

# DAILY PRAYER GUIDE – AUGUST 2008

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Friday 1 August 2008

## **90 Days of Blessing: Repentance for injustice and broken covenants**

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ascribe greatness to You. You are the Rock; Your work is perfect; all Your ways are just. You are a God of truth and without injustice (**Dt.32:3,4**). Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face (**Ps.89:14,15**). You administer justice for the fatherless and the widow; You love the stranger and give him food and clothing (**Dt.10:18**). You have shown us what is good and require of us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (**Mic.6:8**).

Judge of the whole earth, we come to plead for mercy and grace for our community and our land. Justice is far from us. We stumble and fall because our transgressions are with us and we know our iniquities. We have lied to you and transgressed and departed from our God. We speak oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering words of falsehood from the heart. Often justice is turned back in our nations and righteousness stands far off; truth is fallen in the street (**Is.59:9-15**). The land mourns and is defiled by its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws and broken covenant with You. Therefore a curse consumes our land (**Is.24:3-6**). We are building our own houses through unrighteousness, using services without paying wages (**Jer.22:13**). Many of our cities are established by iniquity (**Hab.2:12**). We have unjust laws and oppressive decrees, depriving the poor of justice and withholding justice from the oppressed, making widows a prey and robbing the fatherless (**Is.10:2**). We repent; we ask forgiveness, we turn back to You. Fill our hearts with truth and righteousness and heal our land. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

## **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China: 808 China Blessing**

The *808 China Blessing* is a global initiative to unite a billion Christians across the globe to pray for China on 08-08-2008 at 08h08pm. Each month that leads up to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, prayer pointers which will aid you in focusing your prayers on the specific needs in China will be uploaded on the *808 China Blessing* website - [www.808chinablessing.org](http://www.808chinablessing.org). Even as we continue to pray, we thank God for His faithfulness embodied in the new developments that we currently see taking place in China. Please encourage your friends and invite them to join in prayer.

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Saturday 2 August 2008

## **Pray 40 Africa**

The recent *Pray 40 Africa* in February, held in Pretoria, South Africa, was an amazing time of 40 hours of prayer for the least-reached peoples of the world! Delegates from South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Senegal, Cameroon, Swaziland, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, India, Philippines, Canada, Sudan, Russia, Argentina, Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia, Ireland, the UK, Zimbabwe and the Central African Republic participated. The meetings focused on partnerships inspired by Biblical principles and Believers joining in prayer, to achieve common kingdom purposes of God. There were two twelve-hour overnight prayer watches, with twelve hours in between focused on reviewing and celebrating what God has been doing in each of the 12 global regions, and praying together for the least-reached peoples of each one. (*Global Christian Network Inc.* Website: [www.gcni.org](http://www.gcni.org), e-mail: [asianrd@sr21.com](mailto:asianrd@sr21.com)). Give thanks to the Lord for people from all these nations participating in this awesome prayer venture to cry out to God for His kingdom to come. Pray for these individuals to organise similar events in their countries, thus engaging more Believers in vibrant prayer, bringing glory to God.

## **Year of the Bible: Hungary**

Hungary celebrates 2008 as the *Year of the Bible*. Pray for the work of *Wycliffe* in Hungary as they actively seek ways to promote the Bible and Bible translation throughout next year, together with other ministries like the *Hungarian Bible Society* and *Operation Mobilization Hungary*. Pray also for several enquirers who are looking for God's will for their future and who are considering ministry with *Wycliffe* in Hungary. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, 11/02/08. Website: [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net) or e-mail: [jan\\_crowell@wycliffe.net](mailto:jan_crowell@wycliffe.net)).

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Sunday 3 August 2008

## **How the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples and how it can happen to you today**

### **Acts 24: He establishes your eternal hope in God**

*I have hope in God, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offence toward God and men (Ac.24:15-16).* Some people argue saying, what if

there is no God and life after death? Then you have wasted all your life without enjoying it to the full. But how about giving the following question a thought: What if there is a God and a life after death? The resurrection of the dead is often preached in our churches. However, do you and I really believe it ourselves in our heart of hearts? Is it a reality to you as a follower of Jesus? Sometimes it is important to pause and think for a moment about death. Also about life after death. If we do not believe in living forever, our lives have no real purpose or meaning except living life until it ends. This last thought is offensive to the human mind. It clearly supposes that we are not really in control of either life or death, whether we believe in life after death or not! For Paul this very knowledge of life after death was his hope. We need men and women who would live fervently for the purposes of God's kingdom because they are sure there is life after death; people who realise that their every action contributes to the record/account of their lives and their eternal reward.

*Father, by Your Holy Spirit, will You not this week revive and increase in my heart a renewed personal conviction of eternal life. Revive in me the same hope Paul had. Cause me to live for Your kingdom right here, right now, in the knowledge of spending eternity with You.*

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Please pray for those preparing for gospel outreach and other initiatives during the *Olympic Games* in China within the coming week. Urgently cry out to God for China to relax restrictions with regard to what enters the country as far as Bibles and other Christian literature is concerned. Ask that this *Olympic Games* will mark a significant turn in the persecution of Christians in China.

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Monday 4 August 2008

#### **Valcare Trust**

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

#### **Children's ministry in the Philippines**

Thank God for the work of *LAMA Ministries* that run a residential home for boys in need in the Philippines. Pray that they will find suitable candidates as they seek to recruit a Christian social worker and a psychologist to help with the work in practical ways. Pray for God's provision for young men to find work and a place to live as they get older and leave the house. (*Viva Network*. Website: [www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org) or e-mail [cbaker@viva.org](mailto:cbaker@viva.org)).

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Tuesday 5 August 2008

#### **Highway Ministry Prayer Patrol**

*Highway Ministry* is an interdenominational ministry directed at the trucking industry. It is a non-profit organisation with a mission to proclaim the Word to and establish the love of Jesus Christ in the hearts of all those involved in this industry. Pray for this initiative to become thoroughly established and well supported. Ask that it will become a tool to help bring true transformation in the hearts and minds of South African road users. Pray for favour with other role players as the organisation endeavours to connect with and strengthen existing programmes such as *Arrive Alive*. (*Highway Ministry*. Tel.: 016 349 1996 or e-mail: [highwaymin@lantic.net](mailto:highwaymin@lantic.net)).

#### **Far East Broadcasting Association (FEBA) South Africa**

In 2008 *FEBA South Africa* continues to raise support for the *International Far East Broadcasting Ministry*, but at the same time puts a strong emphasis on planned local ministry as well as projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. (*FEBA Radio SA*, P.O. Box 26270, Gezina, 0031. Tel.: 012 335 5708/5764, fax: 012 335 8134. Website: [www.febaradio.co.za](http://www.febaradio.co.za), or e-mail: [febasa@corpdiel.co.za](mailto:febasa@corpdiel.co.za)). Give thanks to the Lord for the growth and favour resting on this ministry. Pray for them to be able to raise the necessary support for both the international and local ministry of *FEBA*. Also ask for the protection of all staff members.

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Wednesday 6 August 2008

**National prayer focus on China**

It is only two days to the opening of the 2008 *Olympic Games* in China. It is said that 1 in 5 people in the world is Chinese. Although there are millions of Christians in China, many more millions remain completely untouched by the gospel. Imagine if they all turn to Christ! That would mean 20% of the world population following Jesus! Consider spending time in prayer and fasting over the next three weeks for breakthroughs for the gospel in this nation, whether on a personal level or as a cell group or denomination. Ask God to touch the hearts of several government officials, to create special opportunities for them to hear the gospel and for this nation to turn their hearts to follow Jesus Christ within this generation.

**Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Eritrea**

Eritrea now takes seventh place as a country that persecutes Christians. Since the Eritrean government banned Evangelical churches in 2002, the conditions for Christians have rapidly deteriorated. The government has closed houses of worship, confiscated and destroyed their property and imprisoned and tortured many Christians. It is estimated that there are currently more than 2,000 Christians in prisons and military camps. (Website: [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) or e-mail: [icc@persecution.org](mailto:icc@persecution.org)). Pray for these imprisoned Christians, that their testimony will also turn the hearts of other prisoners to follow Christ. Ask for their health not to deteriorate, for them to be encouraged and never to turn away from believing in Jesus.

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Thursday 7 August 2008

**BUSA calls for end to poverty**

*Business Unity SA (BUSA)* advised government to continue paying attention to skills development and poverty alleviation. There remain pivotal challenges on the job creation, infrastructure, skills development and poverty alleviation fronts that require enhanced commitment. (*Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA)*). Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/876721.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for institutions like these that advise government on governing the country. Please pray about this specific issue, that people will make proper use of opportunities to develop their skills in the workplace.

**Pray for celebrities in need of God**

Britney Spears is a young singer who has many followers among young people. This young lady's life spiralled completely out of control the last two years. Her small children also suffer because of her current situation. Let us pray for her and many others in similar situations: Heavenly Father, I lift up in prayer Britney Spears and all other celebrities whose lives are in real need of You. I ask that You would work mightily in their lives to bring them to true repentance and accept Your Son as their Lord and Saviour. I pray for these young women who seem to be hurting so and are confused and spiritually lost. Speak to them through Your Spirit, prompting them to seek Your Word and find Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Light. Your Word tells us that no man comes to the Father but by Jesus. Help all these people to know this is true for them too. In the Name of Jesus, amen.

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Friday 8 August 2008

**90 Days of Blessing: Repentance for immorality**

Lord God, we have defiled the land with divorce, with abominable sexual practices such as homosexuality, incest, fornication and prostitution (**Jer.3:1-3; Rm.1:26,27; Lev.18:23**). We confess that our generation is rife with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness and maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and evil-mindedness. There are backbiters, haters of God, violent and proud people, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient ones to parents; undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving and unmerciful people (**Rm.1:29,30**). Even in the Church we confess that we have defiled our bodies with immorality and in doing this have defiled the temple of the Holy Spirit (**1 Cor.6.18-20**).

If You, Lord, should mark our iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be feared (**Ps.130:3,4**). Yes, to the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against You (**Dn.9:9**). We humble ourselves before You and ask that You will guide us in justice and teach us Your ways (**Ps.25:9**). Help us to not live according to our fleshly desires, but to put to death the deeds of the body through Your Spirit (**Rm.8:13**). We want to learn to walk in the Spirit so that we will not gratify the flesh (**Ga.5:16-26**). Help us to keep our conduct honourable amongst the unbelievers so that they may see our good works and glorify You (**1 Pe.2:11-12**). Forgive us for being carnally minded and help us to set our minds on the things of the Spirit so that we can please You (**Rm.8:5-8**). We plead with You to transform us

by renewing our minds through Your Word, so that we will not be conformed to this world, but may prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God (**Rm.12:2**).

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on *Olympic Games* in Beijing, China**

We will have a two-fold prayer focus on China for the duration of the *Olympic Games*. Firstly we will pray for favour for the gospel to the peoples of the world visiting China. Secondly we will focus on an issue concerning the gospel in the church and among the people of China. Please consider praying and fasting, asking God for many spiritual breakthroughs for both the nations of the world and China over these days.

Pray for the *Olympic Games* which begins today in Beijing, China. Ask that God will be honoured and glorified. Pray for the Christian groups and individuals who now have the opportunity to present the gospel to hundreds of people, for their safety, physically and spiritually. Ask for the protection of all of the athletes and all the spectators. Pray for the police and the Chinese government who have the responsibility of protecting this world event. (Website on the *Olympic Games*: <http://en.beijing2008.cn/>).

**Pray for the church in China:** Kuytun is the capital of a Kazakh area. Pray for the Lord to send more workers to reach China's 1.4 million Kazakhs (**Jer.1:4-9**). (Website: <http://www.prayforchina.com/Map.htm?lang=e#>).

Saturday 9 August 2008

***National Women's Day***

This day has its origin in 1956 when some 20,000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. This day is celebrated as a reminder of the contribution made by women to society, the achievements that have been reached for women's rights and to acknowledge the difficulties and prejudices many women still face. (Website:<http://africanhistory.about.com/b/a/257344.htm>). Please pray for *Women's Day* celebrations today, that glory will not go to humans, but to God for His influence in our lives. Ask that women will put their trust in God, even for practical breakthroughs concerning gender. (For more information on how to play a part today, contact: *National Women's Day Africa Christian Action*, P.O. Box 23632, Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884, Website: [www.christianaction.org.za](http://www.christianaction.org.za) or e-mail: [info@christianaction.org.za](mailto:info@christianaction.org.za)).

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on *Olympic Games* in Beijing, China**

Please pray for numerous ministries preparing to spread the gospel in various ways during the course of the *Olympic Games*. Ask for China at this time to relax restrictions on Christianity that will make it easier for the gospel to continue spreading after everyone has gone home.

**Pray for the church in China:** About 20 million Chinese have died in the Laogai prison system in the past half-century. Pray against the spirit of oppression that hangs over China's 1.3 billion people (**Ps.12:5**). (Website: <http://www.prayforchina.com/Map.htm?lang=e#>).

Sunday 10 August 2008

**How the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples and how it can happen to you today**

**Acts 25: He will give you great confidence**

Paul's reliance on the Lord never wavered. In the face of the Jews who hated him and the Romans who were baffled by him, he remained confident. How did Paul know Christ was alive in the loneliness of a prison cell, the pain of a flogging, or the desolation of a shipwreck? Through his never-ending companionship with the Holy Spirit. Jesus not only promised to send the Comforter, but He delivered on that commitment. There is only one cure for disappointment in ministry and our Christian life. To be comforted. And there is only one Person that can really comfort us and that is God through His Holy Spirit. There is nothing like pouring out your heart in all honesty before God and experiencing how He comes and removes and covers all that troubles you in just one moment. It is the sweetest most precious experience to be healed in the presence of God. Do you have things right now troubling your heart? Are you too struggling with disappointment – even being disappointed in yourself? Often anger is a cover-up for underlying disappointment. There is really a way to receive healing and relief, but it will cost you and me time spent time with the Comforter!

Father, I confess that I do not always come to You in all honesty when disappointment strikes. I feel ashamed of being angry and disappointed, especially in myself. Forgive me for not trusting You with everything in my life. Please, as I come before You today, draw me into Your presence like never before. Comfort me and heal me from anger and disappointment. Also help me to forgive myself for disappointing You.

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire many individuals to testify to others about Jesus Christ in such a way that it will cause people from different nations to enquire about the love of God. Ask for Godly wisdom for Christians to minister the Word of God timely and untimely (2 Tim.4:2) and to make the best of every opportunity.

**Pray for the church in China:** There is an increase in attacks on house churches and leaders. *Open Doors* in China reports that although religious liberty is guaranteed by the constitution, it only applies to religion practised in a *TSPM (Three Self Patriotic Movement)* approved church. (This organisation previously – in the 1950s – supervised the destruction of all independent denominations. Today it is responsible for relaying Party religious policies to Christians at the local level). Those who resist registration are harassed, restricted, persecuted and imprisoned for long periods of time. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se)). Continue praying about this situation, asking for Christians to have supernatural favour with government. Ask that Christians will get approval to rebuild these churches and buildings already destroyed, without further resistance.

