

JERICHO WALLS PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER 2008

Monday 1 December 2008

Salvation focus: Nursing personnel

Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases (Ps.103:2-3). In general, nursing personnel are not paid well. They work long hours and have a lot of contact with people in trouble, pain and suffering trauma. Let us pray for their salvation, that they will do their work with the necessary responsibility, ethics and with diligence. Ask that they will understand the truth of deliverance and that they will be sensitive to share the gospel with patients, pray for them and bring hope to the hundreds they care for every month. Pray that the life of Christ in them will help them not to become solely clinical in their work, but to see every person as a unique human being.

Global health focus: World AIDS Day 2008

World AIDS Day's focus is to appeal to governments, policy makers and regional health authorities to ensure that by 2010 they meet the many targets that have been set in the fight against HIV and AIDS. (Website: <http://www.avert.org/worldaid.htm>). Please pray that all sectors of society such as families, communities and civil society organisations – and not only governments – also take the initiative and provide leadership concerning AIDS. Pray for the Church to take up her position according to God's purposes.

Tuesday 2 December 2008

Youth focus: Beginning of the SA holiday season

This week the schools will be closing for the holiday season. Please pray for children who will now be home alone not to become involved in harmful practices like taking drugs and alcohol "just for fun". Ask that they will have a hunger and thirst after good things and especially for exploring the Word of God and sharing and praying together with friends about issues that bother them. Please pray for their protection (especially for the Grade 12's) against considering or attempting suicide - ask that they will not be successful at this.

Evangelism focus: New radio station for Yao people

An exciting FM Radio station project (20 km from the southern shores of Lake Malawi) is set to bring Christian broadcasting to eighty thousand rural Yao people. It was literally built up from the ground, using local resources and labourers and became operational in September 2008. Give thanks to the Lord for establishing this work. Pray for the staff and for wisdom in research to reach more people more effectively. Ask for the provision of radios to the poor, so that they too can hear the gospel. (*FEBA Radio South Africa*. P.O. Box 26270, Gezina, 0031. Tel.: 012 335 5708, fax: 012 335 8134. Websites: <http://www.febaradio.co.za> or <http://www.febc.org> or e-mail: febasa@corpdial.co.za).

Wednesday 3 December 2008

Revival focus: Revival in Cape Town 1809

In 1809 Britain sent two regiments of soldiers to Cape Town. For four years John Kendrick (a soldier and lay preacher) and George Middlemiss (also a soldier), were looking for a prayer meeting they could attend. At the time Cape Town was given over to wickedness and immorality and was known as the "Paris of the South". Devoted Christians were seriously persecuted and mocked.

In October 1809 an earthquake struck Cape Town. The earthquake continued for 8 days. Rocks were dislodged from Table Mountain and houses destroyed, but nobody was injured. People fled to the Cape Flats in fear and trembling and watched horrified as the city was shaken as if by the fury of a giant hand.

John Kendrick later reported: "It was the greatest thing that could have happened in Cape Town as it brought a seriousness and fear of God upon the people in such a way that many began to thirst after revival. The spark of grace soon began to catch from soul to soul. Prayer meetings commenced and a most wonderful cry for God's mercy followed. The places of worship frequently became so crowded that many were unable to approach the door. Notorious sinners were pleading pardon. The number of evangelicals in the Cape grew by hundreds." (*Breath of Heaven*, Ken Terhoven, pp. 59-60).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Please visit us again, especially in Cape Town like in 1809. We are so desperately in need of a visitation of Your Holy Spirit. We cry out for a renewed seriousness and fear of God upon our people. Bring a hunger and thirst after Your Word in the hearts and minds of people. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Prayer focus: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network* across the country. Pray for their protection and health. Quite a number have suffered serious illness this year. Also pray for God to provide in their practical and physical needs. As we are preparing our programme for next year, please pray for godly wisdom and openness to clearly hear the voice of God. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: <http://www.jwipn.com> or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Thursday 4 December 2008

Revival focus: The place of prayer in revival

Before the 1857-1858 revival in New York, there was a steady build up of prayer. In 1840, Park Street Church in Boston started to pray for revival. They immediately began to see change in the church and an extraordinary increase in membership. After about five years the prayer momentum died down. A few years later, in about 1850, another church, Old South Church in Boston, began to pray seriously for revival. More and more people joined in the times of prayer. In 1856 they added quarterly days of prayer and fasting.

By September 1857, when the revival started in Fulton Street Dutch Reformed Church in New York, there were dozens of prayer groups and hundreds (some say thousands) of Christians that were praying all over New York and Boston for revival. When Jeremiah Lanphier called for a prayer meeting, the foundation was prepared. At the first meeting, Wednesday 23 September 1857, from 12h00-13h00, only six people turned up. In one sense it was just one more prayer meeting of business people and other people burdened for revival and a change of the social, spiritual and economical situation in New York and the nation. The revival was "sparked" by that prayer meeting although it didn't come as a result of just that one prayer meeting. For more than a decade there was intense and focused prayer where people cried out to God to intervene. (*The Power of Extraordinary Prayer*, Robert O. Bakke, pp. 109-116).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Like the people of New York, we cry out for revival in our country. Change our social, spiritual and economical situation. Stir up Your people to cry out to You night and day and take their place on the walls of their cities (Isa.62:6). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Are you a real man?

The question with which every Christian man is confronted is the following: *Are you a man of God?* Not everybody sees their way clear to walk the road. Being a man of God comes at a price. The price is to live in God's presence and to live for God. Few feel up to this. We don't mind and it suits us to give money, help someone, or do a good deed. And there is something heroic about choosing "of your own free will" to do something for God. But there is little personal glory in simply doing the will of God in absolute obedience, irrespective of what it is He asks. We normally think it will take away our freedom and human dignity when we subject ourselves completely to the will of God. Yet exactly the opposite is true.

