues in prayer.

### **September: Ramadan**

*Ramadan*, the holy month of fasting for millions of Muslims runs from 21 August until 20 September 2009. During this time Christians all over the world are praying that God our Father will show Muslims His love and also bring about salvation through Jesus, His Son. You will see that we have put a specific prayer pointer focusing on a

specific group of Muslims in different countries on each of the days during *Ramadan*. Many teams will go on prayer journeys to encourage Believers and to pray for the salvation of people in the Middle East, Central Asia and the Pacific: For Jesus Christ to be revealed as *the Way, the Truth and the Life*. Let us not become discouraged to pray for the salvation of people – God saves. He gave His Son so that people can be saved, be reconciled with Him. Salvation is available for all who calls on His name.

### **Prayer focus for October: China**

During October, we will focus on China, by praying through its various provinces and affiliated factions. China has the biggest population in the world, and therefore it is no small matter to set ourselves to prayer for this nation. In recent years China has spread its influence into many nations around the world. They export their goods, but also buy up land and make agreements to obtain resources from other countries, especially Africa, to help meet the basic needs of its population. But there is an unprecedented growth of the Church in China and tens of thousands of missionaries are going and preparing to go from China to the rest of the world. The statistics and facts used to support our prayer information were mostly taken from *Operation World, 2001*. Please feel free to do some research yourself, and encourage other Believers to also join in prayer for significant breakthroughs for the gospel in this nation.

### **November: Prayer focus on the *Persecuted Church***

Every year thousands of Christians are killed because of their faith in Christ Jesus. It is our responsibility as fellow Believers to pray for our brothers and sisters facing persecution. Let us pray for their safety, for perseverance in faith, boldness to witness, for legislation making it possible for Christian families to express their faith in daily practice and to do it unhindered. Also pray for the hundreds of thousands of families who lost a father, a mother or a child this year. There is much disruption, confusion, pain, fear and unanswered questions and prayer amongst Believers who are being persecuted. Let us cry with those who cry, have compassion with those who suffer and at the very least pray that God will give them strength and protect them. Pray that the Church worldwide will work diligently to also support these Christians in their material needs.

### **December: Spiritual revival in the Church**

We belong to a generation that doesn't know much about the great deeds of God over the past 2000 years. Let us pray that God will reveal Himself to us in the same way that He revealed Himself to the past generations. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (**Heb.13:8**) As you read the stories of how God intervened many times during the past centuries, be encouraged to pray that God will also do it in our time. Let us use December as a time to pray for spiritual revival in the Church.

## **Worldwide persecution of the Church**

During the month of November this year we will have a special focus on the *Persecuted Church*. Over 200 million Christians around the world suffer persecution. Depending on the country, persecution takes a different form each time. But it is real, and its threat to the Church is serious. When we ask the *Persecuted Church* what they need most, we always hear first, "please pray for us". *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)* is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians worldwide. They also encourage prayer for the souls of the oppressors, the nations that promote persecution, and those who ignore it.

### **Compelling Facts List**

- Since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago, approximately 43,000,000 Christians have become martyrs. Over 50% of these were in the last century alone. More than 200 million Christians face persecution each day and 60% of these are children. Every day over 300 are killed for their faith in Jesus Christ.
- The world's worst persecutor of Christians in the world is North Korea.

- In Saudi Arabia, practising Christianity can result in death by beheading or stoning.
  - Over 90% of China's Christians worship in hidden, underground house churches to avoid government regulations and restrictions.
  - There is only one Christian church left in the Gaza Strip, and its membership has dwindled to less than 100.
  - Only 3% of the population of Algeria is Christian.
  - There are 69 languages in Iran, and only three of them have a completed Bible. Iran is also the third worst persecutor of Christians in the world.
  - It is believed there are less than 500 Christians living in the Maldives.
  - Public preaching in Sudan is punishable by beatings or imprisonment.
  - Christians make up less than 1.7% of the population in Pakistan, and over 70% of them are the poorest of the poor.
  - It is estimated that there are 1,100 Christian missionaries living in Turkey.
- (Resources: <http://opendoorsusa.org/> and <http://www.christiansincrisis.net/>).

## DAY-TO-DAY PRAYER GUIDE - SEPTEMBER 2009

Tuesday 1 September 2009

### **Environmental focus: Fruit production at risk**

Millions of bees have caught a highly infectious disease threatening fruit production. Most infected colonies have to be destroyed. The disease is the most serious infectious disease of honey bees, last seen in SA 150 years ago, and was probably brought to the country through illegally imported honey contaminated with the spores. (Website: [http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss\\_&fArticleId=4964513](http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss_&fArticleId=4964513)). This will have a huge impact on the availability of fruit. Please pray for God's grace upon all our harvests that depend on the presence of bees, to grow and multiply.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 11: Remember Libya**

**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 in this situation Your will be done and Your Kingdom come as it is in heaven. Also send labourers into the Muslim harvest of Libya.*

Wednesday 2 September 2009

### **Prayer focus on Christian values**

The term **Christian values** historically refers to the values found in the teachings of Jesus. Many Christians are disappointed in the state of the Church today. Especially when so many trusted leaders fall into sin. Right through the ages, the only remedy for any problem has always been repentance before God. Only then He hears, forgives, turns away His wrath and heals the land and His people. This month we will focus in prayer on 12 basic Christian values and principles to once more be established in the Church. We have to understand our Christian mission in terms of changing the society in which we live, so that it models the values of the re-ordered world of the Kingdom of God.

### **Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace His love**

**Towards God:** ...love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind ... (Lk.10:27).

**Towards people:** ... and your neighbour as yourself (Lk.10:27). Love is the obligation to care for the well-being of others, respect human dignity and put the needs of others before our own.

**Establish in prayer:** Father I repent of hardness of heart. My actions and words show that I love myself most. Please forgive me. Reveal to me how to love You and others in all honesty and godliness.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 12: Was Jesus a Muslim?**

**Thoughts and facts:** Muslims consider Jesus 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 no 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 the radio, television etc.

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Thursday 3 September 2009

### **Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace His justice**

**Towards God:** Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us (Deut.6:25). When we do what is just, it is called righteousness.

**Towards people:** You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous (Deut.16:19). Justice is love in action – putting right what is wrong in personal, social and public affairs.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of perverting Your justice. I have little sincere intention to seek out and keep your commandments which stand until today, because You never change. Reveal to me how to maintain justice and walk in righteousness.

### **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. Understanding tribalism is central to understanding Iraqi cultural identity and how to reach them for Christ.

**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.

### **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 and 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 believe 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 thus also the way to heaven, is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus our Saviour on the cross. We will not gain eternal life through good works. Yet, we do good works from a heart filled with thanksgiving and to demonstrate God's love for all people.

