

Jericho Walls Prayer Guide ARTICLES - February / March 2008

But God

Christians must be willing to suffer wrong

This is quite a difficult truth: to suffer wrong. In **2 Timothy 2:24** it says that a servant of the Lord – and we all are servants of God – must be able to suffer wrong (Ampl.). It is an uncomfortable word. It does not suit us. We wish it would rather not be in the Bible. We rationalise it. We defend ourselves. We try to explain why we feel the way we do. Still the fact remains: We must be willing to suffer wrong.

Why do we resist it? Because we have not completely died to ourselves. Because we continue to stand on our right to feel wronged. Because there are still things in our lives which we do not want to give up – there are things in our lives that we should be dead to – our rights, our good name, the recognition of people, the need for them to thank us, our will, our ambitions, our dreams and many more. The problem is that God Himself allows situations in which we feel wronged, with the purpose of showing us what is going on deep in our hearts. These things are actually hindering the working of the Holy Spirit of God in our hearts.

The moment that we are wronged, we like to 'put the facts on the table'. Who must confess what; where did it all begin, etc.? We ask questions like: Why didn't you ask me if you could do it? Who is responsible for this situation? It is *never* the solution to start here. This is how the world tackles problems and it is also the example the church follows more often than not. Yet, it does not solve the problem. Yes, sometimes it helps for a while, but then the same problem will present itself again, just in another mould. If there are any 'rights' that I hold on to, and that I will not let go of, feelings of being wronged will always come back to me. This is simply the normal course of life. We are imperfect and do things wrong, and people wrong us, and the same emotions surface again.

So what can we do? Begin by asking the Lord to show you what He sees in your heart. Ask Him to show you your own sin, so you may also reach a point where you cannot but say: I am the greatest of all sinners (**1Tim.1:15**). It is at this point that the sins of others become so small and irrelevant that they no longer matter. Our problem today is that we no longer see our own sin and wrongdoings, but only that of others.

It is only when in brokenness I see my own sin that I can – in brokenness – confess my sin before a brother or sister. After this I can point to things in his/her life that are wrong. An attitude of brokenness will seldom trigger resistance in the other person. This is the way we should follow in times of difficulty and stress. Not necessarily in an *open discussion*. Open discussions, where everyone pours out their hearts and 'everything' is brought into the light without a deep awareness of personal sin and brokenness, seldom lead to permanent reconciliation, although these discussions might, for a while, soothe the emotions surrounding the specific issue. Often only more things are said that hurt people and then this is remembered for years afterwards. The beginning of true and permanent reconciliation is in deep personal brokenness and an understanding of the necessity of God's grace for ourselves. We are usually aware of and thankful for the grace we receive from God in our lives, but are not always so willing to show the same grace towards others. We forget that we ourselves live from the same grace, because we are full of self-righteousness and pride.

Love covers a multitude of sins – for many of us it is wonderful when the love of others covers *our* sin, but we are not as quick and willing to cover the sin and transgressions of others against us. What testimony do we then have? May I make a statement? We either do not really believe that the Bible is the Word of God, or we are not really Christians. The Word is the plumb line. Nothing else. Our message to show grace (to give to someone what he/she does not deserve), to be merciful (not to give someone what he/she deserves), to love unconditionally, to literally forgive seventy times seven every day, not three or four times only (even if it is the same person), to go the extra mile.

The question is: *Do we live a life worthy of Him?* What unworthy lives we live! How often our words disqualify what we think and what we do and say? Sin, unbrokenness, self-righteousness, self-will, pride, taking offence and feeling wronged disqualify us to testify, to preach, to speak with others about their sin and wrongdoings. These things distance us from God. To lose our connection with God is much worse than sin or the devil or the way we are treated by others.

How deep does our Christianity really go? How holy are we really? How much of Jesus is really visible in us? What did Jesus do when He was wronged, suffered wrong, when He was scorned and rejected? He said: I love you so much that I want to die for you. Then He DID die for us. He did not defend Himself, He continued to love, forgive and finally He laid down His life for us.

What does this have to do with prayer?