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Monday 11 August 2008

**Andrew Murray Centre ministers in prisons**

It now seems that soon some of the Christians with longer sentences who have come to Christ and shown themselves faithful inside are coming up for possible release on parole. Pray that they will stand and remain faithful when that time comes. It is harder to stand for Christ outside the prison walls than inside. Ask for God to release more missionary workers and leaders to support new converts who are released from prison. (*Andrew Murray Centre*, Wellington. Tel.: 021 864 3477 and e-mail: [bliss.david.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:bliss.david.deborah@gmail.com)).

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

It might happen that Christians testifying and distributing Christian literature at the Games might end up in custody. Please pray for such Christians, that even when these things happen, they will not be afraid, but make the best use of their opportunities. Ask that in these and other ways, it will turn into an occasion for them to be witnesses for Jesus Christ; that they will be heard and their hearers touched in a deeply personal way (Lk.21:13).

**Pray for the church in China:** Gansu has the second most Muslim Hui in China (1,233,600). Pray for those who worship at Lanzhou's Great Mosque to know the love of God (1 Jn.4:8-9). (Website: <http://www.prayforchina.com/Map.htm?lang=e#>).

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Tuesday 12 August 2008

**Pastoring of Pastors Network (POPnet) meeting**

Please pray for the *POPnet Clinic and Consultation*, 12-15 August 2008 in Pretoria. *POPnet* is hosting a practical training clinic and planning consultation on mentoring for pastoral and denominational leaders. Please pray for event planning, for leaders' interest and participation, for the main speaker, Dr David Kornfield from Brazil, and for a movement of pastoring of pastors in Southern Africa – where pastors would provide peer shepherding and care to each other. (*TOPIC SA*, e-mail: [topic@topicsa.net](mailto:topic@topicsa.net). Tel.: 011 972 6919).

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Continue to pray for God to touch individuals from many nations visiting Beijing during this period, whether they are athletes or visitors. Ask for the testimony of Christian athletes to really minister the love of Jesus and the Father to the hearts of others, inspiring them to find out how it can become part of their lives too. Also pray about security issues at the Games today, that God will pre-warn officials about any suspicious activity. Ask for all perpetrators to be caught before any damage can be done and for God to be glorified because of this.

**Pray for the church in China:** The Chinese *Public Security Bureau (PSB)* personnel have visited most house church meetings, baptismal services and training sessions, and pastors in Beijing have been requested to leave the city before the

Games begin. Foreigners in at least two provinces have been expelled for having remained too long in the cities as 'students'. Some have been expelled for having Chinese Christian literature in their homes. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se)). The reality of Christian opposition in China is staggering. Continue to cry out to the Lord for this situation to be altered before the end of 2008.

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Wednesday 13 August 2008

### **SA retailers experience a slowdown**

Retail sales have fallen for the first time in nearly seven years, signalling that rising debt costs and inflation have put consumers under strain. The retail sector is the economy's third biggest and news that it has contracted for the first time since the start of 2001, backs the view that higher interest rates will curb growth sharply this year.

(Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A705998>). Continue to pray for people to pay their debt and to stop overspending on their salaries, bonuses, home loans and credit cards. Also ask for the church to more openly begin to address these practical issues from a Biblical perspective.

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray today for special favour to distribute Bibles and Christian literature among participants in the *Olympic Games*. Ask that these would not be confiscated or destroyed, but that each Bible and piece of literature will find its way to a hungry and searching heart. Ask for favour at this time, that communication between visiting and local church leaders will lead to the import of thousands of Bibles to also put in the hands of local Christians.

**Pray for the church in China:** Pray for new Believers, that they will have a hunger to study, meditate and pray the Word of God. Ask for their protection. Also that God will raise up strong, humble leaders that will establish 24-7 houses of prayer everywhere in China, encouraging believers to begin crying out for the salvation of their own tribes and tongues in China. Ask for restrictions on Christianity to be lifted at this time prior to the *Olympic Games*, in answer to much prayer.

### **Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: China**

China now takes eighth place as a country that persecutes Christians. Christianity first came to China in the same decade that Muhammad died - the 630's. The emperor ordered that the Holy Bible be translated into Chinese and that a church be built in the capital. The next emperor honoured this decree and had churches built in every province of China. After 200 years things began to change drastically. The *Cultural Revolution*, from 1966-1976, was one of the worst recorded persecutions of Christians in history. While Communism is slowly dying in China, Christians are still severely persecuted and they remain in hiding, meeting in house churches and secretly bringing new people to Christ. (Website: [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) or e-mail: [icc@persecution.org](mailto:icc@persecution.org)). Let us pray for God's favour upon the church in China to reach out to their own people with the gospel.

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Thursday 14 August 2008

### **SA's position in relation to the rest of the world**

The challenges we face also involve domestic problems such as crime, corruption, inadequate housing and infrastructure and a lack of technical and managerial skills. Public spending, which used to be measured in millions is discussed in billions - and now trillions, as planners look towards 2010. The money is available and the will is there, if only because of the realisation that the problems simply have to be solved. (*SA at a Glance*, 2007/8, p.14). Lift up this situation to the Lord in prayer. Pray for the tide of crime and corruption to completely be turned around in every sphere of life. Ask for favour in the building of houses and infrastructure as well as more young people to enrol for tertiary training.

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray today for athletes winning medals and that those who are Christian will make every effort to give glory to God for blessing them to be award-winning athletes. Ask that judges will be able to make the right decisions concerning allocation of places as athletes compete. Pray for security police to be sharp in their observations in all of the different venues where activities are taking place.

**Pray for the church in China:** The church in China continues growing amidst persecution. Large numbers are attracted by the preaching of the gospel and then become converted; surely this is evidence of a powerful movement of the Spirit of God.

It would be untrue to suggest that revival is sweeping the entire country, but in many areas the growth of the church has been staggering, with huge numbers of converts in recent years. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.23). Give thanks to the Lord for pouring out His Spirit upon the Chinese people. Pray for new Believers to grow strong in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

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Friday 15 August 2008

**Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network* across the country. Ask for their safety, strength and health. Also pray for God to provide in their practical and physical needs. There are still some difficulty in the printing and posting process of the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide*. Please pray that this process will be running smoothly this month, as the next issue of *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide* will be posted during the next 10 days. Ask that every booklet will reach its destination in time and no envelope or package will get lost. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)).

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray for the health of those nations visiting China and exploring its rich food. Also ask for Christians to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as they travel through Beijing and other parts of China, so that they do not unwittingly partake in any ungodly rituals, no matter how innocent they seem. Continue asking for the protection of the Christian ministries spreading the gospel.

**Pray for the church in China:** The lack of trained pastors and teachers has reached crisis proportions. One province, with over one million believers has only a hundred ordained pastors, about one for every 10,000 Christians. In other provinces the ratio is 1:50,000 and 1:100,000. This leaves congregations open to every wind of doctrine from enthusiastic, but extremist elements in their midst and also makes them vulnerable to cultic evangelists who travel from village to village. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.38). Pray about this situation, that more young Christian men and women will specifically take up the pastoring role in China and enrol for the necessary theological studies. Also pray for the church, that the Holy Spirit will reveal to Christians every form of false doctrine.

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Saturday 16 August 2008

**Land reform failure rate may be 50%**

It seems that only 50% of the estimated land reform goals are reached at the moment. Over the past 12 years, more than 4 million hectares of land has been delivered to millions of beneficiaries in respect of 79,000 land claims. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A709171>). Ask that these land claims will proceed in a satisfactory way, both for those giving up land and those gaining ownership of land. Pray for new landowners, that they will be open and keen to learn how to be good stewards of the land they receive. Also pray for the land and agrarian development agency to be established and to be successful in its purpose.

