

But God...

Dear Intercessor

I trust that you enjoyed the first three-monthly edition of the *Jericho Walls* prayer guide. The prayer guide you have in your hand now, is packed with information and articles which I am sure will be a blessing to you and help you to pray with one purpose in mind.

The Lord Jesus and Paul encourage us in the New Testament to persevere in prayer and not become disheartened. The writer of the Hebrews letter writes that we should approach the throne of grace boldly, so that we can be helped *at the right time*. So often people say: We have already been praying for such a long time and there are so few answers. On the one hand, this is so. Yet, if we look at the bigger picture, we see in what a mighty way God is at work all over the world. There are times that we do not see direct answers to prayer in our own lives, but this does not mean that God is not at work elsewhere, in a powerful way.

Prayer focuses for the following three months

We have a prayer focus every month to help in particular, congregations and the growing number of night and day prayer watches to focus on certain matters for extended periods. In this issue we have three very important prayer focuses:

- **September – Ramadan:** The Muslims' month of fasting.
- **October – India:** A country with 1.3 billion people - a country in which the Lord is powerfully at work and literally tens of thousands of people are converted weekly.
- **November – the Persecuted Church:** Almost 200 million Christians are not able to freely practise their faith in countries where there is legislation to this effect and hatred toward Christians.

There are articles on each prayer focus in this prayer guide. Let us pray in earnest for these matters. It impacts millions of people.

World-wide revival

I would very much like to encourage you to read Floyd McClung's article on revival. It is indeed enlightening. Many people have certain expectations and ideas of what revival should look like. Personally, I can identify with what Floyd McClung writes. Yes, it is so that there is also the traditional way of looking at revivals, like what happened in the revivals in 1857 in the USA and 1860 in South Africa and the 1904 revival in Wales, to mention but three. And we must still continually and persistently pray for revivals like these. But we tend to forget what the Lord is already doing. Let us thank the Lord for His great deeds that are visible in the world.

Children and prisons

We see nowadays how the Lord is raising up the children in South Africa to start praying. Especially in squatter camps, townships and among those who are often seen as 'less privileged' the Lord is at work through His Spirit, to raise up children (6-13 years) to pray. It is quite exceptional to see what the Lord is doing among children and not only in South Africa, but also world-wide. It is nothing but a new and exceptional movement of the Holy Spirit, particularly over the last 7-10 years.

Another aspect of prayer that I am very excited about, is to see how the Lord God is busy through His Spirit, to establish 24/7 prayer watches in prisons. During the *10 Days* of prayer leading up to the *Global Day of Prayer* on 11 May this year, there was one prison in Johannesburg where 96 prayer watches were active and prayed, on average, 15-16 hours per day during the *10 Days*. In one prison in Pretoria there were 6 such prayer watches that prayed through the *10 Days*. In another prison in the Cape there were three prayer watches who were active during the *10 Days*. These were not the wardens, but the prisoners themselves who prayed. People are busy being converted in prisons and the lives of many are changing radically as they start growing spiritually and become disciples of the Lord Jesus.

A word on the power of God

Much is said about the power of God versus the power of man. Christians especially then point the finger at the church and 'accuse' the church of being powerless. Let's leave the church out of this for a moment. May I ask: Is the power of God present and visible in *your* life? This is the more important question. God's power comes through Jesus' words; when we believe them and live our lives by following His commands accordingly. It comes when people fear God more than people. The power of God comes when I confess my own sins and stop unceasingly pointing out all the sins of others. The power of God comes when I learn to place my own life under the control of the Holy Spirit and obey Him strictly and radically. The power of God becomes visible firstly when someone lives in brokenness before God. The power of God is there where there is conviction of sin that leads to the person being cleansed of that sin which consequently leads to a holy life. There is no power of God without a holy life.

Let us first of all seek God Himself. When we seek God Himself, His power is a 'fringe benefit' of our life in Him. However, there is too much focus on these fringe benefits of God's power. There is no power without God. God Himself is the power. Remember: the power is never *our* power. It is God's power working through us. Too many people think the power is in them or from within themselves, that they possess power. No, the power of God is solely the power of God when God works through us Himself. And for God to work through us, requires that we die to ourselves, our will, opinions and emotions; that we will get out of the way so that God can work through us, unhindered.

Today people make many assumptions when they talk about revival and the power of God, but too often there are no tears, no conviction of sin, no brokenness or a holy life and the fear of God. Too often we see puffed up, pretentious people, who are 'strong' in themselves, know-alls, full of self-confidence (self-confidence which is in fact confidence in themselves). To have a good time in church, to praise and worship only to satisfy the flesh while it leaves us unchanged and discontented when we go home, has little to do with the power of God.

One of the biggest problems is that we think God is there only for us, that in fact, everything is actually all about us. No, it is all about God. It is not about my healing, my prosperity, my success and my needs, but about Jesus and Jesus alone and how He is glorified when I am granted healing, prosperity and success and my prayers are answered. We are so inclined to twist and distort life in such a way that everything revolves around us in the end. Spiritually we do the same. It is so easy to get to the point where we are the centre of the 'universe' and not God. We start viewing matters and reasoning about them from our own (human) perspective and not from God's perspective.

I read about the revival in Korea. The missionary who attended the gathering the evening that the revival broke out said years later, 'May God give that I will never again be present when revival breaks out. It is a terrible experience.' The holiness of God is overpowering when it comes upon one. We easily pray for revival and for power from God. But what will happen when it comes? Are our lives in such a condition that God can come to you and to me without His judgment destroying us because of the sin that is in us?

I want to encourage every Christian in this country to get the book by *Roy Hession, The Calvary Road* and to prayerfully read through it. The person who reads it, listens and applies it to his life, will see something of the power of God break through in his or her life. May God Himself teach and lead you through the Holy Spirit as you pray the next three months.

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

The Global Prayer Alert

The *Global Prayer Alert* is a weekly e-mail prayer guide enabling individual intercessors, congregations, prayer groups and 24-hour prayer watches to pray in an informed manner on a regular basis. This prayer guide is an initiative of *Jericho Walls International* and is made possible by your faithful donations. The *Global Prayer Alert* focuses on personal, citywide, nationwide and international prayer issues of the week. To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in English, please send an e-mail to pray_7days-subscribe@associate.com. To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in Afrikaans, please send

an e-mail to bid_7dae-subscribe@associate.com. For more information, please feel free to contact us at 021 919 7988.

What, where and when

National

12-13 September: Angus Buchan at Newlands

Families are invited to humble themselves and come to pray at the Newlands cricket stadium on 12-13 September 2008. Bookings can be made at Computicket. For more information: Sias le Roux (Shofar), cell: 083 915 8000, e-mail: angusnewlands@pro-events.co.za.