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Friday 4 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace His forgiveness**

**Towards God:** *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you (Matt.6:14).*

**Towards people:** *God has exalted Him (Jesus) to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins (Acts 5:31).* Forgiveness is the casting aside of the barriers to love. It is the discounting of all things that come between people, restoring and reconciling relationships.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of having an unforgiving heart. I want Your forgiveness, but I am unwilling to forgive others for what they do to me. Reveal to me the heart of Christ who gave His life so that I might be forgiven.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 14: Somalis in the USA**

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Since 1991, many Somalis have died in their own brutal civil war. Millions have fled their homes and country. Thousands now live in Europe. Minnesota in the USA is home to between 30,000 and 70,000 Somalis. Many first generation immigrant Somalis (aged 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.

☞ **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 minds and show them Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

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Saturday 5 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace worship of God alone**

**Towards God:** *You shall have no other gods before Me (Ex.20:3). ... and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment (Mk.12:30).*

**Towards people:** *The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe (Prov.29:25).* In today's world, many things compete with God for our devotion e.g. excessive attention to material things such as houses, cars, clothes, jewellery and physical appearance. Also the pursuit of wealth, power, fame, pleasure or status and excessive devotion to self, job, hobbies, country, ideologies, heroes, leaders, even family (**Gal.5:19-21, Eph.5:5, Col.3:5, Phil.3:18-19**).

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of worshipping other gods in my life. Show me these gods clearly, so that I may turn from all my wicked ways.

**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 You 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 the 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.*

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Sunday 6 September 2009

**Issues of the heart: The works of God**

People always say God is at work. But do we know what it means? He is so divine in nature and character that in **Ecclesiastes 3:11** Solomon writes that no one can fathom the works of God from beginning to end. Also, that He has made everything beautiful in its time. Verse 14 says: I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God's purpose in this is that people should fear Him. When God has decided to do something, He does not hide His plan from the person involved (**Gen.18:17**). But He speaks face to face to those who are close to Him, who walk with Him daily, as a man speaks to his friends (**Ex.33:11**). Do you want to know the heart and works of God? Ask Him to teach you how to be a true friend of God's, someone with whom He would feel safe to share His works, His secrets.

*Father, I confess that Your works are perfect and beyond the comprehension of man. Thank you for always sharing with Your people what you are about to do. I ask today that You would teach me to be Your friend. Teach me how to walk with You in all my ways and be a friend of God.*

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 16: Northwest Africa**

☞ **Thoughts and facts:** Out of the 78 million people in the three nations of Northwest Africa (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) possibly only 50,000 are native Believers. Many have discovered Jesus through visions, dreams and supernatural events. Any individual trying to convert a Muslim can be sentenced up to five years in jail with a maximum fine of \$7000.

🙏 **Pray today:** *Tunisia (10.5 million) has the appearance of being a Muslim country; however, the number of committed Muslims is limited. The vast majority of Tunisians are pursuing their dreams of a better lifestyle. Tunisian Believers number less than 1,000. Pray over Tunisia from **Acts 4:29-31**. Morocco (33.8 million) has a very small number of Moroccan Believers. Their numbers are slowly increasing. Pray over Morocco from **Matt.6:24-34**. Also pray for King Mohammed VI and the royal family. Hassan, the Crown prince, is six years old. A law was voted in Algeria (33.8 million) in 2006, opening the door to official persecution of Algerian Believers. Several Believers have since been arrested. Pray over Algeria from **Ps.62:5-8**.*

**Did you know?**

'Caliph' is the title for the leader of the Islamic Ummah, the worldwide Islamic community or nation, which should ideally be ruled by the religious law, the Shari'ah law. The word is derived from the Arabic word which means 'successor' or 'representative'. The early Caliphs in particular were seen as Mohammed's successors.

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Monday 7 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace honour**

**Towards God:** ... *those who honour Me I will honour, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed (1 Sam.2:30).*

**Towards people:** *Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you (Ex.20:12).*

**Establish in prayer:** Father I repent of dishonouring You, other people and especially my parents, even if in the smallest way. Forgive my self-centredness, for not living to honour You and people around me. Reveal to me how to honour and respect You and others.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 17: Fatima (Mohammed's daughter)**

**Thoughts and facts:** Born in Mecca in 605AD, Fatima (Fatima – 'she who weans') – was the name of the favourite daughter of Mohammed and considered one of four perfect women by him. Fatima's acts of kindness toward the poor and destitute earned her the praise of many. Fatima was apparently a good influence but her name is sometimes also associated with an occult object, which has a fairly negative influence in the Muslim world. This so-called "Hand of Fatima" is used by Muslims in amulets, charms and jewellery to ward off evil spiritual influences.

**Pray today:** *Pray according to Acts 19:18-20 concerning occult influences. Pray for the millions of Muslim women named Fatima to find new life in Jesus.*

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Tuesday 8 September 2009

**United Nations focus: International Prayer Council (IPC) prayer initiative 8-12 September 2009**

The UN is perhaps the most influential human institution currently taking decisions on things happening in the world. In 2007, Christians began a prayer initiative of focused prayer on the activities of the UN. UN ambassadors were deeply moved by it and told them they needed spiritual guidance. This September 8-12, the IPC and its ministry partners will again hold a special prayer initiative for the UN. Give thanks to the Lord for Christians taking up their prayer responsibility. Pray for them for wisdom this week as they cover various situations when they engage in prayer. Ask that God will also draw UN officials into His kingdom. (Website:

[http://forwardtogetherinchangingtimes.com/goblog/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=82&catid=34](http://forwardtogetherinchangingtimes.com/goblog/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82&catid=34) or contact: Nita van der Merwe, *International Prayer Council*. Tel.: 012 365 3213 or fax: 012 365 3214. Website: <http://www.ipcprayer.org/contact.asp>).

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 18: Deliver them from evil**

**Thoughts and facts:** Muslims worldwide are often afraid of evil coming from the spirit world, and it is an unspoken anxiety for many. Muslims not only believe in the existence of angels but also in Jinn (Djinn). Jinn are very similar to humans, having their own social organisation and activities, yet they can also change their appearance and become visible or invisible at will. Most Muslim theologians believe that Shaitan (Satan, also called Iblis) belongs to the Jinn group.

**Pray today:** *Jesus is the true Lord of the world. All authority has been given to Him. Pray that Muslims would come to know Christ and His authority over all powers of darkness. Pray for Muslims you know and also others, using the following texts: Matt.8:16, 10:1 and Acts 5:16, 8:17.*

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Wednesday 9 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace humility**

**Towards God:** *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (Jas.4:10).*

**Towards people:** *Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being (1 Cor.10:24).* Humility is the opposite of aggression, arrogance, boastfulness and vanity. Acting with humility does not deny our own self-worth; it affirms the inherent worth of all persons. Humility dissipates anger and heals old wounds. Humility distinguishes the wise leader from the arrogant power-seeker (**Prov.17:7, Matt.20:20-28**).