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray for Christian athletes and other Christian groupings to pray for each other and for those who are on the brink of making a decision to follow Christ. Ask that God will answer their prayers with signs and miracles and turn many hearts to Him with a hunger after His Word. Pray also for the safety of athletes, that no accidents will occur or claim any lives.

**Pray for the church in China:** In March 1999 *Amity Press* in Nanjing celebrated the printing of 20 million Bibles. Prices of Bibles are low – the most popular (printed in the 'simplified script' which is used everywhere in mainland China) are very affordable. Pocket Bibles are even cheaper. Bibles are now more readily available than in the 1970's when Bibles were often laboriously hand-copied. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.40). Give thanks to the Lord for this change that has taken place this past 40 years. Continue praying for a greater hunger and thirst among Believers to read and study the Bible.

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Sunday 17 August 2008

**How the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples and how it can happen to you today**  
**Acts 26: He empowers the words of your mouth**

Paul took every opportunity to present his testimony. His defence before King Agrippa was so strong it has been a model of study for legal scholars. There was strength in his witness and power in his words. When he was finished, Agrippa said, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (**Ac.26:28**). Almost anyone can deliver a speech, but only the Spirit can produce a testimony like this! Thousands of sermons are preached on Sundays and right through the week. How many people are turning to Christ? How many Christians purify their lives and deny themselves the pleasures of this world, because they know they love Jesus more than the world? The church is in desperate need of men and women who are anointed to preach the gospel so people will need no conviction at all, since the Holy Spirit already convicts them through such testimonies! Do you desire to speak about God like this? Do you know God like this? Will you not think seriously today about asking God to come and change your life and baptise you with His Holy Spirit?

*Heavenly Father, please baptise men and women, young and old with Your Holy Spirit and with fire, so we might testify, preach and proclaim Your Name, in season and out of season (**2 Tim.4:2**) and without any fear of man. Forgive us for living lukewarm lives, allowing ourselves to sin and do things we know do not honour You. Purify our lives, wash us clean with Your Word (**Ps.51:2**).*

#### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Despite the fact that the origin of the *Olympic Games* is completely non-Christian, such an occasion still poses much opportunity to minister the love of God to the nations. Pray for the peaceable continuation of the *Olympic Games* programme. Ask for thousands of Christians to cover this event in prayer and for God to continue intervening in the lives of thousands in Beijing for the duration of the Games.

**Pray for the church in China:** Although Bibles are readily available in cities, it's a different situation in rural areas where 70% of the population and probably a similar percentage of Christians live. Many cannot afford to travel long distances. If there are Bibles, they are often sold out before the need is satisfied. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.40). Pray for the distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature to rural areas, so more people can have access to the Word of God.

#### **ARTICLE: Prayer focus on China**

##### **History on reaching China with the gospel – missing opportunities**

In the year 1266, Mongol emperor Kublai Khan (1215-1294) ruler of north China with 15 million inhabitants, and south China with 65 million inhabitants, asked the Polo brothers to return to Europe with requests to the Roman pope for 100 missionaries. He wrote to the Roman pope: Send me 100 men skilled in your religion ... and so I shall be baptised and then all my barons and great men and then their subjects. And so there will be more Christians here than there are in your parts. Two Dominicans were sent, but they turned back before reaching their destination. Then in 1278, (12 years later) the pope sent 5 Franciscans. This was one of the greatest missed opportunities to evangelise China in Christian history.

In 1644 the last heir to the Chinese throne under the Ming dynasty was baptised, but then the Manchus seized power. They killed 25 million Chinese at the time. This was the second of the three great missed opportunities for Christianity, when once again the Chinese imperial throne was almost won for Christianity.

Again in 1843, the great peaceful Kingdom (Tai Ping Tien Kueh: Society of Worshipers of the True God/Celestial Kingdom of Great Peace) was begun in China as a quasi-Christian sect by Hakka founder Hung Hsiu-chuan (1814-1864), and the leaders were strongly influenced by the message of the New Testament. In 1853, rebels captured Nanking and appealed to Protestant missions to guide them, but were ignored. This was the third great missed opportunity to win China to Christianity. (*World Christian Trends*, pp 124, 133, 140).

##### **What is happening today?**

Since as early as the year 683, Christians have been persecuted in China. Over the centuries, Christians have missed significant opportunities to bring the gospel to this country and its people, mainly because of negligence. Today literally thousands of Bibles are printed in China and distributed across the world because it is less expensive to print them there than in many Christian countries. Yet, China ranks eighth of countries that are persecuting Christians. There are many restrictions on Christians, their gatherings and churches.

### **What about the Olympic Games?**

In 2008 the *Olympic Games* will take place in China and the media has been busying itself with this coming event. A lot of attention is paid to tourists that will be coming to visit China. It seems that the Chinese authorities are relaxing their strict rules and regulations under the pressures of the 'world coming to visit China'. During the past two years, Chinese people have had opportunities like never before to engage in extensive studies of the English language in preparation for the *Olympic Games*. The country is taking care to educate its people to be able to communicate and interact with foreigners as they arrive.

Could it be that 2008 might just be the year that we have been waiting for the past almost 800 years? What can we do to play our part and make the best of this opportunity when all the nations of the world will enter the borders of China in 2008? It is a time to hear the voice of the Lord. It is a time to seek His face, to cry out to Him for favour with people for His kingdom. It is a time to proclaim His promises, to declare that His Name is above all other Names and to prophesy the Kingdom of God to come in China as it is in heaven.

Join us in our special focus on China for the month of August when they will host the international *Olympic Games*. Let us trust God more than ever for a special breakthrough in this country.

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Monday 18 August 2008

### **Pornography and paedophilia**

A *Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)* report on online child abuse shows that they cannot measure the extent of the problem in SA. Suggestions to tackle the problem are for Internet service providers and cell-phone distributors to refer clients who download or distribute child abuse images to the authorities for investigation. Also an Internet monitoring system to monitor and remove child abuse image content, etc. will help solve this problem.

(Website: <http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/internet/2008/0801241032.asp?O=FPTOP&S=Legal%20View&A=LEG>). As often as you are reminded of these, please pray for breakthroughs in the problems mentioned above. Ask that not only effective monitoring will come into place, but also that there will be sufficient evidence for perpetrators to be prosecuted. Often perpetrators have been victims themselves. Ask for God's deliverance and healing to set these people free.

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Lift up in prayer today all athletes in Beijing that are from closed countries. Pray for God to lead Christians to minister to them in such a way that they will be hungry to find out more about God's love for them. Ask for good friendship relationships to be formed so that they will continue ministering to them after the Games, and that those returning home will also minister to their families and friends.

**Pray for the church in China:** State policy does not allow the church to preach the gospel to those under the age of 18, or to lead them to Christ. It also does not allow Believers to pray for the sick, to receive Believers from afar or to have communication with churches overseas. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.66). These are some of the reasons why Christians do not want to register their congregations, because they are held accountable on these issues. Continue to pray for the church to have wisdom on how to continue their work under these circumstances.

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Tuesday 19 August 2008

### **Medical aids to include traditional healers**

Once the *Traditional Health Practitioners Bill* is enacted, one of the priorities of the interim 22-member *National Traditional Healers' Council* will be to negotiate with medical aids to pay for treatments by traditional healers. All traditional healers will be required to register with the council before they can practise in South Africa and at least 350,000 traditional healers are expected to register. It will take about five years to become a fully-fledged traditional healer, and healers will be divided into three categories: diviners (sangomas), herbalists (nyangas) and traditional surgeons, who perform circumcisions. Traditional healers would be required to know how to identify and mix most of the more than 5,000 herbs found in the country, as well as how to use them to heal the sick. One of the first major tasks of the interim committee would be to train traditional healers on how to claim from medical aid societies.

(Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=125&art\\_id=vn20080119083513598C800758](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20080119083513598C800758)). Please take time this week at your prayer meetings to focus in prayer on this situation. Cry out to God for the salvation of sangomas, nyangas and traditional surgeons across our country and for many of them to lead others to also follow the Lord Jesus.

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Lift up to the Lord in prayer every tribe, tongue and nation represented at the *Olympic Games*. Cry out to Him for their salvation, that in this generation the full number of each will come into His kingdom. Also pray for security police, organisers and team leaders from the different countries, coaches, trainers etc. that none will leave the *Olympic Games* without having an opportunity to be confronted with the love of God and the choice for eternal Life.

**Pray for the church in China:** Unfortunately numerous cults have spread to virtually every province. The church is struggling to combat false teaching with the lack of trained pastors and preachers and a lack of teaching materials. The threat facing the Chinese church from sects and cults is serious. (*China's Christian Millions*, p.130). Pray into this situation on a regular basis. Ask for the Holy Spirit to teach every Believer, that they will realise that Jesus is the truth and the truth will set them free (**Jn.3:30-32**). Pray that they will have an urgency to read and study the life of Jesus from the Bible.

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Wednesday 20 August 2008

### **SA and Namibia considering Orange River hydro project**

The presidents of South Africa and Namibia have given the go-ahead for a feasibility study for a hydro-electrical power station along the Orange River between the two countries. The decision comes as South Africa again experienced blackouts throughout the country due to load-shedding. Namibia was also not left unscathed as the country's power utility *Nampower* was forced to reduce its power imports from its southern neighbour.

(Website:

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=68&art\\_id=nw20071011232753506C398319&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20071012ah](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20071011232753506C398319&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20071012ah)). Let us continue to pray about the availability of electricity in our country. Pray for good strategic planning and good management over the next 5 years to bring relief in the supply of electricity to the nation. Ask that God will show responsible, creative ways in which more people can have access to electricity, even in poor areas.

### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Many final rounds will now take place in the different sports arenas. Pray today for South African athletes at the Games, that they will be successful in their particular sport, but most of all, that each one will in some way give the glory to God. Ask for the protection of our athletes from scandal, false accusations, crime, accidents, physical accidents or illness.

**Pray for the church in China:** The year 2007 has seen a widespread increase of persecution across China. Statistics show that the number of cases of persecution, the number of people persecuted and the number of people arrested and detained has increased dramatically since 2006. The concern is that in 2009 the persecution of churches and Christians will escalate and the human rights condition will seriously worsen. (*China Aid Association*, fax: 432 686 8355, Website: <http://www.chinaaid.org/> or <http://www.monitorchina.org/> or e-mail: [info@ChinaAid.org](mailto:info@ChinaAid.org)). Pray that this will not be the case. Ask for the Chinese government to relax restrictions on Christian activity and to legalise this relaxation of restrictions soon. Ask that the door to minister Jesus Christ will open wider after the Games.

### **Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Vietnam**

Vietnam now takes ninth place as a country that persecutes Christians. This year the *US State Department* decided to drop Vietnam from their *Country of Particular Concern (CPC)* list of religious freedom violators, yet it remains one of the most difficult places to live as a Christian. Although, throughout the country, restrictions on Christians do appear to have been eased, the Vietnamese government continues to brutally oppress the mostly Christian ethnic groups in the Central Highlands. They are often imprisoned without trial, abducted, raped by police officers, tortured in the form of electric shock, injected with drugs and beaten. The police also confiscate their Bibles, burn their churches, take their land, raid their homes and interrupt their worship services. The government continues to hold more than 300 Central Highland Christians in custody. (Website: [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) or e-mail: [icc@persecution.org](mailto:icc@persecution.org)). Cry out to the Lord for persecuted Christians in Vietnam. Ask for them to have favour with the very people persecuting them, that many of the police will also be won over for the kingdom of God.

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Thursday 21 August 2008

### **Solar-power toilet offers solution**

A solar-powered and waterless toilet could be the answer for millions of South Africans who still don't have access to basic sanitation. Using a solar panel and a turnstile as a ventilator and extractor, the toilet system is able to convert organic matter

into compost without the need of water or electricity and thus makes it possible to use in homes. Not only would this mechanism provide better sanitation, it would also help electrify a home. An investment and technology company are now negotiating with suppliers to create an affordable, larger solar panel to power other household appliances. The pilot project in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, has proven successful and they now ask government to subsidise this toilet system.

(Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=124&art\\_id=vn20080219095625562C983467](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=124&art_id=vn20080219095625562C983467)). Give thanks to the Lord for this and other practical, low cost and effective solutions that address more than one problem! Pray about this and other projects, that God will show companies more ways to address sanitation, water and electricity shortages in the long term and especially in rural areas.

#### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray for athletes who are falling out in qualification rounds and are returning home. Ask that in their disappointment, they will remember God and cry out to Him. Pray for their protection and that each one will by him/herself begin to search for that 'something more' in life.

**Pray for the church in China:** When the *People's Republic of China* was founded in 1949, China closed the door to foreigners for the best part of the next 30 years. More than 10,000 missionaries were scattered throughout the region and were now ordered to leave. They lamented the future of the church in China, believing it too young and weak to withstand the ferocity of a totalitarian regime. History however, has proven that, far from being overcome by persecution, the Chinese church found a maturity and boldness in their faith they might not have had in other circumstances. The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread. (*Operation China*, p.1). Give thanks to God who builds His church! Give thanks to Him for raising up so many prayer warriors to intercede for China. Give thanks to God for doing things His way.

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Friday 22 August 2008

#### **South Africa faces huge obstacles**

Many children stay in shacks on their own; some have nothing to eat and some stay with a parent that is desperately ill because of HIV/AIDS. Three or four out of 10 girls get pregnant and drop out of school. Adding to the problems is a major shortage of teachers and at primary school level, some classes have more than 100 pupils per class.

(Website: [http://www.news24.com/News24/South\\_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442\\_2253315,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2253315,00.html)). Let us persevere in prayer for the plight of children suffering because of HIV/AIDS and other problems. If you personally know of some of these cases, pray to ask God's guidance on how you can become at least part of the solution.

#### **8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Pray for thousands of people preparing to either tour the rest of China or return home. Ask that those who consider touring the rest of the country will take every chance and opportunity to minister the love of Jesus Christ to the people of China. Continue to pray for those with responsibilities in the organisation of the Games, the security police and the many visitors, that their hearts will be open and receptive to impulses from the Holy Spirit to consider Christ as King of their lives.

**Pray for the church in China:** In 1992, the highly respected *Ethnologue* which describes more than 6,000 languages in the world, listed 168 'living languages' within China, but an extra 37 languages were 'discovered' in China in the next four years! As anthropologists and linguists begin to conduct studies in more remote mountainous areas of southwest China, it can be expected that dozens more tribes and languages will come to light. (*Operation China*, p.5). Praise the Lord for all the tribes and tongues of the earth and especially China! This means there is still a long road of missionary work ahead, since the Bible promises that people of every tribe, tongue and nation will stand before His throne! (**Rev.5:7-9**). Ask that the remainder of Chinese people's languages will be discovered and for Bible portions to be translated into each one of these languages within this generation.

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Saturday 23 August 2008

#### **Crime costs business R3.5bn**

Crime is taking an increasingly heavy toll on business, which lost more than R3.5 billion's worth of goods last year through shoplifting, fraud and robberies. Business reported 4,438 robberies in the 12 months to September last year, up from 3,433 in the previous 12 months, thus an increase of 29% in this category of crime. Gauteng is still the province hardest hit by business robbery, with 54% of the incidents occurring there. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/features/776943.htm>). It is

amazing to see that more criminals are caught red-handed these days than ever before. Something is turning the tide and righteousness is setting up itself against crime. Let us persevere for this tide to turn completely.