29 September-3 October 2008: Watchman's School of Prayer

The 7th *Watchman's School of Prayer* takes the form of a prayer retreat this year. The focus will be on different forms of prayer e.g. the *Harp & Bowl* intercessory worship model, Word watches, etc. as a means to connect with God night and day. There will be an opportunity to be intimate with God Himself and teaching on experiencing a deeper prayer life with God. We will look at creative ways of corporate and individual prayer and how to start and sustain 24/7 Prayer in your church or community. New practical sessions on how to pray for felt needs, the sick and your community are also included this year. There is accommodation for 120 people only, at R850 per person. Please register as soon as possible with Lizette at tel.: 021 919 7988 or e-mail: watch@jwipn.com.

3-25 October 2008: The Leadership Summit

Willow Creek South Africa again presents *The Leadership Summit* this year in October. Lay leaders, small group leaders, pastors and young people who want to make a difference in their communities are invited to register for these training opportunities. Register your team of leaders today to be refreshed, inspired and encouraged. For more information on locations and dates for regional meetings, contact *Willow Creek SA* at tel.: 012 665 4688, fax: 012 665 2844, website: <http://www.willowcreeksa.co.za/conf-national.html> or e-mail: admin@willowcreeksa.co.za.

International

International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

Christians also observe the *International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem* on the first Sunday in October with one purpose: sustained, fervent, informed global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people. They trust God this year for 175 participating nations, over 300 million participating Believers etc. (For more information, visit: <http://ew.us.churchinsight.com/group/group.aspx?id=1000002767>).

30 October - 4 November: The Global Mission Commission Consultation

The consultation will focus primarily on missiological issues such as Contextualisation, Mission and Spirituality and Mission in the Context of conflict, violence, persecution and suffering. Their *Global Missiology Task Force* has working teams researching and writing on these issues, preparing presentations for the event and future publications. Based on the reflection of these themes, the last day will be dedicated to discussions of the future of world-wide mission. Pray that the Lord may speak to them as they reflect on the missiological themes and for His kingdom to really benefit from this consultation. (Website: www.worldevangelical.org, or contact Bertil Ekström, at e-mail: bekstrom@worldevangelical.org or Kees van der Wilden, at e-mail: kees@worldevangelical.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

Bulembu outreach prayer initiative

Tuks Missions felt God was calling them to be courageous and do something bigger than themselves, specifically during their Missions Week this year. They planned to take 1,000 students on an outreach to Bulembu in Swaziland. For 10 days they helped in the schools, in the clinic, they fixed houses and planted vegetable gardens to sustain the growing orphan community in this mission-station town. As part of their outreach they had two 12-hour sessions of continual prayer for revival and for the nations, to show students the importance and power of prayer. (Nadine van der Wat, cell:

082 404 6947. E-mail: missnadine@tuks.co.za).

City Wide Watch

The *City Wide Watch* (also a *Jericho Walls* prayer initiative), was established in April this year in Cape Town in an effort to link 1,000 local churches in a continuous cycle of 24/7 prayer and worship in the city. The focus is to mobilise 1,000 churches over the next three years to pray 24 hours per day for revival and renewal of the church, salvation of the unsaved and the challenges the city faces like broken families, domestic violence, drug abuse among the youth (tik, etc.) and homosexuality. They are very excited as the church begins to answer the call to take its place on the wall and stand in the gap for God's kingdom to come on the earth as it is in heaven. (Dave Donald, tel.: 021 557 1772, or e-mail: citywatch@jwipn.com).

China needs prayer

China had its most devastating earthquake in generations in May this year. About ten million people in the Sichuan province have been directly affected by the 7.9 quake that flattened entire villages. Losses have been severe and some towns basically have no houses left, they have all been razed to the ground. Nearly 70,000 people are known to have been killed, nearly 400,000 were injured and almost 20,000 were listed as missing. Pray that the Chinese authorities respond effectively in Sichuan, one of the country's poorest provinces. Pray for the church; that it will provide a healing touch and Christian witness at this time. (*Ethnos Asia Ministries*, website: www.ethnosministries.org and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Sichuan_earthquake or e-mail: info@ethnosministries.org).

What's online?

Hollywood Prayer Network

Website: <http://www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org>

The new *HPN KIDS Prayer Calendar* is growing monthly and there are many kids who are starting to pray for professional kids in Hollywood. Visit this website if you want to find out more about the *Hollywood Prayer Network* and how to pray for young people.

Interactive Arabic language tool

Website: http://www.pacificarabic.com/?vocab_applet.html

Are you learning Modern Standard Arabic? Would you like a free tool to help you practise vocabulary from the widely popular Alif Baa series? ***Warning* The maintainers of the website are NOT Believers, so if you contact them, please do not share any missionary information.**

World Bible translators

Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=downloads_main

You can download Bibles in PDF format in different languages e.g.; Arabic, Gujurati, Tamil, the English version for the deaf etc.

24/7 Prayer watch focus: September-December 2008

The prayer focuses on this page 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 creative ways in your prayer room 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 at: www.jwipn.com. Also remember to subscribe to our weekly prayer alert at cape@jwipn.com which covers more current issues in prayer on a weekly basis.

September: Ramadan

Every year Muslims keep a time of fasting for 30 days. (See article). This year *Ramadan* will take place from 1-30 September. The church of the Lord Jesus world-wide will unite to pray for Muslims to understand the love of God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. 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 in September. Also, tenfold prayer journeys will take place when Believers will visit countries in the Middle East and Central Asia to go and pray there.

October: India

India is a country with 1.3 billion people, 21% of the total world population. This means 28 times more people live in India than in South Africa. The three main religions in India are Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. For the whole of October we will focus on India. Over the past 15 years the number of Christians in India has doubled. Thus, during the past 15 years just as many Christians were added to the church as in the preceding 200 years. Particularly under the Dalit (270 million) who are regarded as the 'untouchables/outcasts', there are at present literally thousands of people who are daily converted and churches are planted. Even people from the very high castes in India are being converted in growing numbers. The need for workers and funds in India is astronomical. This opportunity to bring the gospel to the Dalit most probably counts among the 10 greatest opportunities in history to bring the gospel to a specific group of people.

November: Persecuted Church

Every year at least 160,000 Christians are killed because of their faith in Christ Jesus. But on the positive side, it is percentage-wise in terms of the world population, the least persecution the church has experienced the past couple of centuries. 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 unhindered. Let us also pray for the hundreds of thousands of families who lost a father, a mother or a child the past decade. There is much disruption, confusion, pain, fear and unanswered questions. 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.