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of a proud heart showing aggression, arrogance, vanity and self-indulgence. Teach me the meekness of Christ, so that with Him I would inherit the earth (**Matt.5:5**).

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 19: Ali (Mohammed's cousin and adopted son)**

**Thoughts and facts:** Born in about 600AD, Ali was the cousin, adopted son and son-in-law of Mohammed when he married Mohammed's daughter Fatima. Shi'a Muslims regard Ali as the first true infallible Imam and consider him and his descendants (Hassan and Hussein) as the rightful successors to Mohammed. Disagreement over succession eventually split Islam into the Sunni and Shi'a branches. Both Hassan and Hussein died terrible deaths and are regarded as martyrs. Hussein's death was significant in launching the prominent Shi'a movement in Iraq and Iran.

**Pray today:** *Literally millions of Muslim men around the world are named Ali, Hassan and Hussein. Pray for them to encounter the living Messiah (Acts 7:56 and 9:1-5). Millions of Iranians and Iraqis commemorate the memory of Hussein's death each year, as many as 7-8 million pilgrims visiting Karbala (Iraq) during that time. A popular Shi'a saying tells us: "A single tear shed for Hussein washes away a hundred sins." Pray that Shi'as of Iraq and Iran could see the truth of the blood of Jesus (1 Pet.1:18-19).*

#### **Men to pray: How do you pray for your son?**

There should be a special bond between father and son. Boys cannot develop into men and fathers, without a father's presence. A father's life, example and prayers determine to a great extent their sons' lives. I recently read this quote somewhere: "My child, you will need to climb over the mountains and valleys of my prayers and swim through the rivers of my tears if you want to end up in hell." I would also like to add: "... and to destroy your life."

- A father needs to spend time with his son to know what to pray for the child. He must learn how his son thinks, what his hopes and dreams are, what his strong and weak points are. He must understand his child's heart. A father must never force his will on his son. A boy should always feel that his father allows him freedom to be himself. It is of the utmost importance that the son will realise that his father thinks he is worthy. He must experience that his father approves of him and accepts him.
- When a father starts praying for his son, he must first of all start by blessing his son. Note how Jacob blessed his sons in Genesis 49. The father must call out the Name of the Lord over his child and ask the Lord to bless his child with the blessings we find in Numbers 6:24-26. Do it regularly. It is not something that is done once only. In Jewish culture a father blesses his children once a week on the Sabbath!
- Pray for your child's salvation. There is nothing more important than your son being reconciled with God. All the other things flow from this.
- A father must pray with grace and mercy. His child is not perfect. His son will be rebellious at times, make mistakes, be ignorant, sometimes shy away from challenges and sometimes behave irresponsibly. At such times a father must be compassionate and pray with grace. Don't be judgmental when you pray. Don't accuse your child before God. Remember that you were also a child.
- A father must live in such a way that he can pray. You cannot pray for your child if you do not live in such a way that you can pray – you must live a holy life, in love and patience, and set an example that is worth following. You cannot live with a sin-filled heart and then try to pray for your son.
- Pray the promises of God. Read the Word of God and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the promises in the Word that are applicable to your child and pray those promises for your child.
- Pray that your son will understand God's purpose for his life, the purpose he was created for, and that he will live toward it. Thus pray that he will understand why he is on earth, what contribution he must make, what influence he must have, what God's purpose is with his life.

- A father never stops praying for his son, regardless of whether the father is 25 years old or 60. Your son is and stays your responsibility up until your death.
- Learn to understand God's heart for the child and ask the Father to work the same attitude in your heart.
- Evil is a reality. Ask God to protect your son from evil and temptations and attacks from the Evil One.
- Pray that your son will not give in to peer pressure, but make his own choices and live his own values, irrespective of the situation. Pray that the Lord will give your son friends who will not keep him away or drive him away from God, but who will support him and be able to strengthen him in tough times.
- If God convicts you of something wrong you said or did to your child, ask forgiveness from God and your son.
- See your child's potential, no matter what it is, and encourage him to give expression to it. Don't force your will on your child, for example by expecting him to become a doctor because you are one.
- Ask the Lord to change your heart in such a way that you will love your son like He loves him.
- Pray for your son's future wife. Praying for your son's salvation is the most important thing, but praying for his future wife is probably the next most important matter in your son's life.

Thursday 10 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace honesty**

**Towards God:** *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap (Gal.6:7).*

**Towards people:** ... *How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out (Acts 5:9).* False honesty and integrity may be practised by means of deceitful statements, half-truths, innuendo, or failing to tell the whole truth. It is all too common in advertising, business dealings, politics, marriage and relationships. We must strongly resist the temptation to engage in any form of theft, cheating, deception, insinuation, slander or gossip. Rationalisation is a form of self-deception by which we convince ourselves that sinful actions are justified in order to achieve a good result. This is really just another form of dishonesty (**Jas.1:26, 1 John 1:8**). Holiness is in *living* by the commandments, not in achieving an end result (**Matt.4:8-10**). In Biblical teaching, the end **does not** justify the means!

**Establish in prayer:** Father I repent of dishonesty. I am often deceived, I rationalize, in order to achieve good results in my opinion. Reveal to me when I do these things, so I may turn from deceitfulness.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 20: Central Asia**

**Thoughts and facts:** Central Asia is home to more than a 100 million people. A large majority are Muslims including significant numbers of Russians, Ukrainians and Chinese. Many Muslims do not practise Islam with zeal; however the number of committed Muslims seems to be growing in the entire region. In recent years most governments in the region have started to persecute Believers and many have been expelled from one country after the other. In 2008 Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan voted laws, which significantly restrain religious liberty. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan had already become very oppressive for Believers.

**Pray today:** *Lord you have said that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Hab.2:14). We pray that Your name may be proclaimed to all in this region (Matt.24:14). Strengthen Believers (2 Cor.12:9) who are in prison, or will be in prison for their faith in the coming years (Heb.13:3; Acts 16:23-25).*

Friday 11 September 2009

**United Nations focus: Prayer for the United Nations (UN) and Global Cities, 8-12 September 2009**

Today a group of Christians will take part in a special prayer initiative, carrying out a prayer walk at Ground Zero, praying as the Lord leads them. Let us join them in prayer, asking God that the earth may be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (**Hab.2:14**). Also pray for world economic and political concerns to see God's transformation and breakthroughs. (Website: <http://www.ipcprayer.org/contact.asp>).

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

### **Day 21: Badakshanis in the remote Pamir Mountain**

**Thoughts and facts:** The soaring Pamir Mountain dominates the landscape of greater Badakshan, which spills over North Eastern Afghanistan, Eastern Tajikistan and Northern Pakistan. The Muslim Ismaili sect in Badakshan makes up the majority of the population. The Agha Khan, their spiritual leader, is a god to them. Most other Muslims consider the Ismailis to be heretics. There are few Believers in Badakshan and no known believing communities. However, many Badakshanis are coming to faith elsewhere e.g. in Dushanbe (Tajikistan's capital) and in Moscow.

