

## **But God**

Dear Intercessors

This promises to be a full year. We are seeing an increase in prayer, not only across the country, but also world-wide. May God continue to pour out His Spirit of prayer and supplication on our country. There is no alternative but to seek the face of the Lord for our country and the world. The answers remain with Him and Him alone. The situation is becoming more complex daily, yet God remains in control.

### **Peter on the water (Mt.14:22-33)**

Read this passage again where Peter walked on the water in response to Jesus' invitation. What I find interesting is that it was just as Peter came up **close** to the Lord Jesus that he began to doubt. How often we find this in our own lives! It is when we come closest to Him that we fall prey to doubt. Suddenly we become unsure about certain things. We wonder if He is really there. Could it be His will not to grant what we ask? Does asking really make any difference at all? These past two months I have had to decide for myself once more: I am going to believe Scripture and the promises of God. Many people doubt and have different reasons for doing so. To believe the Word of God remains a step of faith. It is a choice you have to make: whether you will believe or not. I have decided once again to continue believing. For 2000 years the New Testament church believed. For 4000 years before that, Believers in the Old Testament believed God. I am willing to put my life on the line on the basis of the Word. Can I encourage you to become quiet before the Lord and ask Him to show you if you still really believe? This is a matter that can only be resolved between you and God.

### **Global Day of Prayer and the 10 Days of night-and-day prayer: 1-11 May 2008**

The *Global Day of Prayer* on Pentecost Sunday continues to grow in both depth and the number of countries taking part. It is good to see how many countries are taking to the idea of praying night-and-day for 10 days prior to Pentecost Sunday. People are becoming desperate to seek God's face. The church is beginning to understand more and more that only prayer will carry us through. May I encourage you to become part of a prayer group or a prayer event on May 11<sup>th</sup>? Join in with the *10 Days* night-and-day prayer initiative of your congregation. If such an event is not being planned, consider speaking to your pastor about the possibility of becoming involved. Contact *Transformation Africa* for posters, *10 Days* prayer calendars etc. to help you mobilise your congregation and community to pray together. Last year people in South Africa took part in the *10 Days* at 3,600 venues. This year we expect the numbers to increase.

### **90 Days of community outreach: 12 May-9 August 2008**

For three months after the *Global Day of Prayer*, we encourage individuals, groups and congregations to reach out to their communities. The purpose is to address the felt needs of people. As a church we have to take the love of Christ to people in the world in practical ways with unconditional love and in every possible way He shows us. We need to tell people that God counts them worthy and loves them unconditionally and to address and provide for their physical and spiritual needs.

### **Prayer initiatives for South Africa: 2008-2010**

*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, *Transformation Africa* and several regional prayer networks are working together to implement an intensive 'prayer plan' on how to pray for our country. The upcoming elections, the current electricity shortages, the Soccer World Cup in 2010 and social challenges

call for prayer. The church is powerless in many areas and does not take up its commission to bring the gospel to the nations. These are the things we want to focus on in prayer for the next three years.

The strategy also encourages and tries to involve any school, local congregation, prison, police station, university or groups of men and women to stand before the throne of God to pray together. More information on this strategy is available from the websites of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* ([www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com)) or *Transformation Africa* ([www.transformationafrica.com](http://www.transformationafrica.com)). Let us encourage as many people, congregations, schools etc. to take part in this initiative. Also see the insert in this prayer guide for more information or contact us at the *Jericho Walls* office (e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)) for an electronic copy.

### **New prayer initiatives**

It is very interesting to see how many new prayer initiatives have evolved in the country over the past few months. In Pretoria a group of six men started praying together in January 2007. Now, on a Tuesday morning, 200-250 men attend this meeting and it is starting to spread to other towns. A group of young people in Cape Town started an SMS-watch, which means they keep in contact on a daily basis and pass information on to the next person. There are now similar groups at Tukkies (University of Pretoria) and also in Johannesburg. Some time ago a large group of Believers started praying at the chambers of the mayor in Cape Town once a month. This same group went to pray in Parliament the day before the opening in February. In Centurion a large group of Believers across denominations and a number of organisations came together at the beginning of January to pray for the country. It was a very special occasion. And there are many more examples. Let us then pray as the Lord leads us and let us continue to encourage people to pray with all kinds of prayers (**Eph.6:18**).