December: Families

Families remain the fundamental building bricks of any community and country. When the family structure crumbles, society breaks up, security disappears from homes, authoritative structures fade away, children become rebellious and run wild. The first thing that happens, among other things, is that fathers disappear from home and this usually has an exceptionally destructive effect on households. It can lead to rebellion, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, lawlessness and contempt of authority, as well as licentiousness and immorality. This is where we find ourselves at present in our country. May God help us in all of this. December is the month in which families spend more time together. Pray for the restoration of relationships, reconciliation and the healing of much pain experienced in many family relationships.

The Month of *Ramadan*: The fifth Pillar of Islam

From 1-30 September 2008 we are praying for the estimated 1.7 billion Muslims in the world, for God's grace and that the Holy Spirit will reveal Jesus Christ, God's Son to them. It is significant to see how the Lord is calling Christians worldwide to pray for Muslims. Let us not stop praying. Wonderful things are happening and large numbers of Muslims continue to place their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

You can follow the prayer pointers in this prayer guide over this period of time. Consider inviting others to pray with you, to pray for the salvation of Muslims at your weekly prayer meeting or Bible study during September. It is also a wonderful opportunity to teach children to pray for those who do not know God. The Children's prayer booklet for Ramadan is now available from: <http://www.30-days.net>.

Ramadan stretches over a period of 30 days during which Muslims do not eat anything during the daylight hours. This is the fifth pillar of Islam and compulsory for Muslims. It is part of what they need to do to gain enough 'good works' to go to heaven. Hundreds of millions of Muslims will fast during *Ramadan*. Each Muslim will try to visit Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

As Christians we believe the way to reconciliation with God and then also the way to heaven, is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus our Saviour on the cross. Good works will not gain us eternal life. Yet, we do good works from a heart filled with

thanksgiving and to demonstrate God's love for all people.

Let us then pray during these 30 days for Muslims:

1. That God will reveal His Son Jesus Christ and His all-sufficiency to them.
2. For an understanding of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love in the hearts of Muslims.
3. For God's tender mercies are on all His works, also on all people that He created (**Ps.145:9; Ps.103:22; Ps.103:8; Ps.57:3; Ps.89:14**).
4. Let us not pray in judgment or with fear - but from hearts filled with love and compassion.
5. Let us pray with hope in God to save and reconcile Muslim people to Him through Jesus Christ.
6. Let us pray that God will bless the Muslims and heal and restore them so that they will enter into a personal relationship with Him.
7. Pray that they will see the Living God as their Father. The prevailing spirit in Islam is a spirit of 'fatherlessness'. Muslims have 99 names for Allah, but he is never seen as a god of love, or a father.

Prayer focus on missionaries

During the month of September we will, together with the prayer focus for the salvation of Muslim people, pray for the millions of missionaries working abroad. One can only imagine the loneliness they often experience, being far away from home and often suffering the scorn of non-Christians. Our prayer is that God will continuously stir in us the desire to also carry in prayer the workers in the harvest, that they will experience His comfort and also the joy of others joining them and not to fear the impact of economic changes in the world on their work.

Islam is growing in Europe

Recent intelligence reports include the following facts:

1. **FRANCE:** In 1945 there were 100,000 Muslims in France. Today it is officially claimed to be 6 million (60 x increase), 10% of the population. There are 1,000 mosques in France.
2. **HOLLAND:** Muslims are officially 15% of the population.
3. **BELGIUM:** 10% of the population is Muslim. Half of all babies born in Belgium are now Muslims.
4. **GERMANY:** 2 million Muslims (Berlin has the fourth largest Turkish population in the world).
5. **BRITAIN:** 2 million (from 82,000 – 30 years ago – an increase of 25 times) 1,000 Mosques in Britain.
6. **SWEDEN:** 400,000 Muslims, with a massive increase in anti-Semitic attacks on the Jewish population in Sweden.
7. **DENMARK:** 200,000 Muslim immigrants are trying to dictate their anti-Israel, anti-American policies to the 5 million Danes. Although Muslims are only 4% of the population, they consume over 40% of the social welfare expenditure.
8. **ITALY:** 1 million Muslims.
9. **The Saudi Arabian government** has financed the building of 1,500 mosques, 210 Islamic centres, 202 colleges and 2,000 madressas (Islamic Quaranic schools) in non-Muslim countries – mostly in Europe. And while the average European woman has 1.5 children, the average Muslim woman in Europe has 6 to 8 children. (Website: <http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/reforislam.htm>).
10. **Cry out** to the Lord for the salvation of Muslims in every country of the world.

When ministering to Muslims, remember

1. Do not attack the person of Mohammed, but do not accept him as a prophet either. We are called to help people discover Jesus, not to criticise others.
2. Do not criticise the Qur'an.
3. Avoid politically-sensitive subjects like the Palestinian problem.
4. Do not insist on Jesus being the Son of God: A Muslim will not understand or accept this affirmation. Later, when they read the Bible or the gospels, you can give them the necessary explanations.

5. Do not enter into discussions about pork and wine: We, as Christians, are sent to proclaim Jesus, not to establish dietary laws. It is good to insist that drunkenness is wrong. Do not serve alcohol to Muslims, they detest this. (The *Ramadan children's* booklet is also available from www.30-days.net).

World food and water crisis in focus

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses (Prov.28:27).

Although some countries are experiencing famine, the global problem is not a food crisis, but a price crisis, as other competitors e.g. ethanol plants, offer higher prices to obtain the harvest of farmers. At the time of publishing, at least 33 countries were at risk of social unrest because of rising food prices. There is also an increasing scarcity world-wide, of available fresh water. One underlying factor for the water, food and oil crisis is the increasing global need for energy. As God's children, we are called to take up our responsibility in prayer, repent of the wickedness of people in our time and trust God to turn not only the tsunami of the approaching destruction of earthly resources, but more than anything, the tsunami of people on their way to eternal death without Jesus Christ. When people turn to God, God turns their tide (**2 Chron.7:14**). Let us never forget that our God wants to give life and does not want people to choose death AT ALL! (**Deut.30:14-20**).