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Tomorrow the *Olympic Games* for 2008 will come to an end. Pray for the completion of activities at the Games to continue running smoothly. Ask for the protection of everyone in Beijing. Also pray for travel mercies for the thousands already leaving the country.

**Pray for the church in China:** Since the gradual opening up of China in the 1980s, numerous Christian workers and ministries have commenced work there. That has coincided with a world-wide movement in missions, focusing on ministry to unreached people groups. Still an estimated 300 people group remain who have never heard the gospel. (*Operation China*, p.5). Please pray for the church in China, to trust God for strategy on how to reach their people with the gospel. Ask for God to raise up visionaries within the Chinese church to tackle this task and to grow in favour with God and men to complete this task within the next generation (**1 Sa.2:26**).

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Sunday 24 August 2008

**How the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples and how it can happen to you today**

**Acts 27: He will save you from natural disaster**

*On his final journey to Rome, Paul was a prisoner on a ship with 276 passengers. After two weeks of storm-tossed seas, Paul implored them all to eat something (Ac.27:33). He not only urged them to eat for survival, but reassured them, "Not a hair will fall from the head of any of you" (v.34). In a time of trial, the depth of our personal relationship with the Lord is severely tested. Paul knew everything that would still happen to him and had no fear that he would die there. Because of the favour of God on Paul's life, everyone else's life was also saved. How do you react in times of trial? Do you blame God for not loving you or being on your side? Do you blame others and break out in fights and fits when things are not going your way? How do we react to the situation in our country? Does it bring us to our knees, calling upon the Name of God, or do we join the unbelievers in our accusation and negative attitude? All of us fall in one of these ways at least a few times in our lives. However, when the favour of God is upon us and we learn to trust His love for us, our peace in Him will be our refuge.*

*Father, forgive me for always trying to blame someone else and also for questioning Your love or sincere intentions with my life. Please deliver me from self-pity. Teach me to face my own shortcomings and the shallow relationship I have with Your Holy Spirit. Today I ask, please change my life. Teach me to hear Your voice, to trust You at all times and to look to You rather than circumstances. Help me to become part of the solution, no matter what circumstances I end up in, because of my relationship with You. With You nothing is impossible.*

**8-24 August 2008: Prayer focus on Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

Today is the last day of the 2008 *Olympic Games*. Give thanks to the Lord for answering much prayer over the past 17 days. Pray for new Believers, that they will remain in contact with those who led them to the Lord and continue to grow spiritually in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Also pray for the next few days for travelling mercies for all who are returning home, especially those passing through the local airports of China.

**Pray for the church in China:** An unreached people group is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with the adequate numbers and resources to evangelise their people group without requiring outside (cross-cultural) assistance. (*Operation China*, p.6). Lift up in prayer the church in China before the throne of grace. Keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that they may know Him better. Pray also that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened so they may know the hope to which He has called them, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints and His incomparably great power for those who believe (**Eph.1:17-18**).

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Monday 25 August 2008

**Premature births may be linked to tik**

Staff at the Tygerberg Hospital's neonatal unit has seen a "year-on-year rise" for the last six years in premature births, which could be related to the increased number of pregnant women using tik. It is difficult to get anti-drug messages across to mothers abusing tik.

(Website:

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=79&art\\_id=vn20080115071255600C495400&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080216ah](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20080115071255600C495400&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080216ah)). Continue to pray for those addicted to tik to be delivered from their addiction. Especially pray for young girls and ladies that are tik users to realise the dangers to their own lives and the lives of their babies and to take positive decisions to stop using tik. Never cease praying for the operations of drug networks and drug lords to be discovered and completely shut down.

### **Yonzhi of north-west China**

More than 3,000 members of the Yonzhi tribe, a nomadic Tibetan people group, live in a virtually inaccessible area of eastern Qinghai Province in north-west China. The Yonzhi are one of the most unreachable people groups in China – if not the entire world. Their region is snowbound for most of the year with temperatures plummeting to minus 40°C. The Yonzhi move around frequently, relocating their homes and herds to new pastures. Their communities are only accessible on foot or horseback. It is possible that 100% of the Yonzhi have never heard the name of Jesus Christ. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.351). Take time this week to remind God of His promises for the Yonzhi people, that some of their kind will turn to Jesus even this year.

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Tuesday 26 August 2008

### **Sheep AIDS hits hundreds of farms**

*Ovine Johne's Disease*, better known as "sheep AIDS" because of the emaciation it causes, has spread to hundreds of farms in the Western Cape. The disease was first detected on 47 farms in Caledon, Ceres and Mossel Bay a decade ago, but has slowly spread to hundreds of farms. *Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD)*, or Para tuberculosis, is a chronic and contagious disease found world-wide, and is characterised by persistent diarrhoea, weight loss, debilitation and eventual death. The sickness is hard to detect and can cause losses of up to 20% of sheep in highly infected flocks. The *Small Stock Health Advisory Body* has urged that heavily infected areas be quarantined.

(Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=594&art\\_id=vn20080225041030310C554637](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=594&art_id=vn20080225041030310C554637)). This slow growing problem poses a future threat to the sheep farming industry. Ask that a proper remedy be found soon to completely solve and reverse this tide of sheep AIDS. Also that it would be a breakthrough for South African scientists and of much help to other countries.

### **Brunei**

Muslims in Brunei aim for a 'pure' Islamic state by 2020. The king is reputed to be the world's wealthiest man. Pray for conversions to Christ in this large royal family. Pray also for political liberalisation in the country. Ask that all Brunei Malays will hunger for spiritual truth and peace with God and discover it through reading the Scriptures, listening to Christian broadcasts etc. Pray that thousands and thousands of Brunei Malays will be open to receive and acknowledge Jesus Christ in their lives. (*Operation World*, p.126, website: [www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org) or e-mail: [info@operationworld.org](mailto:info@operationworld.org)).

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Wednesday 27 August 2008

### **Abortion issue**

Over 700,000 South African babies have been legally aborted since abortion was legalised in February 1997. Ask that medical personnel would refuse to have any part in carrying out abortions. Also lift up in prayer mothers with crisis pregnancies, that they would find help and choose loving options such as adoption. Ask that lives would be saved. Pray that journalists would also begin to publish the 'other side' of the story. Ask for many more pastors to speak up about God's will on this issue and ask for the Holy Spirit to convict those considering abortion. (*Africa Christian Action*, P.O. Box 23632, Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884. Website: [www.christianaction.org.za](http://www.christianaction.org.za) or e-mail: [info@christianaction.org.za](mailto:info@christianaction.org.za)).

### **Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Pakistan**

Pakistan now takes tenth place as a country that persecutes Christians. As part of this 'Islamisation' of Pakistan, the country has adopted two significant sets of laws that perpetuate discrimination against Christians. One is the *Blasphemy Law*, which criminalizes any statement or action deemed to insult the religion of Islam. This law is often misused by Muslims to settle personal grudges. The other set of laws is the *Hudood Ordinances*, which declare women guilty of adultery if they have been raped and cannot produce four male Muslim witnesses. *The Hudood Ordinances* make Christian women a target for Muslim attempts to make them forcibly convert to Islam. (Website: [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) or e-mail: [icc@persecution.org](mailto:icc@persecution.org)). Please

pray for persecuted Christians in Pakistan, especially those who are suffering or have done so because of these two sets of laws. Ask for them to remain faithful to testify for Jesus Christ and that they will experience God's love amidst difficult circumstances.