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

Eph.3:20

## **Articles**

## **Quotes**

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- Prayer will promote our personal holiness as nothing else, except the study of the Word of God. - R.A. Torrey
- The true spirit of prayer is no other than God's own Spirit dwelling in the hearts of the saints. And as this spirit comes from God, so doth it naturally tend to God in holy breathings and pantings. - Jonathan Edwards
- When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves. - A.W. Tozer
- He who is too busy to pray will be too busy to live a holy life. Satan had rather we let the grass grow on the path to our prayer chamber than anything else. - E.M. Bounds
- Prevailing prayer requires a tender, compassionate heart, a deep solicitude for the glory of God and the good of His people. Nehemiah wept and mourned. - Arthur Wallis
- I am perfectly confident that the man who does not spend hours alone with God will never know the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The world must be left outside until God alone fills the vision...God has promised to answer prayer. It is not that He is unwilling, for the fact is, He is more willing to give than we are to receive. But the trouble is, we are not ready... - Oswald J. Smith

- Any church may have a mighty man of God for its pastor, if it is willing to pay the price and that price is not a big salary but great praying. - R.A. Torrey
- You may as soon find a living man that does not breathe, as a living Christian that does not pray. For this shall every one that is godly pray. If prayerless, then graceless. - Matthew Henry, commenting on Matthew 6:5.
- The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Prayer is striking the winning blow. Service is gathering up the results. - S.D. Gordon

## What, where and when

### International

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#### **1-10 May 2008: 10 Days of night-and-day prayer**

Christians from all over the world are invited to pray night-and-day for 10 days, midnight to midnight, from 1<sup>st</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> May. For practical tips on how to spend time in prayer, visit [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com) for announcements on the *Global Day of Prayer* event and to download a prayer booklet for these *10 Days*.

#### **11 May 2008: Global Day of Prayer**

Millions of Christians all over the world and hopefully from each of the ±220 countries of the world will have times of prayer for revival in their nations and for the salvation of the unsaved of the world. This year, there is a greater focus on encouraging whole congregations everywhere to adopt a lifestyle of prayer by praying 24 hours one day a week, or at least once a month. Visit [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com) for announcements on the *Global Day of Prayer* event this year as well as for 2009 and 2010.

#### **7-8 June 2008: World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk**

This year's *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk* takes place on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June. Christians around the world are preparing to intercede together that God will give them His heart and compassion for children and answers to their prayers. For resources and information on the initiative, contact [pray@viva.org](mailto:pray@viva.org) or visit [www.viva.org/pray](http://www.viva.org/pray).

## What, where and when

### National

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#### **8-13 April 2008: He's Alive performance**

*Passion Play Ministries* of Cape Town will be putting on their annual performance of *He's Alive* at the *Bellville Civic Centre*. They are an interdenominational ministry that focuses on inreach, as well as outreach and this year marks their 11<sup>th</sup> performance. For further information please contact Bronwyne Scott, cell: 084 769 7350 or David de Villiers, cell: 072 585 2913. *Passion Play Cape Town*, P.O. Box 1026, Milnerton, 7435. Website address: [www.passionplay.org.za](http://www.passionplay.org.za) or e-mail: [info@passionplay.org.za](mailto:info@passionplay.org.za)

#### **10-12 April 2008: International Marketplace Summit**

*ITN Africa* will be hosting an *International Marketplace Summit* in Cape Town from 10<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Somerset West. Delegates from across the globe are expected this year. Also see this as an invitation to you. Ed Siloso will be the main speaker. To all the marketplace and pulpit ministers out there – this will

surely be one of your 'must attend' events for 2008! *The ITN Africa Team*, tel.: 021 856 2769, fax: 021 856 1174. Website: <http://www.itnafrica.com/> or e-mail: [info@itnafrica.com](mailto:info@itnafrica.com)

### **18-20 April 2008: *Mighty Men's Conference***

The *Mighty Men's Conference* will be held on *Shalom Farm* from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April 2008. About 23,000 to 30,000 men are expected from all over the world. The largest tent ever built has now been secured. Camping areas are being prepared to alleviate traffic congestion. The farm almost burst at the seams with 7,400 men attending the conference in April 2007! *Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown, 3250. Tel.: 033 417 1695, fax: 033 417 1425 and e-mail: [shalom@futuregtn.co.za](mailto:shalom@futuregtn.co.za)

### **12 April 2008: Opportunity for parents in the Western Cape**

The *Children's Prayer Network* is hosting a regional training event in Bellville on 12 April. Parents and teachers are invited to attend and be equipped to help their children pray. Young children can actively engage in prayer, even beyond the limits of their understanding. They just need to be pointed in the right direction. Come and get workable ideas and practical inspiration in this one-day workshop. For registration contact Rudi on tel.: 021 949 1909, cell: 083 462 1595 or e-mail: [nagels@fountainfortress.za.net](mailto:nagels@fountainfortress.za.net)

### **19 April 2008: *Precept Ministries Conference for teens***

*Precept Ministries* is a ministry that has been raised up by God to equip people for a study of His Word. Part of *Precept Ministries* mission is *The Call*, a teen conference to equip this generation by studying God's Word. Through a study of Luke, teens will discover Jesus' call to follow Him and all that being a true disciple entails. The conference will be held at *Precept Ministries* on 19 April from 9am – 4pm. *Precept Ministries S.A.*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836, website: <http://www.precept.org.za/> or e-mail: [info@precept.org.za](mailto:info@precept.org.za)