1. Pray for the 22 countries in Africa that are at risk because of the current food shortage. Ask for God's wisdom and revelation to each government to act with haste in meeting their people's needs.
2. Pray for world health conditions and the survival of literally millions that cannot afford to buy food because of rising food costs. Ask God to help those at risk to remain strong and healthy despite their circumstances and that God in His mercy will provide money so that they can buy food. Pray that many will taste and see that God is good and turn their lives over to Him.
3. Ask for the effective distribution of the available resources of basic staples, like rice, wheat and corn/maize. Ask for favour for Christian aid organisations to gain access especially to areas closed to the gospel and so have opportunities to apply God's love in practical ways.
4. Pray for aid groups that are already falling behind in their efforts to provide food across the continent of Africa. Ask for the church in Africa to rise to the occasion and lay hold of this opportunity to distribute food to those in physical need, not neglecting the opportunity to share the Bread of Life and cause living water to flow from their hearts (**John 7:38**).
5. Pray about malnutrition which is already responsible for the deaths of approximately 3.7 million children every year. Ask for each child to have opportunities to hear about Jesus, that there will be provision for their basic needs and that many will recover miraculously from malnutrition. Ask for many lives to be saved.
6. Ask for rich countries to be willing to support emergency food assistance.
7. Pray that crops used for bio-fuel will not lead to higher food prices and a shortage of food in the long run. Pray that agricultural, government and world leaders will make wise decisions on this issue.
8. This year, about a quarter of U.S. corn/maize will go to feeding ethanol plants instead of poultry or livestock. Please pray about the impact this has on the availability of poultry and livestock. In South Africa some farmers are either closing down their feed lots or radically reducing the number of livestock because of the rising prices of animal feed. Ask God to speak into the hearts of farmers and show them ways to overcome these problems. Ask for those who continue to produce food, whether crops, poultry or livestock, to be blessed in doing so and for this testimony to turn their own and the hearts of other farmers to submit all of themselves and their farms into God's hands. Pray for them not to fall into the trap of quick riches, but to set their hearts towards the purposes of God in the last days.
9. Less than 2% of the water on earth is fresh water. Many of these resources are hidden deep inside the earth. Pray for God to show scientists world-wide how to retrieve resources of fresh water from depths that are difficult to reach, in a cost-effective way.
10. The *per capita* access to clean water is diminishing in all developed and developing countries as the number of people and their demand for water increases. Pray for governments to pay urgent heed to the upgrading and replacing of old reservoirs, aging water pipes, dripping taps and other faulty infrastructure in all of their towns and cities so water will be used more effectively. About 20% of all available fresh water is lost in this way.
11. Rising global temperature has an impact on the evaporation of water. Ask God to raise up millions of Believers

across the world to begin interceding for these realities. Pray for night and day watches to be raised everywhere, that people will confess their sins and cry out for the turn of their nations' hearts towards God (**Ps.2:10-12**).

12. Pray for alternative, low-cost solutions to resources like oil and coal which are limited. Ask God to give people creative ideas in our country on how to combat these situations, especially in generating energy. The *Durban University of Technology* has begun to run a unique project aiming to produce fuel from sewage. Pray for this and other projects to be conducted in righteousness, with great care and success and to really benefit the people of South Africa through the production of some by-products. Give thanks to the Lord for already answering prayer. Ask that scientists world-wide will give glory to God for what He is doing.
13. An investment of over \$1 trillion will have to be made in the next 20 years to ensure an adequate supply of fresh water for the world's growing population. Ask that this issue will be addressed by all governments with immediate effect. Pray for the necessary expertise to focus on desalination, purification, pipes, pumps and anything else that will help increase the amount of readily accessible water. Ask for thousands of Christians to become actively involved in these processes, bringing God's wisdom and hope to a dying world.
14. For South Africa, pray for an increase in capacity to purify existing water resources, as sewage water presents increasing challenges to the water resources we have available.
15. Consider inviting other people to also begin to pray positively into the global challenges we face.
16. *Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col.3:17). Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Eph.3:20-21).*

(Prayers are suggested by the writer of this article. Facts from website:

http://www.greenchipstocks.com/aqx_p/2952?qclid=CNaf4d3W5pECFRciFQodmQ7Cew and International Medical Corps at e-mail: development@imcworld-wide.org).

Men-2-Pray: Doing battle on our knees for our children

In her book, *The Power of A Praying Parent*, the author, Stormie O'Martian says, 'The battle for our children's lives is waged on our knees. When we don't pray, it's like sitting on the sidelines watching our children in a war zone getting shot at from every angle. Whenever you pray for your child, do it as if you are interceding for his or her life – because that's exactly what you are doing. There is nothing like a parent, especially a father, praying for and with their children.'

Except for praying for our children, we need to teach them how to pray from **Ephesians 6:11-17 (NKJ)** for their own protection by putting on the armour of God daily. Teach them how to guard their minds with the Word of God! Stir up a love for the Word in their hearts. Be diligent in your prayers. Be consistent in your teaching of the Word and in your personal study and devotion. Most of all, be a godly example for your child to follow as he or she matures in Christ.

Someone recently told me about her 16-year-old daughter asking her for a new Bible, though the old one was not really that old. Puzzled by this, her mother took extra care in finding her daughter a really nice-looking Bible, suitable for her age. A few days after she received her new Bible, the young lady complained to her mother how she realised she knew so little of the Word of God and if a life-time would really be long enough for her to come to know God on a deeper level! God poured out a hunger and thirst after Himself in this young girl's life that will not leave her unchanged!

Here are some ways to pray the Word of God into the lives of your children or grandchildren:

1. **Mind: Read Rom.8:5-8:** Pray that their minds will be controlled by the Holy Spirit so they will live a life pleasing to God and filled with joy and peace.
2. **Will: Read Ps. 26:2-3, 139:2, 23-24:** Pray that they will continually be open and ask the Lord to show them the true state of their heart and mind so they will walk in truth and purity.
3. **Seeking His face: Read Eccl.7:25:** Pray that they will become hungry and thirsty to understand and search out the wisdom of God. That they will be able to discern the foolishness of a life apart without God.
4. **Trust: Read Isa.26:3-4:** Pray that their minds will be steadfast as they trust in the Lord. Also that they will really learn to trust God completely.

5. **God first: Read Matt.22:37:** Pray that they will love the Lord with all of their heart, soul and mind. That God will be real to them and their greatest hero!
6. **Renewed: Read Rom.12:2:** Pray that they will not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but will be transformed by the renewing of their mind through spending time with the Word.
7. **Christ in them: Read 1 Cor.2:16b, 2 Cor.10:5, Phil.4:8-9:** Pray that they will always have the mind of Christ. That the persuasions of friends and the media will not sway them.
8. **Peace: Read Phil.4:7:** Pray that the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard the hearts and minds of your children in Christ Jesus. That they will be free from fear.
9. **True treasure: Read Col.3:2:** Pray that their minds will be set on things above—not on earthly things. Ask God to help you model a life like this.
10. **Time-out: Read Ps.27:4-8:** Pray that they will hear God's voice and love to read their Bible and spend time alone with God from a very young age. Ask for their friends to notice their love for the Word and to join them and do the same.

Youth-2-Pray: Open the 10/40 Window?