## **WOMEN-IN-THE-GAP**

Millions of women across the world suffer abuse, rejection and in some countries they are not even treated like human beings. In 2006 a number of Christian women, at a *MANI* consultation (*Movement for African National Initiatives*), felt that God was calling them to stand up and unite in prayer for all women around the world. They felt that they could no longer simply look on as millions of women were subjected to this horrific abuse, suppression and humiliation, without doing something about it. Thus the *Hadassah Watch* came into being and since then, women are joining in focused prayer on a regular basis. Hadassah is the Hebrew name of Queen Esther of the Bible. As women, like Hadassah, we are called to arise and take up our position as intercessors.

### **As women we know how to pray for other women**

We know that our prayers will make a difference. Remember the prayers of Hannah (**1 Sam.1-2**) and how the son that God gave her in answer to her prayers provided a nation with a leader and a prophet? The prophetess Anna, who served God in the temple for more than 60 years with prayer and fasting, was privileged to see the coming of the Messiah (**Lk.2:36**).

### **Prayer focus**

We pray for the issues that influence the lives of women all over the world. We have selected three specific issues, but everyone should feel free to pray as they experience the Holy Spirit leading them. From time to time, we will focus on other issues as well.

### **How does it work?**

We call on Christian women as either individuals (praying by yourself) or in groups (Bible study / prayer group etc.):

1. To spend 15 minutes in prayer every Tuesday morning before 13h00.
2. To spend 5 minutes on each of the three issues every time you pray.

#### **a) Marriage/families**

- Pray for issues in your own marriage, or that of a friend or family member.
- Pray for issues concerning your children, or those of a friend or family member.
- Pray for felt needs for yourself, your husband, children, or those of a friend or family member.

#### **b) Salvation of family members and the unsaved**

- Pray for their eyes to be opened to see their need of Christ.
- Pray for them to become hungry for God and to go to church.
- Pray for them to grow spiritually and testify of God's goodness in their lives.

#### **c) Governments/authorities – issues of the day.**

- Pray God's heart regarding the news headlines of the day.
- Pray for the President and government officials. That those who do not know Him will be saved and hear God's voice.
- Pray for the Police and security services to be successful in their work.
- Pray those criminals will be caught and stopped in their criminal activities and that they will turn their lives over to God.

3. To encourage and mobilise as many women as possible to join in these prayers.
4. To subscribe at [info@hadassahwatch.org](mailto:info@hadassahwatch.org) to receive regular updates on issues of the day and how to pray about these.

Thursday 28 August 2008

### **More funds available for police and prisons**

Government has allocated more than R10-billion over the next three years, including expansion of police numbers to reach more than 200,000 in 2010/11, more prosecutors, judges and magistrates. Additional allocations of R250 million are to help upgrade equipment in police forensic laboratories, to address the scientific analysis of evidence in criminal cases. Forty more

police stations are to be built and there will be an additional 18,000 places to house prisoners. Fifty new judges, 170 magistrates and 171 public defenders are provided for in an extra allocation of R410 million. (Website: [http://business.iafrica.com/budget\\_2008\\_2009/budget\\_news/943822.htm](http://business.iafrica.com/budget_2008_2009/budget_news/943822.htm)). Give thanks to the Lord for these allocations. Please pray that each Rand will be spent purposefully, that God will hand-pick each person for each one of these positions and that righteousness and justice will return within these circles of influence.

### **But Monpa of north-east India**

The 1991 census in India recorded 675 members of the But Monpa tribe. Almost all But Monpa inhabit the villages of Jeriagaon, Sellary, Khoitum, Ralung and Khoina in the Nafru Circle of West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India. There are no known Christians among the But Monpa tribe and less than 20 among all the Monpa groups in India. They are one of the most unreached and needy Buddhist groups in the Himalayas. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.186). Give thanks to the Lord for these Believers. Ask for them to have a fresh revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ and for God to stir their hearts to start praying together and start witnessing to their own tribe. Also ask for some portions of Scripture to be translated into their language soon.

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Friday 29 August 2008

### **Ministry to children is growing**

*Turn the tide 4 children (ttt4c)* is now in its fifth year of ministry and now supports 21 projects around the country through the child sponsorship program. The *SEED Strategy* was also launched this past year with the dream of seeing 100,000 vulnerable children receiving care through local churches. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at *Turn the tide 4 children*. (*The ttt4c Team*, website: [www.ttt4c.org](http://www.ttt4c.org), e-mail: [info@ttt4c.org](mailto:info@ttt4c.org)). Give thanks for God's favour upon ministry to uplift children. Pray for them for provision in all their needs and for many more children to be reached, not only with aid, but also with the message of Jesus Christ.

### **World Bible Translation Center (WBTC) India**

The Bibles that were distributed in Orissa in May 2007 have touched thousands of lives until now. The numbers of Believers have increased over the past months. A senior leader of a Hindu organisation openly confessed on NDTV, a leading news channel in India that the Christian population in Orissa has increased from 2.10% to 5.5%. Praise God, for His Word is bearing fruit! (*World Bible Translation Center*. Website: [www.wbtc.com](http://www.wbtc.com), e-mail: [tom@wbtc.org](mailto:tom@wbtc.org)). Continue praying for new Believers to grow spiritually and give thanks to the Lord who answers our prayers we daily pray.

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Saturday 30 August 2008

### **Every Home for Christ South Africa (EHCSA)**

*EHCSA* has a goal to reach every home in the country by the year 2020. This will be done by forming strategic alliances with those committed to the Great Commission (**Mk.16:15**). Evangelism will take place by means of outreach teams that have been trained to systematically go from home to home, leaving the gospel message in literature form at every household. Please pray for congregations, outreach teams and individuals to participate in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in South Africa. (*EHCSA*, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587; fax: 012 663 4589. Website: [www.ehcsa.co.za](http://www.ehcsa.co.za) or e-mail [info@ehcsa.co.za](mailto:info@ehcsa.co.za)).

### **The Benin transmitter is on air**

*Trans World Radio's* first live broadcasts took place from their new station in the country of Benin in February this year. Recent test broadcasts from the 100 kW medium wave (AM) facility resulted in response from as far away as Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and even Portugal - 3,200km away, surpassing the expectations of the engineers! Broadcasts can be heard on 1566 kHz in 14 languages. The vernacular programmes are produced, where possible, within the country of the listener. Many months, even years, of preparation have now culminated in programmes of listening pleasure and challenge such as: Bible story telling, Bible studies etc. Praise God for His faithfulness! Pray for listeners in West Africa that the words and music will impact and change, for good, the lives of the listeners. Ask also that the producers would be sensitive to God's guidance as they prepare programmes. (*Trans World Radio-Africa*, P.O. Box 4232, 1620, Kempton Park. Tel.: 011 974 2885, fax: 011 974 9960, cell: 072 641 4475. Website: <http://www.twrafrica.org/0127.asp> or e-mail: [ddupreez@twr.org.za](mailto:ddupreez@twr.org.za)).

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Sunday 31 August 2008

**How the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples and how it can happen to you today**

**Acts 28: His power will be your testimony to the unsaved**

Paul was shipwrecked off the island of Malta and every passenger reached land in safety. But as they were building a fire for warmth, a viper came out of the heat and fastened itself on to Paul's hand (**Ac.28:4**). The islanders were sure he was going to die. However, instead of screaming, "I'm going to die! Get me some medicine!" Paul simply shook the serpent off and sustained no ill effects. The islanders still expected him to die instantly. After a while, when they realised he was going to live, *"they changed their minds and said that he was a god"* (**v.6**). How many of us can testify to such or suchlike thing that happened to us? How many of us are so completely filled with the Spirit of God and His presence, that not even the bite of a snake can kill us? It is said of a man of God during the time of the *Black Death* in the 1900s. They did an experiment by taking a sample of the virus and dripping it onto a drop of his blood. Normally the virus would immediately start fighting and has the victory, but in this case, the virus immediately started to die. This is a practical example of how the power of God's Spirit in our lives can be a reality. The church is in desperate need of men and women who are filled with the Holy Spirit and who will walk in signs and miracles without great fanfare; people who serve God, on whose life the Spirit of God rests and whose lives are 'followed' by signs and miracles that will turn the unsaved to believe in God. That person can be you and me, ordinary people.