**Pray today:** *Pray from Jeremiah 16:19-21 for the population of Badakshan. Pray for those who worship the Agha Khan as a god to realise that he is just a man. Ask for spiritual blindness and deception to be removed and for the gospel to become clear to them.*

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Saturday 12 September 2009

### **Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace morality**

**Towards God:** *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor.6:19-20).*

**Towards people:** *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body (1 Cor.6:18).* Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you. You are not your own, therefore honour God with your body (1 Cor.6:19-20). Jesus gave a list of actions that constitute immoral practices of the body: Evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, arrogance and foolishness. We often think of morality in terms of sexual sins, but according to Jesus, sins such as slander, greed, deceit, and arrogance are equally immoral.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of immorality in my life. I think evil thoughts, take small things that are not mine and that I do not pay for, I am greedy and guilty of many more sins. I desperately cry out for Your Holy Spirit to show me these sins, so that I may confess and turn from all my wicked ways.

## **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

### **Day 22: Jesus, the Word of God and the Messiah**

**Thoughts and facts:** Islamic scholars are not in agreement on the Qur'anic title given to Jesus and the Biblical idea that Jesus is divine. While some Muslims know that Jesus is referred to as the Word of God in the Qur'an, the vast majority do not understand it as Christians do. The Qur'an does speak of Jesus as the Messiah (same word as Christ in Greek), but most Muslims have no idea what it means. The term carries with it not just the concept of a good king but also one who is a saviour, a deliverer, who will correct all wrongs and reign in righteousness.

**Pray today:** *Pray that Muslims all over the world would be moved to ask questions and try to understand who Jesus is through His names "The Word of God" and "Messiah". Pray from John 1:1-4,14 and Matt.16:13-17 for the truth to be revealed.*

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Sunday 13 September 2009

### **Issues of the heart: Take another viewpoint on matters**

It is impossible for man to find out all the works of God (Eccl.3:11). But there is one work we know God does which all of us benefit from. God is actively at work in the hearts of all, He fashions them individually (Ps.33:15). When you willingly submit your heart to God, it is possible for Him to perform His purposes through your life. God accepts you just the way you are, but He loves you too much to leave you that way! When He fashions our hearts, the way we view our spouses, our children, our colleagues, the country etc. begins to change. He works His heart in us, individually. Are you allowing Him to correct you? Do you see yourself doing things and responding to challenges in your life differently? We have to willingly allow God for this to happen.

*Father God, forgive me for resisting and discarding Your correction, especially when it comes through those in authority over me. Forgive me for exalting myself above correction because of pride and an unwillingness to admit I can also be wrong. You are the potter and I am the clay, please fashion my heart according to Your will in me.*

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 23: God's Message by Radio**

**Thoughts and facts:** Christian radio broadcasting plays a huge role in ministering the gospel of Christ in many Muslim countries. Sometimes it is possible for the audience to SMS, phone or write to ask for literature. However, mail packages containing Bibles are often stopped by the religious security authorities in various countries. It remains a risk for anyone to be caught with a Bible; therefore Muslims who are curious have to tread carefully when obtaining a Bible.

**Pray today:** *Pray for every telephone conversation and meeting with interested radio listeners. Ask for divine appointments (Acts 8:26-31). Ask that interested listeners, despite the watchful eyes of authorities, can receive Bibles, and other helpful material. Also pray for the family members of these interested listeners who could be opposed to them listening to gospel radio and receiving Bible materials.*

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Monday 14 September 2009

**Salvation focus: Farm workers**

Not all farm workers have it easy. Many only have a job during harvest time. Others again work for years on end on the same farm, bringing up their children there. Pray for farm workers, their wives and children. Ask that farmers will take special care to bring the gospel to their workers and see them disciplined in the ways of the Lord in the long term. Pray for farm workers to come to the Lord Jesus and to be living testimonies of God's love and kindness, especially towards farmers acting unsympathetic or without mercy, so they too might find Christ.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 24: Muslims in Malegaon, India**

**Thoughts and facts:** Malegaon is about 220 kilometres northeast of Mumbai with an estimated population of one million. There are almost 200 mosques on one side of the river and the cones of Buddhist and multiple Hindu temples on the other side. Most local Muslims belong to the 'Ansari' people group and hold firmly to the traditions, teachings and counsel of their leaders. When tactfully presented with the gospel in 2008, many Muslims would not even consider the claims of Jesus Christ nor would they read the New Testament (Injil). Though Hindu-Muslim relationships are quite strained throughout India, the communities in this city are interdependent.

**Pray today:** *Pray for the salvation of their community leaders. In 2008 some Muslims did ask for tracts and Bibles. Pray that this openness could be directed toward a personal encounter with God.*

**Missions article: More Muslims are turning to Christ**

**What is happening?**

You rarely hear about it on the news. You even rarely hear about it in churches in the West, in the East, or even in the Middle East. But the big, untold story is that more Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ today than at any other time in history. More than 1 million Shia Muslims have turned to Christ since 1979. In Pakistan, there are now more than 2.5 million followers of Jesus Christ. In Sudan, there are now more than 5 million followers of Christ. Not every country has seen millions leave Islam to follow Christ. In Syria, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 Believers, but this is up from almost none in 1967. In Saudi Arabia, there are about 100,000 followers of Jesus now, up from almost none in 1967. But overall, the trend has been dramatic and largely unreported.

**What motivates Muslims to seek out other options?**

What they see as the failure of Islamic governments and societies to improve their lives and give them peace, security, and a sense of purpose and meaning in life, is causing them to leave Islam in search of truth. Some have

lost their way entirely and become agnostics and atheists. Others, as we have seen, have sadly turned to alcohol and drug abuse. But millions are finding that only Jesus Christ heals the ache in their hearts and the deep wounds in their souls.

For other Muslims, it is rage that is driving them away from the Qur'an and the mosque. They are seeing far too many Muslim leaders and governments and preachers both advocating and acting out cruelty toward women and children and violence even against fellow Muslims. Not all of these find Jesus in their journey away from Islam, but millions do.

In 1993, a Saudi sheikh delivered a sermon entitled "Christian Missionaries Sweeping the Islamic World". Eight years later, in December 2001, another significant Saudi cleric, in a live interview on Aljazeera satellite television confirmed that, "every hour, 667 Muslims convert to Christianity". Al Qataani warned: "Every day, 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity. Every year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity."

(Source: *The Macedonia Project*. Tel.: 012 755 8139, fax: 086 630 3193. Website: <http://www.macsa.co.za> or e-mail: [info@macsa.co.za](mailto:info@macsa.co.za)).