It has everything to do with prayer. We have to pray from a pure heart. The Word is clear about this. When I have sin in my heart against someone else, God does not hear me (**Is.59:1-2; Ps.66:18; Pr.28:13**). When I feel wronged, there are always negative emotions, followed by bitterness, self-pity and often hatred, wrath, recompense, criticism, rejection of the other person, and self-defence. We cannot pray from such a heart. Let us search our hearts at this time. Let us confess and make things right with God, so that we can pray. **1 John 4:20-21** says: *If someone says, "I love God", and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also (NKJ)*. This commandment we received from God: He who loves God must also love his brother.

Let us stand before God

Let us stand before God and pray for ourselves and the people around us, and to the ends of the earth. Let us pray with new faith. God is active in His world. The fact that we cannot see everything He is doing, does not mean that He is not busy doing something. Take your position before God. Listen to what He says. Read the Word, underline God's promises, and pray them – night and day. Pray His promises with faith. Get yourself a journal. Write down what you hear from God and also write down His promises. And pray them. It pleases God when we come to Him in faith (**Heb.11:6**). Come freely. He is a merciful God. His throne is a throne of grace.

24/7 prayer

We continue to see an incredible increase in the number of congregations and communities that are starting to pray night and day. In South Africa there are already more than 4,600 congregations and prayer rooms where people have started to pray 24 hours per day, or that are growing towards covering 24 hours a day. Every month at least 250 new congregations are added to this number. The same is happening in Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, North Africa, the rest of the Middle East and in a great number of countries in the world. Therefore, in the next three months we will focus specifically on praying about this.

South Africa consists of about 650 cities and towns. In at least 415 of these cities and towns there is at least one congregation that has made an effort to mobilise people to establish a 24-7 prayer watch. Let us also pray for a breakthrough in the remaining 235 towns. Let us pray for a prayer watch in at least 200 of the 230 prisons in South Africa. In many prisons and an increasing number of police stations there are now prayer rooms where prisoners and policemen have started with 24-7 prayer watches. Persevere in prayer.

Global Day of Prayer and the 10 Days of prayer

The *10 Days* of night-and-day prayer will take place this year from 1-10 May 2008. We call on people across the country to encourage as many congregations as possible to pray night and day for the whole 10 days. In some places different congregations come together to cover the full 240 hours in prayer. Last year there were 3,600 such places in the country. This year we trust that God, through His Spirit, will establish more than 6,000 such places.

You can also mobilise schools to take one or more of these days to pray. Continue to encourage people to come together at a convenient place in their community on May 11th, on the *Global Day of Prayer*. Last year people across South Africa gathered in 850 places to pray on Pentecost Sunday.

Bennie Mostert
Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network
Eph.3:20

Quotes

"...I learned as never before that persistent calling upon the Lord breaks through every stronghold of the devil, for nothing is impossible with God. For Christians in these troubled times, there is simply no other way." - Jim Cymbala

"Every preacher who does not make prayer a mighty factor in his own life and ministry is weak as a factor in God's work and is powerless to project God's cause in this world." - E. M. Bounds

"The ministry of prayer, if it be anything worthy of the name, is a ministry of ardour, a ministry of unwearied and intense longing after God and after his holiness."
- E. M. Bounds

"Prayer must be aflame. Its ardour must consume. Prayer without fervour is as a sun without light or heat, or as a flower without beauty or fragrance. A soul devoted to God is a fervent soul and prayer is the creature of that flame. He only can truly pray who is all aglow for holiness, for God and for heaven." - E. M. Bounds

"No man can do a great and enduring work for God who is not a man of prayer and no man can be a man of prayer who does not give much time to praying."
- E. M. Bounds

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer." - John Wesley

"Our true character comes out in the way we pray." - Oswald Chambers

"Prayer imparts the power to walk and not faint." - Oswald Chambers

"Prayer is not getting things from God, that is the most initial stage; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God." - Oswald Chambers

"O believing brethren! What an instrument is this which God hath put into your hands! Prayer moves Him that moves the universe." - Robert Murray McCheyne

"No man - I don't care how colossal his intellect - no man is greater than his prayer life." - Leonard Ravenhill

"To stand before men on behalf of God is one thing. To stand before God on behalf of men is something entirely different." - Leonard Ravenhill

"The greatest answer to prayer is that I am brought into a perfect understanding with God and that alters my view of actual things." - Oswald Chambers

"The prayer that sparks revival begins long before the countryside seems to awaken from its slumber in sin. It starts when men fall on their knees and cry out to God. That's where true intimacy with God takes place and

we begin the journey of being transformed into the image of Christ. And as men are transformed, the course of a nation can be changed." - Wellington Boone

PRAYER INITIATIVE FEEDBACK: Ramadan prayer outreach

During the month of Ramadan, a group of 124 intercessors from a developing nation set up a prayer watch in one of the countries of the Middle East. The task was to raise a 24/7 watch and to fill the land with prayer. The intercessors were divided into 4 teams, forming a relay-prayer group, each taking responsibility for an 8/10-day period. A youth and children prayer team, aged 9-17, also formed part of the initiative as a 5th team during their school holiday.