There are 65 countries that stretch from North Africa, across the Middle East, Central Asia, China and India up to Japan known as the *10/40 Window*. About 80% of all the poorest people live here, 90% of all the people not yet reached with the gospel live there and all the main non-Christian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam) of the world are found here. In these 65 nations there are very few missionaries and they are working in very difficult circumstances and suffer much persecution. In some places there is only one missionary to bring the gospel to 200,000 people. Think about it: having a 'church' with 200,000 members, but they do not know Jesus; some hate you as missionary and do not want to hear about Jesus and the majority of these people have not even heard the name of Jesus once in their lives! There are millions of children who live in the *10/40 Window* and like their parents, most of them don't know Jesus. Many missionaries are needed in the *10/40 Window* to tell people about Jesus. One of the most important things you can do is to **intercede** for the people who live there.

Let's open the window...

How? We have to open the window by persevering prayer and intercession.

What are we asking from God? We need to send more missionaries, Bibles, Christian books, tapes, the *JESUS Film*, produce more radio programs and pray that Jesus will reveal Himself through dreams and visions to these people. Perhaps God is calling you to go to the *10/40 Window* as a missionary! Pray that everyone living there will want to know more about Jesus, have hearts ready to accept Him and find other Christians to help them grow in their relationship with God.

Why? Most of these people are without Jesus, without hope, they will not go to heaven. Millions of poor people live in horrible and inhuman situations and know much suffering. And their religion doesn't bring them any real hope either.

For whom? Pray for the people in the *10/40 Window*, their leaders and especially the women and children who suffer much. Pray for the Christians in the *Window* who are kicked out of their families or lose their friends and jobs because they believe in Jesus. Some of their lives are in danger. The governments don't give freedom and they make life very difficult for Christians. Pray for the local churches which in most cases, survive amidst very difficult circumstances.

Who else? Pray for the missionaries. That they will remain safe and healthy, have no problems with the government, have good relationships with the people and get opportunities to share the message of Jesus.

THE LONGED FOR REVIVAL HAS ALREADY BEGUN

By Floyd McClung

We are living in the time of the greatest revival in the history of the church. It has already started. We realise there are many, many people praying for revival and that there are also many unfulfilled dreams in the hearts of God's children for revival, but if we fail to give thanks and acknowledge what God has already done and is busy doing in answer to our prayers, we will be amiss. We must be careful to define 'revival' in a way that it will fit only a very specific and narrow definition – something we normally determine ourselves according to our own standards.

Why do I believe the great revival we have prayed for and longed for has already started?

1. More people have *come to Jesus* in the last fifty years than the rest of Christian history *combined*. Over 50,000 people come to faith in Jesus every day in China, India and Africa. And the numbers are increasing yearly, faster than the population growth. I know when we pray for revival we're asking God to revive the church and for Believers to repent of sin and apathy and for society to be transformed. But is there any greater miracle than someone coming to faith in Christ? Is there any more profound act of repentance or transformation than for one person to be redeemed by God's love and assured they will spend eternity in the Father's presence? That is the greatest form of revival and it is happening on an epic scale across the globe. Let us give thanks! People working amongst the Dalit (the outcasts) in India say that literally 'massive' numbers of people are coming to Christ every week. The number of Christians in India doubled in the last 15 years (and that after more than 2 centuries of intensive mission work and efforts by the Indian church itself).
2. In many parts of the world we see revivals (in the way they were seen during the first and second *Great Awakening* in the 1740's and the 1850's, the revival in Wales in 1904, etc.): China, Fiji, India, places in Africa, Latin America. There was an ebb and flow of revivals over the last two decades, but they are happening nevertheless in many countries.
3. *Church planting movements* have begun in many nations that have swept millions of people into the Kingdom of God. Hundreds of thousands of small churches led by ordinary people have been started all over the world. That is revival.
4. I believe the revival has already started because most of the *unreached people groups* in the world have been penetrated with the Good News of Jesus, many of them over the last 2-3 decades.
5. I believe revival has begun because millions, not just thousands or hundreds of thousands, but millions of *Muslims* have come to faith in Christ in the last 25 years. Reliable statistics state that more Muslims came to Christ in the last 10 years than in the previous 1,300 years.
6. I believe the revival has broken out in our world because the Berlin wall fell and the communist world was rocked by God's sovereignty; He removed kings and raised up kings in a matter of days. Not years or centuries, but days. Many *oppressive governments* lost their grip and have been busy losing their grip on people over the last 15 years. This opened these nations up for the preaching of the gospel – i.e. Cambodia, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Romania, Central Asia, China and Nepal.
7. I believe revival has started because the church is more conscious than ever of the *need to serve the poor and bring justice to the oppressed*.
8. I believe revival has started because we are not just preaching the gospel of personal salvation, but we are teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
9. I believe revival has broken out because *business people* are advancing the Kingdom of God in their businesses and in the nations of the earth and because women are being recognised as equals in God's kingdom in greater and greater numbers.
10. I believe revival has started because in many nations Christians in *the market place* are rising up as 'market place ministers', understanding their role as witnesses of the salvation of Christ and caring for the needs of people in the market place.
11. I believe the revival has already begun because millions and millions of people are praying and the momentum is increasing. In the 70's, there was a call in the United States and many other nations for people to fast for 40 days for revival. Tens of thousands of people responded and fasted for 40 days. Many fasted for the first time in their lives. This spread over the whole world. In the decade of the 90's thousands of 40-day periods of prayer and fasting took place all over the world. In the 90's there was a call to pray for the *10/40 Window* – and look what has happened in the *10/40 Window!* Up to 40 million Christians prayed in 1997 during one of these *Praying Through the Window* initiatives. In the 90's there was also a call to fast and pray during the month of *Ramadan* for Muslims and millions of followers of Jesus responded and have kept responding every year.
12. Prayer movements and national prayer networks have begun all over the world. Houses of prayer, 24/7 prayer, boiler rooms of prayer, prayer teams travelling the globe, prayer for the *10/40 Window*, the *Global Day of Prayer*, stadiums of people praying and prayer walking. People are praying like never before in history. In at least 160 nations of the world at least one or more 24/7 prayer watches are functioning. Many new and creative prayer initiatives are being

started every year. There is an amazing prayer awakening among young people and also children.

Prayer is a cry from the heart of God's people who are desperate for more of God and it is the Holy Spirit stirring the hearts of people to expect the Father to move His hand in history. God does not call us to pray to frustrate us or defeat us. We have prayed and God has answered. Let us not ignore what God has done or be ungrateful. Let us give thanks for answers to prayer, for the revival that has begun and let us continue – with thanksgiving – to express the deep yearnings of our hearts for God to do more, much more.

Women-2-Pray: In the eye of the storm with God

May my cry come before you, o Lord; give me understanding according to your word (Ps.119:169).