### **7-8 June 2008: *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk***

This year's *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk* takes place on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June. Christians around the world prepare to intercede together that God will give them His heart and compassion for children and answers to their prayers. Consider hosting a mini event during the church service or during children's church, or host a longer event on Saturday. You can even consider convening a citywide event, or just get together with a few friends to pray. For resources and information on the initiative, contact [pray@viva.org](mailto:pray@viva.org) or see [www.viva.org/pray](http://www.viva.org/pray) or Gerhard Botha at tel.: 016 423 5972 or [pray@mweb.co.za](mailto:pray@mweb.co.za).

## **!! Breakthroughs!!**

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### **The tide is really beginning to turn!**

Christians often wonder if anything at all really happens when they tirelessly pray for crime and violence to cease. Yet, over the past few months, many testimonies have been heard of how criminals were caught or were foiled completely in their evil schemes. This is a sure sign that God is beginning to turn the tide. The following is a true story, but it would never make the local newspaper! Still, it testifies of righteousness and justice thwarting wickedness! Someone living in Pretoria sent us the following testimony:

Over a period of two days I saw three things happen right in front of my eyes. This made me realise that we do not pray and petition the Living God in vain for mercy, deliverance and the salvation of our nation.

One Saturday night on my way home from a restaurant, I saw three different attempted robberies that obviously went wrong and failed. Two people were making a getaway in a stolen car. In their effort to get away, something went wrong and the car went straight into a nearby bridge. Just 2 km further on, I saw another scene where people were fleeing in a stolen car, driving against the traffic on the highway, only to crash into a tree. No one was injured and the robbers did not manage to get away.

A week later a friend and I were having lunch in an open square café. A mutual friend saw us, came over and spent a while with us, chatting and testifying to God's goodness and provision and leadership in our daily lives. The next morning he let us know that an attempted robbery had taken place in the area where we were sitting the previous day, but when the robber ran past the very table where we had sat, without explanation, his gun fell from his hands and he couldn't go through with the robbery! I now know that God is at work and if we look closely, we will see miracles happening around us every day. I can only agree with **Isaiah 63:7**: *I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.*

### **Impact Radio is back on the air**

The Council of the Authority, *Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)*, have advised *Impact Radio* that they have granted them their permanent community sound broadcasting license and have assigned them the 103MHz frequency to continue conducting a community sound broadcasting service in the area of Pretoria and its surrounding areas. *Impact Radio* is extremely grateful that this matter has been resolved after years (since March 1998)! We would also like to thank you for your prayers and support during this time. (*Impact Radio*, P.O. Box 33626, Glenstantia, Pretoria, 0010. Tel.: 012 348 8111, fax: 012 348 2335. Website: [www.impactradio.co.za](http://www.impactradio.co.za) or e-mail: [radio@impactradio.co.za](mailto:radio@impactradio.co.za)).

### **Ebola under control in Uganda**

No more cases of Ebola: Bundibugyo, Bwisi District, Uganda. In December, many prayed for an end to this terrible outbreak. Thank you for praying. As of mid-January there are no cases of Ebola being monitored in any of the local clinics and the isolation units have been shut down. (Source: *Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, February 4-10, 2008).

### **Christian gospel singer released after two years**

Eritrean gospel singer, Helen Berhane, who was released from prison in November 2006 after being detained in Eritrea for two years without charge, has been granted asylum in Denmark. Berhane and her daughter arrived in Denmark, after spending 11 months in Sudan. Her health remains extremely poor, due to the physical suffering she experienced during her detention. She cannot walk without assistance. During Berhane's detention, she was held for extended periods of time in shipping containers and tortured several times by authorities in an effort to force her to recant her faith. Thank God that Berhane has found a safe place to live. Praise Him for her faithfulness. Pray for God's continued protection and provision for her. Ask Him to give her direction and wisdom, so that she can continue serving Him. (VOM Sources).