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Tuesday 15 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace generosity with time and money**

**Towards God:** *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly (Matt.6:3-4).*

**Towards people:** *...It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: To visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world (Jas.1:27).* The Bible tells us to share generously with those in need. To give money is sometimes easier than to give time. Both are costly. Be a friend to someone who is sick or lonely, do volunteer work or choose a service-oriented occupation. We may also unselfishly spend more of our time to our spouses, children or parents.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of being stingy, afraid that I would lack if I give. I reason like the world and understand little of how Your kingdom works! Teach me to give with a grateful heart. Show me how to give time and money where You want me to.

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 25: They are turning to Jesus**

**Thoughts and facts:** Khalid asked Qur'anic experts for more understanding about certain issues, but his heart did not find any rest. One day he visited one of his childhood friends and found a book, which he thought was a commentary on the Qur'an. However as he read the book he was finding the answers to many of his questions. Then, two nights in a row he had a dream in which he saw the words: "I am the God that you are looking for, I am the truth". His friend explained to him that it was probably the God of the Bible who had revealed Himself to him and he invited him to pray to that God. Khalid then became a Believer. (For more information see the website: <http://www.secretbelievers.org/>).

**Pray today:** *Pray for the secret Believers who ask for help from local churches and sometimes do not find it, that they will continue to hope in Christ, will continue their search and that God would give people to help them. Pray for the leaders of believing communities in Muslim countries. They are subject to varied and serious pressures. Ask for local assemblies to be willing to help new Believers.*

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Wednesday 16 September 2009

**Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace practising what you preach**

**Towards God:** *...He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him (1 John 2:3-5).*

**Towards people:** *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (Jas.1:22).* The Pharisees were a religious and political party that insisted on very strict observance of Biblical laws on tithing, ritual purity and other matters. At the same time, they forgot the true spirit and intent of the law and became self-indulgent, self-righteous, snobbish, and greedy. It is not what we say that matters, but what we do. If we claim to be Christians but do not let Jesus' teachings guide our lives, we are nothing but hypocrites.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of being a hearer of Your commandments and not a doer. I think I am in You, but do not understand what that requires! Alert me in my everyday life, every moment, so I may become a true doer of Your Word.

### **Testimony from West Africa**

Like many others in Togo, I was raised as a Muslim. I was not at normal prayer times at the mosque very regularly; however, I really loved God. At age 19 I encountered my first real problems at school, so I began searching for answers. I even started reading some books about Jesus and I attended some Christian meetings with a friend in secret. When my father discovered this he forced me to leave home and relationships with my family deteriorated. My father disinherited me and told me not to come to his funeral. Some Believers have accepted me into their home. We live very simply and I continue growing in my relationship with Jesus.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 26: The night of power**

**Thoughts and facts:** Depending on their location on the earth, either tonight or tomorrow, some Muslims will spend much of the night in prayer. This event commemorates Mohammed's first revelation of the Qur'an in a cave near Mecca in 610AD. At this moment of *Ramadan* many Muslims are more open to supernatural events and believe that their prayer requests are granted at this time. Many will spend much of tonight/tomorrow night in prayer. There are thousands of Muslims who have had a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus on this night. Let us also lay hold of the Lord tonight for the souls of many Muslims.

**Pray today:** *Lord, You are a Father to the fatherless. You are near to those who are lowly and contrite in heart and seeking the truth (Isa.51:17, 57:15 and 66:2). Father, remember those who are genuinely seeking Your help this night. Reveal Yourself to them so they will understand Jesus Christ is Everlasting life (Ps.34:18, Zech.9:9).*

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Thursday 17 September 2009

#### **Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace selflessness**

**Towards God:** *Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven (Lk.6:37).*

**Towards people:** *...Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? (Matt.7:1-3).* No one is perfect; we are all sinners in one way or another (**Rom. 3:23**). Living a moral life means taking responsibility for controlling our own behaviour. If we say or even think we are better than people we consider to be 'sinners', we are guilty of the sin of self-righteousness. It is not our right to look down on, criticise, judge, condemn, or try to control other people. Judgment is to be left to God. This does not deny the right of governments to maintain law and order and collect taxes, or the Church to exercise godly discipline.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of self-righteousness and a judgmental heart. I do not correct others to heal, but to point out their wrongs and to condemn. Teach me the love of Christ, so that I may learn to correct my fellow humans in all humility.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 27: Malaysia**

**Thoughts and facts:** Malaysia remains a key part of the Muslim world in Southeast Asia. With a population of 24 million, 60% of whom are Malay Muslims, the nation's influence is significant in the region. The Malays have

been much neglected throughout the history of Christian mission. Increasing numbers of national Believers (Chinese, Indians, and tribal people) are seeking to proclaim their faith to their Muslim neighbours and colleagues.

☞ **Pray today:** *Pray for the emergence of spiritual leaders among the Malay to proclaim the gospel, teach, and pastor their own people. Ask for God's working through the recently completed contextualised Malay language Scriptures, as Malays have opportunity to read them. Pray for God's stirring in the hearts of Malays and the many other Malay-related unreached peoples across Southeast Asia, perhaps through dreams and visions, to hunger after knowing God.*

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Friday 18 September 2009

### **Humble yourself before the throne: Embrace your enemies**

**Towards God:** ...*Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (Jas.4:4).*

**Towards people:** *"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also." ... "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt.5:38-40, 43-44).* Jesus said there is no place for hatred, holding a grudge, revenge, retaliation or getting even in the life of a Christian. Bearing a grudge and seeking revenge are **never** appropriate responses to a perceived wrong. A grudge destroys the grudge-holder with bitterness, and revenge only escalates hostilities. Jesus wants us to reconcile with our adversaries, forgive their transgressions, and let go of the anger that may tempt us to commit an act of revenge.

**Establish in prayer:** Father, I repent of being friends with the world and hating and resenting all I call my enemies. Reveal to me Your heart on practical issues in my life, so that I may learn how to really love my enemies and become a true friend of God.

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 28: Ex-Muslim preachers for Christ**

☞ Outside the Middle East most people may not have heard of Amr Khaled, Mustafa Hosni, Moez Masoud, or Ahmad al-Shugairi. However, these preachers of the Muslim faith have a significant following in the Arab world through *Middle Eastern Television* and the Internet. Amr Khaled was numbered 13th in the list of *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people of the year in 2006. On the other hand there are ex-Muslims who clearly explain the differences between Islam and Christianity from both the Bible and the Qur'an. Thus many Muslims have opportunities to understand things they did not consider before, and give their lives over to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

☞ **Pray today:** *Lift up in prayer these and other people proclaiming the Muslim faith to also have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to the Lord for those who take time to put forth the truth of the Word of God in practical ways so that Muslims understand the gospel. Never stop persevering for the truth of Christ to be revealed to the Muslim peoples of the world.*

This heartrending prayer is a desperate cry of a Muslim woman to Allah (god). May it inspire you to pray even more fervently for Muslims to meet Jesus Christ and to 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 Allah, 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.