The 24/7 watch was formed by dividing the day into 4 quarts. The first quart being from 6 am until 12 noon, focused on the Church in the Middle East. The second quart from 12 noon until 6 pm, focused on the Middle East and its inhabitants. The third quart from 6 pm until midnight focused on worship and proclamation of the Names of God. During the last quart of the day, from midnight to 6 am, the focus was on reading the Psalms and the Book of Revelation aloud. Every intercessor took responsibility for at least 2 hours per day, in two of the different focus areas. Two hours per day were dedicated to corporate worship and intercession and another hour to debriefing and corporate fellowship.

Eighty percent or more of the participants were first-time intercessors, ordinary church-folk. Some had never before spent an hour in prayer, while others had never before heard God speak to them personally. Many testified how their lives changed as they encountered a very personal God, who wants to use them to accomplish His Kingdom purposes. Their hearts were broken as they realised what it means to be lost without the knowledge of Jesus as Saviour. Spontaneously they donated large amounts of money to help Believers to receive training and discipleship, to buy Bibles and to ease the burden of living in a country where Christians are second-class citizens.

Small teams traversed the country from north-to-south and east-to-west, praying in the cities, at the borders, at the entrances of the country and at many other strategic places. Together they experienced the fatigue of long hours on dangerous roads, packed with pedestrians, donkeys, motor cars, bicycles, goats and numerous other obstacles. They experienced the discomfort of unhygienic facilities, unavailability of food during the hours of the Ramadan fast and sleepless nights because of the constant calls for prayer from the mosques.

Many testify that they now understand for the first time what Jesus meant when He told us to "Go!" They heard God speak, they saw Him at work, they became eyewitnesses. May their testimonies echo through the heavens and overcome the work of the enemy. May they themselves become grains of seed that will fall into the ground so that they can bear fruit that will last for eternity!

What, where and when INTERNATIONAL

29th February 2008 – 2nd March 2008: SHOCKWAVE

During the first weekend of March there is an event called *SHOCKWAVE*, which is an opportunity for young people to come together all over the world and call out to God and intercede for the *Persecuted Church*. It is organised by *Open Doors*. This weekend, over 30 nations will unite in prayer to support persecuted Christians. People are invited to organise a youth event for the *Persecuted Church* and take part in *SHOCKWAVE 08*. Young people can pray for 10 minutes, 30 minutes or more. For more information, visit their website: <http://www.odshockwave.org/pages/whatisit>

29th – 30th March 2008 - Just Pray NO! Ltd. World-wide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting

The weekend of March 29th - 30th 2008 has been designated as the 18th Annual *Just Pray NO!* to drugs *World-wide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting*. Since 1991 *Just Pray NO! Ltd.* has sought to unite Christians from

around the world in intercessory prayer on behalf of the addicted and their families. Substance abuse has been directly linked to violence and sexual immorality and is a major source of income for organised crime and terrorist activities. Let us also join in prayer with people from other countries and pray, not only for the release of those bound by substance abuse but also for people to be delivered from pornography, gambling and obesity. Churches, ministries and community organisations can actively participate in the 18th Annual *Just Pray NO! World-wide Weekend of Prayer* event by organising concerts of prayer, sermons and Bible studies concerning substance abuse, church outreaches to the addicted, support of existing substance prevention and rehabilitation programs or by establishing a support group at their church. For more information, visit: <http://www.justprayno.org/>

What, where and when

NATIONAL

14-16 February 2008: Missions Fest™ in Gauteng

Missions Fest™ is a city-wide missions conference planned and organised exclusively by local churches of different denominations. The goal of *Missions Fest™* is to provide information on mission needs and opportunities, both locally and globally, to celebrate what God is currently doing through His people and to challenge people of all ages to get involved in the Great Commission by going, sending, praying and giving. To attend this event in Pretoria, contact: Gerald Golbeck, Facilitator - *Missions Fest™* Gauteng. Tel.: 012-321 9964, cell: 083 525 3711, fax: 086 604 1405. Websites: www.missionsfest.info and www.missionsfestvancouver.ca or e-mail: mfest@metmissions.org.za