## **Kenyan children pray for their country and it is pouring with rain!**

Inside the church, it is wall-to-wall children and their innocent prayers fill the air. "Father, our country is in trouble. We pray for peace to come," an 11-year-old boy prays. "Protect us, Father. Teach people to love one another and not to fight anymore." For two weeks, children in this small slum area have gathered to pray for their country. The pastor of the church says the children started gathering on their own, so he let them into the church. The daily prayer meeting now attracts more than 200 children ranging in age from 3-17. Ever since the children started praying together, the pastor says there have been no deaths, houses burned or even violence in their section of this slum. Adults recite this fact in amazement. The children, however, don't even mention it because it's exactly what they expected to happen. "Pastor told us that there is power in prayer. He said we can change the country through prayer," 12-year-old Boniface explains. "So that is what we are doing, changing the country." Sprenkle comments: "I'm amazed at the depth of understanding these children have of the issues surrounding the Kenya post-election chaos". "When it's time for the 'babies' to pray, a fearless four-year-old clasps his hands and closes his eyes so tight that his entire face scrunches up. "God, people die," he says in prayer. "Please do not let anyone die in front of my house." As the meeting closes the church buzzes with tiny voices and bottled-up energy gushes out freely. Laughing and holding hands, the children rush into the rain and head home. It is dry season but the rain is pouring down. The children had prayed against a three-day countrywide protest called by the opposition party. They asked God to take control and keep people from dying. Because of the sudden rains, the turnout for the protest was much smaller than expected. While there was still a lot of property damage, it was much less than predicted. Death tolls for the week were the lowest since the incidents started. "See," seven-year-old Natasha whistles through the gap of her missing two front teeth. "God answers prayers." (ASSIST News Service (ANS), P.O. Box 609, Lake Forest, CA 92609-0609 USA. Website: [www.assistnews.net](http://www.assistnews.net) or <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2008/s08010224.htm> or e-mail: [assistnews@aol.com](mailto:assistnews@aol.com)).

## **Did you know?**

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### **The world's tiniest Bible**

Israeli scientists created the world's smallest Bible, fitting a Hebrew-language version of the holy book on a gold-coated silicon chip smaller than a pinhead. Researchers from *Technion*, Israel's *Institute of Technology*, were able to pack the 308,428-word Hebrew Bible - known to most as the Old Testament - on a 0,5 millimetre square. The closest match in size to this is 50 times bigger! (Website: [http://www.ioltechnology.co.za/article\\_page.php?iArticleId=4178819](http://www.ioltechnology.co.za/article_page.php?iArticleId=4178819)).

### **55 Million people have portions of Scripture**

Newly released statistics from *Wycliffe Bible Translators* confirm that for the first time, 55 million people have portions of Scripture in their own language. However, 193 million people world-wide, representing 2,251 languages, still have no access to the Bible in their heart language. An average of 74 Bible translation projects have been started every year, after the first 25 in the 1990's. (ASSIST NEWS SERVICE, 28/11/07. Website: [www.assistnews.net](http://www.assistnews.net)).

### **Warlord and witch doctor saved**

Since recently confessing to past war crimes, former Liberian rebel warlord Milton Blahyi is making headlines around the world. The utter brutality of those crimes, obviously fuelled by demonic impulses, is blood curdling: child sacrifices, satanic ceremonial rituals, mass murders (20,000 people) and bizarre military manifestations. What is hidden within the sensationalism of the reporting is the fact that Blahyi got

saved, became a preacher and believes that confession is vital and that other rebels need to come out of hiding, step forward and confess their crimes. He also says he deserves whatever punishment Liberia's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)* deems appropriate, even if it is death. He is now often seen preaching on street corners and in churches in Monrovia. (Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7200101.stm>).

### UK prayer survey

A 2007 survey by *Tearfund* found that 42% of British adults (20 million) pray and 9 million of them pray every day. One in three persons believe that God is watching over them and will answer their prayers. About 12 million said that prayer could change the lives of friends, families or themselves and 1 in 5 thought it could change the world. Among church-goers, 6 out of 10 pray every day. A survey earlier in the year revealed that 7.6 million adults attended church at least once a month. (News Bytes, 16/01/08, e-mail: [newsbytes@yahoo.com](mailto:newsbytes@yahoo.com)).

### What's online

<a href="http://www.ethne.net/membercare/updates">http://www.ethne.net/membercare/updates</a>	<i>Ethnê-Member Care-Updates</i> is a monthly report containing important resources regarding member care (caring for missionaries in the field), plus relevant materials from the international humanitarian, business and health fields.
<a href="http://www.laridian.com/">http://www.laridian.com/</a>	<i>Laridian</i> is home to affordable Bible software for your <i>Pocket PC</i> . <i>PocketBible 3</i> is best-selling Bible software for <i>Windows Mobile-based Pocket PC</i> devices. New add-ons for <i>PocketBible 3</i> include e.g. Bible maps , Dake Study Bible Notes, The Works of Josephus (for free) etc.
<a href="http://www.jwipn.com/pdf/Seek%20My%20Face%20-%20children%20A4.pdf">http://www.jwipn.com/pdf/Seek%20My%20Face%20-%20children%20A4.pdf</a>	<i>Talking to God</i> for children is an exciting way to teach children between 6 and 10 years to pray! Children can use it on their own during their prayer time. If you are a parent, would you please give the prayer guide (article to download) to your child and let us know at <a href="mailto:pray@jwipn.com">pray@jwipn.com</a> how they experienced it?