Years ago, one of our student friends got married before all of us. After some time we had a small reunion and shared snippets about our lives. We wanted to know everything about married life and she told us many things. The one thing she told us that I remember best of all was: *God showed me that when my husband comes home, I should be a harbour in the storm for him, rather than a storm in the harbour!*

As women we are often under a lot of pressure and much is expected of us. We are the first ones to rise and often the last ones to retire. Today God is asking you and me the same question: Is your life creating a storm or are you like a haven? You do not need to be married to desire or cultivate this quality in your life. The following thoughts will hopefully inspire you to realise the importance of 'time-out with God' in the life of a woman. Time-out with God causes us to breathe again, to think straight and most importantly, to hear God's voice clearly on the very issues that often drive us to become a storm, even sometimes a destructive tornado! The only safe way to weather the storm, is to find the eye of the storm and in our case, this means time-out with God, entering into His presence.

Change the way you view time:

1. **Quiet time:** It is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Start by setting 30 minutes aside at least once every two days. Have a notebook at hand and just begin to write down the things on your mind. After writing them all down, start praying about them. The more often you can take this time out, the more peace will come to your heart and mind as you pour out your heart to God. I find writing my prayers down helps me contemplate God's opinion and I receive clear guidance on the issues I bring before Him. Something else might work better for you, but at least try it for 2-3 months.
2. **Fasting:** From food if that is how the Holy Spirit directs you. BUT - more than anything though – stop running around! Change your habits, if necessary. Take a deliberate decision to walk and not run, to finish your tea before doing the next thing, in essence, SLOW DOWN! I know we can do three things at once, but try doing one at a time for at least one day a week! Even when we just slow down in our physical actions, more peace comes into our hearts. Doing a little bit of planning of our daily activities will also not hurt.
3. **Bless someone:** It does not need to be an elaborate action. When you pass by your husband, kids, a friend, or a colleague at work, just quickly place your hand on their head or shoulder and say, *Bless you*. Thus you bring them to a standstill for a moment, they think about God, wondering why you did something like that. Except for that, it is a good habit and it makes you an obedient servant of the Lord Jesus! (**Num.6:24-27**). Ask God to show you how you can do acts of kindness without it taking up a lot of time or effort. You can also bless people silently when you pass their offices or pass a school, or you could bless people like your children and friends in prayer, even if they are not close by.
4. **Time-out:** It is not always possible, but see if you can take a day off or set half a day aside at least once in six months just to pray and worship God. Try to arrange this with your husband, family or friends. Go to a place where no one will disturb you and switch off your cell phone. Take your Bible, a notebook and some worship music or your musical instrument. Begin your time with God by writing down the things on your mind or things that bother you. Then go into a time of extended worship, for as long as your heart desires. Now begin to praise the Lord for His goodness and take care to write down what He shows you from your time of worship. Spend the rest of your time in simple extended reading from your Bible and praying for things that come to mind.

5. **Keep it up:** Take care of yourself by taking time-out with God regularly.
6. **Give it up:** Which are the things that wear you down most? Take time today and write them down. Search your Bible for God's promises regarding fear, doubt, strife etc. Now write down these promises next to each of your concerns. Begin to speak the truth of God's Word over your life. Declare, according to the promises of God, the life of God, the truth of God and the love of God over your challenges and problems. Lay them down at His feet and when you find yourself carrying them again, lay them down again until you are completely freed from these burdens. As new burdens come up, add them to this list. Whatever you do, do not let them remain 'un-prayed' about!

God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate my time, my body, my mind, will and emotions to you. Please help me to slow down, to bless others, to take time out with You and to give up and let go of those things wearing me down. Teach me Your ways which are higher than mine. I desire a deeper relationship with You Lord Jesus, please show me the way. Help me plan my time and give me wisdom on how to spend my energy in a way that will glorify You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Church focus: *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)*

The *IDOP* is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians world-wide and first started in 1996. From a core group of approximately 7,000 churches, the *IDOP* has grown to be the largest prayer day event of its kind in the world. Its primary focus is the work of intercessory prayer and citizen action on behalf of persecuted communities of the Christian faith and also to encourage prayer for the souls of the oppressors, the nations that promote persecution and those who ignore it.

In November we focus in prayer on the *Persecuted Church*. International statistics show that an estimated 150,000 Christians are martyred every year. More than 200 million Christians are restricted from living out their Christianity. There is a growing onslaught on Christianity world-wide. More and more countries are accepting legislation that creates greater difficulty for Christians to live out their faith and restricts them from gathering freely. There are also continuous efforts to ban the Bible.

This year the *IDOP* falls on 9 & 16 November. (Website: <http://www.idop.org/>). Join millions of Christians to pray for the *Persecuted Church* this year.

Praying for the felt needs of people

To pray for the felt needs of people, those things that people are struggling with from day to day in the 'real world', is one of the greatest privileges of Christians and one of the greatest opportunities to show people that we care for them and love them and that Jesus cares for them and loves them. Less than 10% of all people are at any given time ready for a conversation about Jesus Christ and their salvation, but nearly 97% of all people are at any given time ready that you can pray for them for their felt needs, problems and challenges that they experience at that specific point in time. Very few people will refuse a prayer and a prayer of blessing, especially if they have specific needs. This is also true for people from other religions like Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims. We want to encourage you to do this on a regular basis – pray for the felt needs of Christians and non-Christians with whom you have contact every day.

A few guidelines on how to do this:

1. Do not make it an issue. As you meet people and they share some of their needs, concerns, difficulties, problems, challenges, etc., simply offer to pray for them.
2. It is best if you can pray for them right there and then. Do not wait till you are at home before you pray. It is good for them to experience someone caring for them in prayer and it is good for you too, by having the courage to do so.
3. Ask the person if he or she would mind you praying for them and then pray a very simple prayer. Do it in a discreet way so that you do not embarrass the person. Do not pray in a loud voice and with much demonstration or many words.
4. When you see the person again after a day or a few days, ask how he/she is doing and whether there is any

progress regarding the issue you prayed for. Maybe the door is open for you to pray with them again, or you can simply say that you will continue to pray, as the Lord leads you. At this point in time you can even give the person a Scripture verse to encourage him/her.

5. It is always good to pray a prayer of blessing when you pray with someone. Pray for God to intervene in the person's situation and ask God to bless the person. Often Christians are afraid that if we pray that God will bless someone we overlook their sin (in cases where people are living in sin). This is not so. When you pray that God will bless someone, you pray that God in His wisdom will come and convict that person of sin and that He will comfort, heal, re-direct and show them His ways.
6. So many people want to make use of such opportunities to 'lead the person to the Lord' (trying to save the person during or even before the prayer) – don't do it unless the Lord specifically directs you to do it. Just pray. God will work in His own way. People first need to experience genuine love and compassion before they will open up to the gospel of salvation. Most people only make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ after 8-11 positive contacts with Christians!
7. Make it a daily habit to pray for people. Listen to them. Seek out opportunities to 'apply' prayer to their felt needs.
8. You can also do more than just pray. When someone's car has broken down, offer to take the kids to school. If there is illness in the home, take some food or offer to do the laundry. There are just so many opportunities. We need to pray and do. Sometimes we cannot do anything for the person and then we just pray for them. At other times we can pray for them *and* do something that will show that we care for them.