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Saturday 19 September 2009

**Israel focus: Feast of Trumpets**

Today marks the beginning of the *Feast of Trumpets* (**Lev.23:23-25**), which is celebrated for two days. For many in the Church today, this symbolises that Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth at the end of this age (**Matt.24:31, 1 Cor.15:52-53, 1 Thess.4:13-17**). This festival commemorates the sounding of the trumpets that will precede His return (**Rev.8-10**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/resources/calendar.htm>). Please pray for Jewish people at this time to be open and receptive to the message of Jesus Christ and to have a clear understanding of the prophecies from Scripture. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: [allwiese@lantic.net](mailto:allwiese@lantic.net)).

**Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

**Day 29: Loving Jews and Muslims**

📖 **Thoughts and facts:** "As a young Palestinian refugee I fled to Nazareth with my family during a time of war. Later we found that our home in Haifa was occupied by Jews during my family's absence. As a child I found it difficult to understand how God could love some people and put others on the streets. As the years passed I became an enemy of the Jewish people. When I became a Believer, I met an old Jewish man who asked for forgiveness for the things he had done personally. This touched me deeply and since that time my love for the Jewish people has not ceased to grow." When this former refugee was asked, "Is it possible for a Jordanian or a Palestinian to love Israeli soldiers?" he responded: "For followers of the Messiah the word 'love' has a different meaning than for those who do not know the Lord. For us the love of God comes through the cross of Christ." He continued: "I have also visited Iraq. When I was there God filled my heart with love for the Muslims there. I also spoke of the profound love which God has given me for the Jewish people when Israeli soldiers were controlling my identity papers in Jerusalem."

🙏 **Pray today:** *There are several initiatives by Messianic Jews and Arab Believers for prayer and reconciliation. Ask for further breakthroughs in reconciliation and deepening love and respect among Jews and Arabs (1 John 4:12 and 19). Pray that the hope of true reconciliation through Christ would be better known in Israel and Palestine, becoming an example for both Jews and Muslims. Jesus is often presented as someone who brings personal peace (Matt.5:9, Eph.2:14 and 2 Pet.3:13).*

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Sunday 20 September 2009

**Issues of the heart: Open your heart to receive God's words**

In **Ezekiel 3:10** God says to Ezekiel, "*Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you and hear with your ears.*" Then God sends Ezekiel to bring this message to Israel. God speaks to us in various ways. Often we desire for Him to speak to us in an audible voice. From this verse though, we learn how God wants us to listen to Him. More important to Him than any of the ways He speaks, is His desire for us to receive His words into our hearts. Many people hear the voice of God on a regular basis, but it never enters their hearts or sets them on course to re-align their lives accordingly or obey it. When last did you clearly hear God's voice? Did you open up

your heart, ponder upon those words, contemplating what to do with them? And when you understood them, did you do what He said to you? From the heart of man flow the issues of life (**Prov.4:23**). Is your heart pondering God's message?

*Father please forgive me for times when I heard Your voice, but did not wholeheartedly yield to obey it. Teach me to honour and respect every time You speak to me through Scripture, a friend, the Sunday service or any other way. I give You my heart; please help me to be sensitive to Your voice – to hear it, and to do what You say to me.*

### **Ramadan prayer focus: 22 August – 20 September 2009**

#### **Day 30: The Afar nomads in the Horn of Africa**

**Thoughts and facts:** There are about 1.5 million Afar people. For centuries, the Afar had little chance to hear the gospel. For the Afar, recital of Qur'anic verses and fear of the spirits of the desert go back generations. Together with the few Afar Believers, a radio work of high quality has been developed. The last three years many in an Ethiopian church have begun praying fervently for the Afar. In 2008 newly believing Afar sisters compiled an expanded radio series for women. Thanks to the devotion and love of these sisters, a new life in Christ is possible for nomadic women who heard their message.

**Pray today:** *Pray for the radio production team and their many listeners in this area. Ask that men, women and children will hear the new radio programme and open their hearts to the message of freedom. Pray that whole families will become Believers and establish new communities of Believers.*

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Monday 21 September 2009

#### **Salvation focus: Bar tenders**

Usually young men and girls take up this job for an extra income. By doing so, they will encounter the most terrible situations at times, when clients might have too much to drink, or start swearing, fighting or approach them inappropriately. Please pray for bar tenders, that God will deeply touch their lives and draw them into His kingdom. Pray for their protection when in these situations. Also ask for the salvation of alcoholics.

#### **Church focus: Comores**

Prayer is changing things on these islands. Keep on praying for enthusiasm and perseverance for the still very young Church. This year Believers celebrated Easter, participated in the *Global Day of Prayer* and also began with teaching on 24-7prayer. Pray for continual growth of the Church, for God to raise up more godly leaders who can lead new Believers. (Source: Confidential).

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Tuesday 22 September 2009

#### **Child focus: Reported rape**

Figures presented by the *Safety and Security Ministry* in December 2008, showed that during one year, a total of 15,857 children were reported to have been raped in South Africa. Only 22% of these cases end with a conviction of the adult rapist. More than 40 children are raped each and every day. Analysts believe that the majority of child rapes are never registered. (Website: <http://www.afrol.com/articles/14965>). Please pray for child rape victims, that they will be believed when they tell that they have been raped. Ask for those who are continuously raped to really find Jesus in a personal way. Ask for God to also intervene in their circumstances.

#### **Employment focus: Global job losses**

The *International Labour Organisation (ILO)* says that as many as 51 million jobs worldwide could be lost this year because of the global economic crisis, pushing up the world's unemployment rate to 7.1% by the end of 2009, compared with 6.0% in 2008 and 5.7% in 2007. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7855661.stm>). Let us continue to pray for those losing their jobs. Ask that they will find good godly opportunities to take care of their families. Pray for their protection from becoming involved in illegal activities.

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Wednesday 23 September 2009

**Prayer focus: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**

Please pray today for all staff members of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network*. Pray specifically for their physical health and safety from disease, calamity and spiritual oppression. Pray that God will open new doors to promote prayer as a lifestyle in different spheres of life, inspiring ordinary people to cry out to God. Continue to pray with us that prayer material does get lost in the post, especially the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide*. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)).

**Zimbabwe focus: Economy**

According to the Minister of Economy of Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean economy is speedily recovering under the unity government. He attributes the recovery to, among other things, institutional changes at the country's *Reserve Bank*. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/1632280.htm>). Let us persevere in praying for the restoration of this country in its fullness; physically, emotionally and spiritually.

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Thursday 24 September 2009

**Focus on education: Attendance of educational institutions**

Almost 66% of South Africans in the Western Cape aged 5-24 attend an educational institution, the lowest percentage of all the provinces. The highest attendance, at 82%, is in Limpopo. (Community Survey 2007). (Eighty20 Fact-a-day. Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/> or e-mail: [fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za](mailto:fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za)). Please continue to pray for quality and excellence in teaching and training in all educational institutions in South Africa. Please pray for the Grade 12's who will soon start their year-end exams.