*Father, I humble myself before you and repent of the wrong motives in my heart concerning signs and miracles. I want to have them operate through me so others can think I am special. Today I ask that You would deliver me from such a deceitful heart and fill me with Your Holy Spirit and a willingness to bring You glory in every circumstance, despite what people might say.*

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Monday 1 September 2008

**Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008**

**Day 1: Muslim women's empty dreams**

In Tajikistan the estimated average annual income is around 250 Euros per person. Many men marry more than one wife. There are only seven million people in Tajikistan, with one million working in Russia. Women and children are in the majority. In the villages the women live amid tensions between old traditions, atheism and a new wave of radical Islam. Tajikistan Believers are few. Now worries about radical Islam are being countered with new laws to restrict the rights of small religious groups. These laws also affect Christians.

- Pray for increasingly healthy and Biblically oriented families among the followers of Jesus in this nation.
- Pray for the many Tajik men in surrounding countries to be reached with the Good News.
- Pray that Tajikistan Believers can develop more and more their own style of worship in their own language.

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Tuesday 2 September 2008

**Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008**

**Day 2: Saudi Arabian tribes: The Shahrān**

The Shahrān tribe has an estimated 250,000 members and is one of the largest in Arabia. The leadership of the Shahrān tribe has belonged to the House of Mushayt for several hundred years and the tribe's principal city is Khamis Mushayt. Khamis Mushayt is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in Saudi Arabia with a population of about 630,000. In 632 AD Surad Ibn Abd Allah Al-Azadi led a delegation of people from the 'Asir region to declare their commitment to Mohammed and Islam. Mohammed made Surad ruler of the Muslims in 'Asir, urging him to spread the Islamic faith and fight the polytheists. Surad returned to the 'Asir region and conquered it for Islam. There are very few followers of Jesus, if any at all, in this tribe at present.

- Pray for opportunities for some of the Shahrān to hear the gospel through their travels abroad, by means of the radio, Internet and possibly satellite broadcasts.
- The vast majority of this tribe is very much cut off from any significant access to the gospel. It is illegal to proclaim the gospel in Saudi Arabia. Many Christian Internet sites are blocked and very few followers of Jesus ever travel to or live in Khamis Mushayt and the surrounding area.
- Consider actually praying through the whole list of names below. It is probable that you are among some of the first people on earth to actually pray for these clans of the Shahrān tribe in Jesus' name (**Re.7:9**). The Shahrān tribe branches off into the following clans: Al-Rshaid (آل رشيد), Al-Koad (آل كود), Nahess (قبائل ناهس), Al-alGhmer (آل الغمر), Banou Manbah (بنو منبه), Banou Waheb (بنو واهب), Banou Bejaad (بنو بجاد), Banou Majoor (بنو ماجور), Banou Selool (بنو سلول), Al Zelal (الزلال), Al'Hejaz (الحجاج), Al Garaeen (القرعین), Banou Qouhafah (بنو قحافه), Al-Sarhan (آل سرحان),

Banou Rash'hah (بنو رشحه), Al-Remtheen (الرمثين), Al-alSerh (آل السرح), Al-Mettair (آل مطير), Al-alSafq (آل الصفاق), Al-Na'man (آل نعمان), Al Jehrah (الجهرة), Ahel AlHaqou (أهل الحفو), Ahel AlSha'af (أهل الشعف), Al Yanfa' (آل ينفع), Banou Malek (بنو مالك).

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Wednesday 3 September 2008

**Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008**

**Day 3: The Bakhtiari People of Iran**

The colourful Bakhtiari people number between 750,000 – 1,000,000 and live in south-western Iran. The Bakhtiari are divided into tribes, sub-tribes and clans. About half of the people retain their traditional lifestyle of shepherding for the men and carpet-weaving and homemaking for the women. The rest are settled and involved in agriculture and a variety of commercial activities. The Bakhtiari language is used across generations at home and in commerce, but many Bakhtiari also speak Persian. There are about 350,000 monolingual Bakhtiari speakers. The majority of the Bakhtiari are Muslim. There are just a few small cell churches and scattered Believers throughout the region. Some initial Bible translation work has begun in the United Kingdom.

- Pray for God to soften the hearts of the Bakhtiari people towards the followers of Jesus so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- Pray for intercessors to be raised up for the Bakhtiari people.
- Pray for the development of suitable ministry materials and means in the Bakhtiari language including: Scripture translations, radio broadcasts and the *JESUS-Film*.
- Pray that Bakhtiari speakers who are already Believers will develop strong ministry skills and become effective in reaching out to their people.

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Thursday 4 September 2008

**Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008**

**Day 4: Spain – Historical Islam in 21<sup>st</sup> century circumstances**

Much of Spain was under Islamic rule for almost seven hundred years. Spain has around 800,000 Muslims, most of whom are fairly recent Moroccan immigrants. One of the largest mosques in Europe, which was built with financial help from Saudi Arabia, is located in Madrid. Although the Muslim North Africans have now become a significant minority in Spain, few Spanish Christians are actively seeking to proclaim Christ to them. This is also surprisingly true in the two Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, which are actually on the northern Moroccan coast. In those cities almost half the population is Muslim.

- Committed Spanish Believers are relatively few in number; however, there are increasing opportunities for them to reach out to Muslims living in Spain. Pray for greater wisdom, zeal and mobilisation of Spanish Christians for ministry among Muslims.
- Pray for the distribution of gospel literature and DVDs in areas where there are Muslims.
- Pray for North African young people who come to study at Spanish Bible schools.
- Pray for the radio and TV programmes being produced in Spain for North Africa.

**About Muslim women's clothing:** Muslim societies have traditionally encouraged their women to be well covered with clothes, often completely from top to toe. Originally there were practical and physical reasons for such clothing in a desert environment. Yet now from an Islamic perspective, the main reason for such clothing is to limit sexual temptation among men. The relative moral weakness of men in the sexual domain is also cited as a reason for women being isolated at home and the need to accompany them in public.

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Friday 5 September 2008

**Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008**

**Day 5: The Challenge: Winning the Bugis of Indonesia**

Indonesia consists of 17,508 islands, with an estimated population of 234,694,000. It has the largest Muslim population of any country around the world: 86.1% Muslim, Protestant 5.7%, Roman Catholic 3%, Hindu 1.8%, other 3.4%. The Bugis in Indonesia (over 3.5 million) live on the south-western peninsula of Sulawesi Island. Islam is part of their ethnic, as well as their religious identity. They have a reputation for being fanatical Muslims with a history of violent persecution of the Christian minorities. They are also involved in animistic spiritual practices such as seeking power from spirits of the dead etc. The Bugis people present a great challenge for those who seek to reach them with the gospel of Jesus the Messiah (Isa Al-

Masih). The few gospel workers who have been working among the Bugis often invest years of time to win a single convert, or perhaps just a handful.

- Pray for at least 1,000 Bugis to be won for the Lord this year.
- Pray that the barriers of Islam and occult practices among the Bugis will be overcome.
- Pray that the gospel will spread powerfully and that Jesus will be honoured among the Bugis people.
- Pray for more Indonesian workers who demonstrate great sacrificial faith to build God's kingdom. May financial matters not become a distraction to their ministries.