15-17 February 2008: Pray40 initiative

From 19:00 on 15 February 2008 through to 11:00 on 17 February 2008 at the *Partnership Training* venue in Pretoria, *Interdev Partnership Associates Forum* and *MANI*, *Pray40* invites Believers to seek God with them, praying for 40 hours to ignite a fire across Africa for peoples joining together to glorify God among all peoples! They will share challenging updates on the remaining 6,000 unreached people groups in all 12 regions of the world. If you are interested in participating or would care to recommend participants, please contact the facilitation team at asianrd@sr21.com or ssnet@iafrica.com or Norman Johnson at tel. 012-460 7877, cell: 083 301 6290 or Ena Erasmus at tel.: 011-396 1225.

18-22 February 2008: MANI Southern Africa Consultation

The *MANI Southern Africa 2008 Consultation* will be held in Johannesburg on 18-22 February. This event will draw together 300 high-level leaders in delegations from 13 Southern African and Portuguese-speaking nations along with continental and global leaders. They will strategise on how to mobilise the Body of Christ to reach least-evangelised communities and their nations, and to send Africans in mission to the world. For more information, contact Dr Dean Carlson, e-mail: DeanCarlson@oci.org and cell: 082 806 2000

March 2008: Shalom Ministries

Angus Buchan of the film *Faith like potatoes*, will be a speaker at the following events during March:

March 1: George

March 8-9: *Men's Conference* in Nelspruit

For more information, contact: *Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown 3250. Tel.: 033-417 1695, fax: 033-417 1425, e-mail: shalom@futuregtn.co.za

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. This year will be their 11th performance. For more information please contact Bronwyne Scott, cell: 084 769 7350 or David de Villiers, cell: 072 585 2913. Website: www.passionplay.org.za

18-20 April 2008: "Mighty Men's" Conference

The *Mighty Men's Conference* will be held at Shalom from the 18th – 20th April 2008. About 23,000 to 30,000 men are expected from all over the world. A very successful conference took place last year with 7,400 men participating. To register, do not delay to contact: *Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown 3250. Tel.: 033-417 1695, fax: 033-417 1425, e-mail: shalom@futuregtn.co.za

Creative Retirement ... a New Beginning!

Aletia Nortje & Lina du Plessis - Workshop presented in collaboration with GREYPOWER TURN YOUR TALENTS INTO A PROFITABLE HOBBY, PROJECT OR SMALL BUSINESS. In Pretoria at eat@essence, Spesbona Street, Moreleta Park, from 8 am to 5 pm. FEE: R400 per person (including lunch, testing material & notes) 2008 - 1 February, 4 March, 3 May, 5 July, 3 August, 5 September, 1 October.

WORKSHOP CONTENT: Rediscover your talents, abilities and Spiritual gifts; Identify your personality type's strengths as well as communication- and conflict management preferences with the MBTI (Myers Briggs Type Personality Indicator); Entrepreneurship - learn the skills to start a small business or project; Learn why some projects are sustainable and others not; be inspired by the over 50's who have successfully started a new business or project! For more information and bookings Aletia Nortje 084 783 1308 / 012 997 1025.

DID YOU KNOW?

Las Vegas

Las Vegas is known around the world as 'Sin City', but one weekend in October 2007, thousands of Believers gathered there to cry out for a spiritual revival. The *City of Lights* draws millions of thrill seekers each year, but in another part of town a cry goes out – not for a show or a rock concert – but a cry for Christian leaders. There's something about seeing this many people just worshipping with all their hearts. (Website: <http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/255044.aspx> or <http://www.thecall.com/>).

JESUS Film testimony from Peru

Two missionaries to Peru share that, on their way back to their base after sharing the *JESUS Film* with villagers high in the Andes Mountains, the couple was accosted by 45 heavily armed terrorists. Although the couple were not harmed, they gave their copy of the *JESUS Film* to their captors. As they returned to the same region a year later, one of their attackers apologised for the incident and told them that they had actually planned on killing them that day, but 'something' stopped them. Not only that, the terrorists had shown the *JESUS Film* in their camp where 700 people watched it. Many were saved and are no longer terrorists. (Website: <http://mnnonline.org/article/10530>).