**Focus on Maldives: New President**

Mohamed Nasheed's election as President of the Maldives in October 2008 is seen as a new area of change. Religion is such a politically sensitive issue here, that President Nasheed has excluded it from his reforms. Under his predecessor, Sunni Islam was made the cornerstone of nationalism. The once religiously tolerant Maldivian society - which tended towards folk Islam – became more radical. Islam became a compulsory subject in schools. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se) or [Intercessors.Network@Telia.com](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Telia.com)). Pray for this man to meet Jesus as Saviour and for wisdom to rule his country. Also pray for the Church to continue to grow despite continued persecution.

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Friday 25 September 2009

**Thanksgiving focus: Facts about SA**

Did you know that South Africa generates two-thirds of Africa's electricity; that 40% of the continent's phones are here and that 20% of the world's gold is mined here? (Website: [http://www.adventurezone.co.za/where\\_to\\_go.asp](http://www.adventurezone.co.za/where_to_go.asp)). Give thanks to the Lord for the many ways in which our country is a blessing to surrounding nations. Make a special effort today to give thanks to the Lord that we live in South Africa, for knowing Him personally and for His continued blessing upon us as a nation for so many years. Never cease praying for His will to be done in our nation, government, economy etc.

**Salvation focus: Drought in Niger**

Certain areas in this nation have not had rain for 27 years according to a recent report from a national representative at the Missions-fest, Pretoria. In fact, the one remaining tree that was still standing in this particular location keeled over recently and was put into a museum. Literally, an entire generation has been born and grown up, never having seen rain! Pray for God's showers of salvation over this thirsty land and its peoples. (*Ethne*, website: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/ethne.php> or e-mail: [ethne06-prayer@strategicnetwork.org](mailto:ethne06-prayer@strategicnetwork.org)).

## **Prayer encouragement: From Cape to Cyprus**

A South African lady now living in Cyprus wrote this encouraging letter to us recently: Cyprus is like heaven without crime, but it is a very dark place! When I was coming back and forth to SA, I was always overwhelmed when I set foot on South African ground! The presence of God was so tangible it was like stepping into a fountain! You hear people talking about God everywhere and you see people reading their Bibles on the planes! It is like breathing in hope! I know that it may seem difficult for you to believe right now, because there is such a desperate need for prayer, but be encouraged - God is hearing, even if one person is praying, let alone the thousands and thousands scattered around our great nation! Don't grow weary! The darkness here is so awful because it is so hidden! When you first come here, you are so impressed with the appearance of the make-believe 'happy family' facade! Then you discover all the affairs and divorces and molestation and abortions as a form of contraception, and you see that the devil shows no mercy anywhere! He has no new tricks, just different packages! His aim is always to kill and destroy and he just has different ways of doing it in different locations! The challenges in SA have made us run to God! Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you in prayer, even though I am so far away! There is no distance in the spirit! (Gaenor Erasmus, e-mail: [gaenor@hfhhospitality.co.za](mailto:gaenor@hfhhospitality.co.za)).

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Saturday 26 September 2009

### **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 this area. Ask for more to become involved in this project and that it will yield much fruit. (*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)).

### **Gospel focus: *Trans World Radio-Africa***

*Trans World Radio* broadcasts the gospel in West Africa to a potential audience of over 190 million. Between 60-70% of West Africans are illiterate and people use singing, poetry, drama and dancing to teach and convey information. "Radio Bible" programmes and "Mighty God!" use Bible stories to show the omnipotence of God to people who are primarily animists and practise voodoo. (*Trans World Radio-Africa*, website: <http://www.twrafrica.org/> or e-mail: [prnews@twraro.org.za](mailto:prnews@twraro.org.za)). Give thanks to God for these broadcasts. Ask that many lives will really be changed to God's glory through these messages.

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Sunday 27 September 2009

### **Issues of the heart: Watch in prayer to see God's heart established**

After God prompted Ezekiel to receive His words into his heart (**Ezek.3:10**), God now tells Ezekiel that He has made him a watchman for the house of Israel (**Ezek.3:16**). Once we receive the words of God into our hearts, we understand better what is in His heart concerning a particular situation. Apart from personal matters, He has prayer assignments for us about other matters as well. For Ezekiel it was to speak those words of God to the nation of Israel. For you it might mean that He has something near to His heart for those in your community, at your work, your church or the nation of South Africa. Do you listen for His voice concerning matters other than just your personal needs? Once you have received His words into your heart, He makes you and me watchmen over those situations. To watch over the situation/people, to pray about the matter constantly, to continue listening to His heart on it, and to make known His will to those He sends us to.

*Father, please forgive me for often only listening to Your voice for my personal or my family's needs. Teach me and increase my capacity to listen to what You say to me about my sphere of influence in this world. Strengthen me to remain faithful and to persevere in prayer about these situations. Teach me to be a true watchman like Ezekiel.*

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Monday 28 September 2009

**Salvation focus: Jewish people**

**Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) is observed on the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishri, September or early October in the secular calendar. The first Yom Kippur took place after Moses returned from his second trip to Mount Sinai with the replacement set of tablets containing the Ten Commandments and God decreed it to remain a day of atonement for all generations (**Lev.16:29-31**). (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfjerusalem.org/> or e-mail: [allwiese@lantic.net](mailto:allwiese@lantic.net)). (Website: <http://www.ucq.org/resources/calendar.htm>). Let us take time to cry out before the Lord for this generation of Jewish people to once more come to the revelation of the saving grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ who took all their sins upon Himself.

**Health focus: World Heart Day**

Cardiovascular diseases are the world's largest killers, claiming 17.5 million lives a year. Risk factors for heart disease and stroke include raised blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels, smoking, inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables, overweight, obesity and physical inactivity. (Website: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world\\_heart\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_heart_day/en/index.html)). Take time to pray for people suffering from heart disease. Ask that they will find Christ, and be good stewards of their bodies.

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Tuesday 29 September 2009

**Child focus: SA street children**

There are over 470,000 South African households which have children living on the streets. (GHS 2007) (Website: <http://www.eighty20.co.za/> or e-mail: [fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za](mailto:fact.a.day@eighty20.co.za)). Lift up in prayer all street children. Ask God to raise up people who would start Christian orphanages for street children across our country.

**Focus on Eritrea: Government opposes work of the Church**

The Eritrean government has renewed its campaign for the eradication of a network of churches that operate many schools and orphanages and have been active in development work. Pray for Christians under arrest to remain faithful in their testimony. Give thanks and pray for the Church for favour with the government to be able to continue their work in Eritrea (*Barnabas Fund*, e-mail: [subscribe@barnabasfund.org](mailto:subscribe@barnabasfund.org)).