Praying for sick people

When Jesus sent out the disciples, He commanded them to preach the gospel, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead (**Matt.10:7**). As disciples of Jesus, we have a clear command to go and heal the sick. In **Mark 16:17-18** we read: *And these signs will accompany those who believe... they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well.* The most basic way of healing the sick is simply to pray for them. We also read in **James 5:14** that we must pray for the sick and anoint them with oil. Let us take every opportunity to pray for the sick. Do not feel intimidated or afraid to do so. God listens to the prayers of ALL His children. Yes, it is true that God gives a gift of healing to some people, but that does not mean that all the other people cannot and must not pray for the sick. Come in simple faith to the Lord on a daily basis and ask for the healing of your friends, family and other sick people – and see how God answers.

1. Do not look at or feel intimidated by the illness of the person you are praying for. Simply look to God and ask Him. Do not try to pray extremely 'spiritual' prayers. Simply lift up your heart to God and pray a simple prayer.
2. In some cases you may feel to anoint a person with oil and then pray for them. You can use something like olive oil. Just put a little bit of oil on the forehead of the person and ask the Lord to heal him/her. (You can also explain to the person why you are doing that).
3. When you pray for a person, when prompted by the Holy Spirit, you may ask the person if his/her life is right with God – if there are any unconfessed sins, any bitterness or unforgiveness or issues that need to be settled. Help the person to deal with those things before you pray for them. God works in different ways. Sometimes, especially in the case of unsaved people, God will heal the person and the healing will show the person that God cares and these types of miracles often bring people to faith in Christ Jesus.
4. There are different ways God can use to heal people: 1. God heals by the laying on of hands. 2. God heals by anointing with oil and prayers of faith. 3. God sometimes heals people by means of Holy Communion. 4. God heals people in answer to intercessory prayer for them. 5. God can use doctors and medicine to heal people. 6. God also heals when the individual prays for his/her own healing. Remember that it is God who does the healing, how and when He chooses and His desire is to heal!
5. Familiarise yourself with some of the basic Scripture references about healing and bring those promises in prayer before God's throne when you come boldly to His throne of grace to ask for help. In **Exodus 15:26** the Lord calls Himself Yahweh-Ropheka which means: The Lord who heals. This is God's name, this is who He is and this is what He can do and wants to do for us. Pray to God who calls Himself Yahweh-Ropheka when you pray for the sick. *He said, 'If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians;*

for I am the Lord who heals you.’

- He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases (**Ps.103:3**).
- He heals the broken hearted and bandages their wounds (**Ps.147:3**).
- Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones (**Prov.3:7-8**).
- Yet it was our weaknesses Christ carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed (**Isa.53:4-5**).
- These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and they will be healed (**Mk.16:17-18**).
- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free (**Lk.4:18**).
- Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results (**Jas.5:13-16**).

Kids-2-Pray: Bibles everywhere, please Lord!

Imagine life without the Bible. How would you know the story of God's love and **forgiveness**? How would you know what God wants you to do? How would you know about prayer? The Bible is like a light that shows us the path through life. But almost 400 million people don't have the Bible in their own language. Most of these people are children. Many languages don't have the translation of even one Bible verse. That's because some languages don't have an alphabet. If there is no alphabet, there are no written words. And if there are no written words, there's no Bible. The good news is that hundreds of people all over the world are working as Bible translators. They take the words and thoughts of the Bible and write them in the words of another language. Some translators are missionaries who go to distant countries to live with the people there, learn their language and help with Bible translation. Will you not think about praying for these matters Monday to Friday?

Ask your parents to find you a big world map. See if you can find India, China and Africa. Every evening, or whenever you remember, put your hand on these countries and pray for each person living there to come to know the Lord Jesus and have a Bible of their own.

1. **Understanding:** Lord, I ask for Your Spirit of wisdom and revelation to rest on Bible translators so that they can do their work well (**Isaiah 11:2, Proverbs 2:6**).
2. **Protection:** Father, protect the Bible translators from danger and illness. Deliver them from evil people that want to do them harm (**Psalms 16:1, Proverbs 18:10, 2 Corinthians 11:26**).
3. **Distribution:** Father, may every person without a Bible soon have one of their own which they can read and that those who cannot read, will be able to listen to the Bible on CD or cassette.
4. **Labourers:** Send people to translate the Bible for those who do not know You, because they can't believe in someone they have not heard about (**Romans 10:14,17**).
5. **Thanksgiving:** Forgive me for taking the Bible I have for granted and not reading my Bible enough. I rejoice in Your Word—it's worth more than money (**Psalms 119:14,72**).

FOCUS ON INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

All people have an influence on other people, good or bad. Yet, there are people that are most influential, impacting the lives of millions of others on a global scale. Not all of them serve the Lord Jesus at all. In this short overview, we chose 10 out of a 100 of those voted the most influential in the world for 2008. We need to pray for them, that their hearts will turn to give glory to God for what they are doing and to become God's instruments to turn millions of people to consider

Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Let us not grow weary of persevering in prayer for these and many others like them. As you pray through these few pointers, will you not consider encouraging others to begin praying for these and other influential people to unashamedly turn their lives to Christ and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and submit to His Lordship.