"Spiritual Bomb" hits Fiji

Over 165,000 people heard a clear presentation of the gospel with 17,474 recorded decisions for Christ, when *Impact World Tour (IWT)*, a ministry of *Youth with a mission (YWAM)*, visited 16 main cities and communities across Fiji Islands recently. For six weeks, from September 3rd to October 13th, the team ministered in 24 schools, three prisons and at gatherings across the nation. The response was so overwhelming in some communities that the total number of decisions made, other than decisions for Christ, was not recorded, because of the size of some of the crowds. At Subrail stadium in Labasa, the main city on the Island of Vanua Levu, 25,000 people in total attended over the three campaign nights. "It was like a spiritual bomb going off in some of the densely populated Indian communities," local pastors told *IWT* leaders. "There has never been anything like this in our history." (*Breaking Christian News*, 310 2nd Ave SE, Albany, Oregon 97321, 541-928-2642. E-mail: editor@breakingchristiannews.com).

Satellite television as a tool to share the gospel with the suffering

Pain and suffering bring up difficult spiritual questions. *Joni and Friends* will try to answer those questions on their new weekly program aired on DIRECTV. Viewers will hear a unique message. Founder Joni Eareckson Tada will host the show. They ask Believers to pray. Pray that this program touches millions of people's hearts, that their hearts are open to receive the gospel and that they are open to receive the fact that God is trustworthy. (Website: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/10447> or <http://www.joniandfriends.org>).

SA households headed by children

According to the 2005 *General Household Survey*, about 118,500 children in SA were living in a total of 66,500 households headed by children. (Website: http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,2-7-1442_2204131,00.html). Let us pray without ceasing about this situation in our country, asking for God's intervention in practical and supernatural ways. Pray for these households headed by children, to have a revelation of God's love for them in their circumstances. Ask that God will provide in their felt needs as they are by law, not old enough to take on a job.

Serial killer sentenced

The Olievenhoutbosch serial killer was sentenced to 16 life terms and a further 140 years imprisonment on a total of 24 charges of murder, rape, attempted murder and robbery. He killed 16 adult black women in the Olievenhoutbosch area.

(Website: <http://www.thestar.co.za/?fSectionId=&fArticleId=nw20071105171030614C309008>). This is one of many examples of God answering our prayers for criminals to be arrested and convicted. Continue to pray for murderers to be arrested and sentenced and also that each one will have a revelation of Jesus' love for them.

WHAT IS ONLINE?

http://store.bible.com/acb/showdetl.cfm?&DID=7&Product_ID=1094&CATID=3

In co-operation with *Audio Bible* they have released *Theophilos Audio Bible* CD-Rom, a new product with Theophilos and narration by Alexander Scourby. On a single CD-Rom you will be able to listen to over 72 hours of dramatic reading of the entire *King James Version* of the Bible. *Theophilos* is also a full-featured Bible study software program.

http://worldwide.familyradio.org/zusa/english/connect/audio_archive/fbrf/download/frame.html

You can download the audio tracts from both the New and Old Testament in the *Modern King James Version* of the Bible from this website.

<http://www.theboc.com/bible/index.html>

The *God's Word Bible* in MP3, text and software is now available online. This translation combines scholarly fidelity with natural English. The clarity of *God's Word* makes it easy to understand, and the ideal translation for readers of all ages. From this website, you can download the Bible in audio, download free Bible software or order a printed Bible at a reasonable price.

www.brigada.org

Since 1995 the weekly *Brigada Today* e-mail journal has been informing *Great Commission* Christians about our great global quest: Giving hope and help to those who need it most. To identify & promote helpful resources, conferences, websites, agencies, individuals. To analyse & capsule in layman terms the current trends in global mission, along with their potential impact on the world of missions.

www.christianitytoday.com

This website keeps you up to date with what is happening in global news with a Christian edge. They send out a newsletter by e-mail to which you can subscribe.

www.dawnministries.org

The Purpose of *DAWN Ministries* is to see saturation church planting become a generally accepted and fervently practised strategy for completing the task of making disciples of all peoples in our generation. Their concern is that the Body of Christ in every land ought to be praying and working most directly at *the discipling of its whole nation*, including all its people groups, in response to the command of Jesus (**Mt.8:19-20**).