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Wednesday 30 September 2009

**Evangelism focus: There is Hope Ministries**

After 20 years of full-time involvement with the *JESUS Film*, *There is Hope Ministries* now successfully reach out to people in need through the Internet, worldwide and in South Africa. Their focus is mainly evangelism, to follow up and facilitate spiritual growth of those who respond. (*There is Hope Ministries*. Tel.: 028 271 5124. Website: <http://www.hope365.co.za> or e-mail: [pieter@hope365.co.za](mailto:pieter@hope365.co.za)). Praise the Lord for wonderful testimonies of people whose lives are changed. Ask for God's financial provision for this and other ministries that proclaim the gospel over the Internet.

**Missions focus: Operation Mobilisation (OM) Ships International**

These ships visit the ports of many countries with the gospel. Pray for sufficient crew to serve on board the ships e.g. qualified deck and engineering officers to bring the ships from port to port. Pray for those who visit the ships, that they will be impacted by God's love when they step on board. Ask that doors will open for the crew to serve people in many different countries. Ask God to bless the crew with favour in the eyes of authorities. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se) or [Intercessors.Network@Telia.com](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Telia.com)).

# DAILY PRAYER GUIDE - OCTOBER 2009

## Prayer focus for October

During the month of October, we will focus in prayer on China, by praying for each of its provinces and affiliated factions. China has the highest population in the world, and therefore it is no small matter to set ourselves to prayer for this nation. In recent years China has spread its influence into many nations around the world. They export their goods, but also purchase land and make agreements to obtain resources from other countries, especially Africa, to help meet the basic needs of its population. The statistics and facts used to support our prayer information were mostly taken from *Operation World*, 2001. Please feel free to do some research yourself, and encourage other Believers to also join in prayer for significant breakthroughs for the gospel in this nation.



Thursday 1 October 2009

### Focus on Cancer: **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

The *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM)* organisation is 25 years old this year. They remain dedicated to educating and empowering women to take charge of their own breast health by doing regular self-examinations of their breasts to identify any changes, scheduling regular visits and annual mammograms with their healthcare provider, adhering to prescribed treatment, and knowing the facts about recurrence. (Website: [http://www.nbcam.org/about\\_nbcam.cfm](http://www.nbcam.org/about_nbcam.cfm)). Give thanks to the Lord for many who became Christians during the adversity of discovering they have cancer. Please pray that cancer patients will all meet and follow Jesus.

### Prayer focus on China: Day 1 - Overview of religion in China

The beliefs of the Chinese and many minorities are a blend of folk religions, Daoism and Buddhism. In 2001 the statistical overview of the Chinese people showed the following: Irreligious/other, 49.58%, Chinese beliefs, 28.50%, Buddhist, 8.38%, Christian, 7.25%, Ethnic religions, 4.29% and Muslim, 2%. Accurate Christian statistics are not available. Those listed here are only indicative of the remarkable work of the Holy Spirit. Give thanks to the

Lord for what He is doing in China and for the steady growth of the Church. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: [info@gmi.org](mailto:info@gmi.org)).

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Friday 2 October 2009

**Economic focus: SA companies are doing well**

Seventeen South African companies have been included in the annual world's top 2000 quoted companies, compiled by US publisher *Forbes*. One company was placed at number 223, up from 522 last year, an improvement that showed South African companies are now among the major role-players in the global corporate sector. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/features/1645164.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers to prosper the economy. Ask that these companies will be able to keep their employees despite difficulties the world economy faces.

**Prayer focus on China: Day 2 - What is happening in the Church?**

The growth of the Church in China since 1977 has no parallels in history. Now the fruitfulness of Christian radio is clear. The 'One Child' policy has deeply impacted family life, shown in: A higher divorce rate, 10 million abortions a year (nearly all girls), suicide (40% of the world's suicides occur in China). In 2000 there were 90 million marriageable unmarried men; in some areas young men outnumber young women by 30-40%. Pray for family stability and health. Pray also for wise policies to be implemented that will stabilise the population. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: [info@gmi.org](mailto:info@gmi.org)).

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Saturday 3 October 2009

**Prayer focus on China: Day 3 – Persecution remains a reality**

Since 1996 the level of persecution has increased on house churches not willing to register with the TSPM (government institution). Arrests (hundreds in 1999), heavy fines, forcible closures and destruction of church buildings (200 in 1997) have increased in some key areas. Pray for the continued commitment of Believers to preach Christ and Him crucified, whatever the cost and without compromise. Another challenge is the widespread lack of Bibles, teaching materials and leaders knowing the Bible well. Pray for many godly men and women to be raised up. (Website: <http://www.operationworld.org> or e-mail: [info@gmi.org](mailto:info@gmi.org)).

**Israel focus: Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), 3-9 October**

This festival commemorates the Jews wandering in the wilderness after their Exodus from the hands of the Egyptians, when they had to dwell in makeshift booths or huts (**Lev.23-24**). Messianic Jews (Jews who believe that Jesus, (Yeshua for them), is the Messiah) understand that the *Feast of Tabernacles* teaches that when Messiah Jesus returns, a new kingdom will be established with Him as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Rev.19:11-16; 20:4; Lev.23:39-43; Matt.17:1-4; Heb.11:8-9**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/resources/calendar.htm>). Pray for Jewish people to have a revelation of Jesus as the Messiah who has already come. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: <http://www.cfijerusalem.org/> or e-mail: [allwiese@lantic.net](mailto:allwiese@lantic.net)).

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Sunday 4 October 2009

**Issues of the heart: Watch out what you do and how you do it**

In **Ezekiel 16:30** God speaks to all of Jerusalem saying: *See how degenerate is your heart*. In the preceding verses Ezekiel speaks about the people of Jerusalem worshipping other gods, building altars for them and even killing their own children by sacrificing them to other gods. The further away we live from God, the more degenerate our hearts become. When, during the week, we do business in such a way that people would not see any difference between our business dealings and that of a non-Christian, there is something wrong. When we cheat 'just a little' on our spouse and see it as 'only a joke', then we serve immorality and not purity. When we take or pay money that was not worked for or earned, we serve injustice and treachery, the opposite of righteousness and justice. Fear is a form of unbelief, not trusting that God will take care of a situation. God has not given us a

spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind (**2 Tim.1:7**). Ask the Lord to show you the other gods you serve in your life, and begin to wilfully remove them from your life.

*Father, I confess that some of these things are a reality in my life. Forgive me for making things out to be 'not all that serious or important', while they are of great importance to You. This week, please show me the idols in my life. Help me fully understand how You feel about these discrepancies. Lord deliver me from evil in my life, show me the right way, and help me mend my ways.*

**Abortion focus: *International Life Chain Sunday***

Today Christians observe *International Life Chain Sunday* by taking a public stand for the right to life for pre-born babies. (For more information, visit: [www.christianaction.org.za/courses-events/lifechain.htm](http://www.christianaction.org.za/courses-events/lifechain.htm)). (Website: <http://www.lifechain.net>). Pray for mothers to reconsider their decision to have an abortion. Let us continue to pray that the laws supporting abortion on demand will be changed in South Africa.