1. **The Dalai Lama** – 72 years old – is seen as the leader of Buddhists. Ask for the Father to vividly reveal Jesus Christ to this man through the working of the Holy Spirit. Fast and pray for his radical salvation unto Christ before he dies and that he will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and submit to His Lordship.
2. **Kevin Rudd** – 50 years old – elected Prime Minister of Australia in November 2007. For years Australia's government refused to apologise to Aborigines for past wrongs done to them – most notably, the systematic removal of children from their parents in the 1970's. When elected, his best substantive act was to issue a formal apology to Aborigines in general and to the surviving members of stolen generations, their families and relatives. Ask for this man to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, to have favour with his people and to be successful as a ruler.
3. **Muqtada Al-Sadr** – 34 years old – Shi'ite leader in Iraq. He appeals to the poor Shi'ite masses and thereby controls the stability of southern Iraq. He is able to control the coalition war-fighting situation and also disrupt Iraq's political progress as provincial elections are coming up. He is in a position to alter world events. Pray for this man to have visions and dreams of the Lord Jesus so that he will be able to help bring peace in the Middle East, give his life over to Jesus and become an ambassador for the Kingdom of God in Iraq.
4. **Baitullah Mehsud** – in his mid 30's - a Pakistani tribal leader. He is suspected to be the mastermind behind the Bhutto assassination. In his first television interview he claimed to be planning violent attacks on certain western nations. The Pakistani government will have to take some action at the threat this man poses. Cry out to the Father for the salvation of this man. Also ask for the salvation of his followers and for them to bring change that will glorify God in the lives of their followers.
5. **Oprah Winfrey** – 54 years old - popular talk-show host with an international audience. She has been working for 20 years, building a relationship with her viewers and readers. She influences millions as many agree with even her slightest opinion. Ask for Oprah to come to know the Jesus she knows about. Ask that this will have a major impact on the way she presents her programme and conducts her life. Pray that her testimony will convince millions to choose Jesus as the one and only God they serve.
6. **Kaká** – 26 years old - remarkable young soccer star from Brazil. Named both FIFA World Player of the Year and European footballer of the year in 2007, he is now a star. And he is devoted to his faith as an evangelical Christian. He has talked publicly about becoming a minister when he retires from the game. After winning the European Champions League final last year, he took off his jersey to reveal a T-shirt that read: I BELONG TO JESUS. Give thanks to the Lord for the bold testimony of this man. Pray for him to remain steadfast in his faith, not to fall into temptation and for many to choose Christ because of his testimony.
7. **Sheik Mohammed al-Maktoum** – 58 years old - ruler of Dubai. Ruling the country on his own since 2006, he has transformed this desert emirate into a major global hub for business, finance, trade and tourism, making Dubai an internationally recognised synonym for success in the Middle East. Dubai is just one of the states of the United Emirates. Earnestly pray for this man's radical salvation, the salvation of his immediate family and those with them in positions of authority. Ask that their testimony will spill over to the other states, drawing millions into the Kingdom of God.
8. **Jacob Zuma** – 66 years old - running for president in South Africa. His pro-poor rhetoric resonates well with many ordinary South Africans who have not benefited from Mbeki's business-friendly policies. Ask God to grant this man the revelation of Jesus Christ the Son of God, the supreme ruler over the entire universe. Pray that he will submit completely to God's sovereignty and bring radical change to every bit of his life, personal, political and serve as an example for millions.
9. **Madeeha Hasan Odihaib** – 37 years old - former seamstress in Iraq. Four years ago, this mother of two and seamstress turned district council member and took three sewing machines, leveraged them into 60 sewing machines and built a business, sewing hospital sheets and flags. She now employs 100 women in Iraq which is suffering one of the worst humanitarian crises ever. Pray for the radical salvation of this woman and all of her

employees.

10. **Larry Brilliant** – 64 years old - helped eradicate smallpox. He has since worked with the United Nations to combat blindness in the developing world. His grasp of science makes him one of our leading social entrepreneurs. Ask for this man's salvation and his testimony to touch the sphere of his influence. Ask for God's favour on his life to see more significant breakthroughs in his field in his life-time. Pray that many will accept Christ as Lord because of the work he does.

(Facts only were taken from double issue, TIME magazine, 12/05/2008, pp. 29-90. Prayers are suggested by the writer of this article).

PRAYER ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE

HOW DID YOUR PRAYER WATCH START?

Over the years there have been various independent prayer groups operating under the banner of prayer in the Metropolis. It was however, after two conferences during 2001 and the establishment of the *Christian Transformation Network* five years ago, that the network emerged in its present form. The first organised effort was the mobilisation of prayer teams in certain geographical regions where a coordinator was assigned for every region. At first prayer initiatives were left in the hands of the regions and coordinators, but gradually these were more centrally coordinated. With the help of church leaders, congregational coordinators and teams were assigned and they met for a monthly breakfast during which preparation was done and initiatives discussed. The local presentation of the *Global Day of Prayer* in regions resulted in 'fraternals' (groupings of spiritual leaders) all over the metropolis where church leaders started taking responsibility for the prayer movement. This laid the foundation for the establishment of 24/7 prayer watches in which church leaders playing a vital role. Currently more than 40 churches have already committed themselves to 24/7 prayer. 24/7 Prayer was selected top priority of the transformation network's activities for 2008 and also of this year's *Global Day of Prayer*. Congregations are invited to each take one day per week or at least one day per month to pray for 24 hours.

Prayer for the South African Police Services (SAPS) and Correctional Services

On 17 August 2005, at a gathering held for the local *Transformation Network* and the SAPS, the station commander and two prayer leaders of the Sophiatown-SAPS came to share their testimonies. As a result of this, the then *Provincial Police Commissioner* requested the *Transformation Network* to establish prayer groups at all the stations within the metropolis. This goal was reached within a period of one year. At present 22 police stations are reached by prayer teams. Prayer teams are accountable to the local police chaplains as well as the coordinators of the network.

Opportunities within the *Correctional Services* also arose. Prayer teams are currently mobilised to visit a prison every week. The level of trust between the prayer network and both the SAPS and *Correctional Services* is of such a nature that the network is regularly invited to other prayer gatherings and also to give spiritual assistance to personnel.

WHAT TIPS CAN YOU GIVE OTHERS ON STARTING A PRAYER WATCH, OR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE STRUGGLING?

A basic infrastructure and dedicated staff who run a daily office is a necessity, especially in bigger centres like ours. An umbrella management with geographical coordinators works well. A network is built and maintained on the grounds of the relationship of mutual trust that develops and grows between role-players over a period of time. This means sacrifice, hours and hours spent in meetings, discussions, visits, telephone calls and correspondence. Meeting on a regular basis is essential and the frequency is determined by the initiative.

WHAT MUST ONE GUARD AGAINST?

At all costs avoid the perception that a prayer movement is the domain of individuals or a group of people. Establish the principle that churches and ordinary members hold the key to a successful geographical prayer movement. Prayer leaders are under the authority of their local leaders and the congregation coordinators must be thoroughly enlightened as to their role and function. The prayer team must at all times be in support of their spiritual leaders, submitting to them and mindful of an attitude of criticism, the wish to dominate or to manipulate them.

DO YOU SEE YOUR PRAYERS BEARING FRUIT?

We see doors opening. Schools, police stations, prisons, government departments, businesses and many more doors are busy opening. You can walk in anywhere and ask the people if you can pray for them and there will be a positive response. Many will ask that you come back and others want you to stay. If only we had enough people for the work! Church unity has grown remarkably the past few years and cooperation is getting better by the day. On the economic front there is strong growth in tourism, both foreign and domestic tourism. More and more tourists are using Port Elizabeth as a destination and departure point for their holidays. Something we might also take note of is that we have had only one short power failure this year! There is power in prayer!

CONTACT DETAILS

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