Friday 5 December 2008

Revival focus: The place of prayer in revival

When revival came to the Hebrides in 1949, it wasn't because of the preaching of Duncan Campbell. For several months before revival broke out, people were praying, and their numbers increased drastically. It was as a result of those prayers that God answered His people.

In some of the towns you could see the lights in the homes being put out later and later. And lights in the houses were lit earlier and earlier in the morning. The reason: people spent more time in prayer. The desperation for revival was growing. God's people were literally burning the midnight oil, seeking God's face for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Two old ladies, Peggy and Christine Smith, one 86 and blind, the other 82 and bent double by arthritis, were seeking God in their home day by day, while the pastor and a few elders were seeking God's face a few times a week. They were praying for revival. One night the two ladies wrestled with God till dawn, and then they felt they had a breakthrough. They sent word to the pastor: "Revival is coming", and gave him the name of the man that needed to come and conduct the revival meetings. The pastor sent a cable telegram to Duncan Campbell, who said he could not come. The two old ladies just said: "He will be here within 14 days." Less than fourteen days later, Duncan Campbell started to preach and revival came to the Hebrides. (*Duncan Campbell*, a biography, Andrew Woolsey, chapter 8).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We are so hungry for Your knowledge in our nation! Please grant us favour at this time and visit us with a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit. Turn the hearts of the people back to You! Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Saturday 6 December 2008

Revival focus: The result of laying hold of God in prayer

A story is told of an incident in a place called Filey, in the early days of Methodism, where preacher after preacher had been sent, but all to no avail. The village was a stronghold of satanic power, and each preacher in turn had been driven out, until at last it was decided to give it up as a hopeless task. The now famous John Oxtoby, or "praying Johnny" as he was called, begged the Methodist Conference to send him, and so let the people have one more chance.

On the way a person who knew him inquired where he was going. "To Filey, where the Lord is going to revive His work." Seeing Filey from the top of a hill, his feelings were so intense that he fell upon his knees under a hedge and wrestled and wept and prayed for the success of his mission. A miller, who was on the other side of the hedge, heard a voice and stopped in astonishment to listen, when he heard Johnny say, "Thou munna mak a feal o'me! Thou munna mak a feal o' me! I told them at Bridlington that Thou was going to revive Thy work, and Thou

must do so, or I shall never be able to show my face among them again, and then what will the people say about praying and believing?"

He continued to plead for several hours. The struggle was long and heavy, but he would not cease. He made his very weakness and inefficiency a plea. At length, he rose exclaiming, "It is done, Lord. It is done. Filey is taken! Filey is taken!"

And taken it was, and all in it. Fresh from the Mercy-seat he entered the place, and commenced singing up the streets, "Turn to the Lord and seek salvation." A crowd of stalwart fishermen flocked to listen. Unusual power attended his address, hardened sinners wept, strong men trembled, and while he prayed over them they fell on their knees, and cried aloud for mercy and found it. (*The Passion for Souls*, Oswald J. Smith, pp. 60-61).

✠ **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. O God, show mercy upon us! We cry out that You would once more raise up intercessors to lay hold of You in prayer like never before. Raise up young and old to travail in prayer until they taste breakthroughs in the spirit. Pour out Your Spirit of travail upon Your Church in South Africa. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Sunday 7 December 2008

Memorise

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Rom.8:1-2).

Church focus: All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference 7-12 December 2008

All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) will gather the following few days, the theme being Africa, step forth in faith. It aims to examine hindrances to Africa's renewal and progress. Themes of values and moral renewal, economic justice, HIV/AIDS, poverty and good governance will be addressed, to mention a few. Pray that delegates will not only discuss what is on their minds, but take time to listen to the heart of God on these issues. (AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org or japhetn@aacc-ceta.org).

Peace-it together: Do it wholeheartedly

Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men ..." (Isa.29:13). Few things make the heart as cold as when you say something, but deep down you do not really mean it. God has created the human heart to be sincere, and it is impossible to avoid this basic spiritual-genetic trademark of the human heart. The longer you are insincere, the more frustrated and disillusioned you will become. You might find after a long time of being insincere (especially to yourself), that you do not see any good in anyone or anything anymore. If this is the condition of your heart, it is important to address it, and soon! But how? Make sure you take time out with God very soon. Begin by writing down the things frustrating you. Take time to speak to God about each frustration. Confess your heart's attitude about each one, its meaning; what the attitude of your heart is when you think about a specific issue. Confess those things that are really wrong in your heart. Recommit your life and your heart to the Lord. Ask Him to make you sensitive to these issues in the future. More than anything, ask the Lord to heal your heart, and for you to become sincere in all your ways.

Lord, I confess that I draw near to You with my lips, but my heart is removed far from You. It is too important to me what other people think of what and how I say things. I compromise in my thinking about right and wrong and am not sincere towards You, towards others and especially myself. Please forgive me for this wrong attitude. Teach me to be sincere and to honour You, not only in speech, but with my actions and from the bottom of my heart.

Monday 8 December 2008

Salvation focus: Satanism

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into The Kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col.1:13-14). Involvement in Satanism begins for many when they partake in seemingly innocent occult practices. Young people in particular fall prey to becoming part of a satanic cell, having to do different things to prove themselves. Many adults are actively involved as witches and warlords in South Africa today, often visiting churches and frustrating the work of God by their practices. Pray for every person involved in Satanism, to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Himself. Ask that they will begin to ask questions and start searching for the truth. Many live in fear of their lives or the lives of their families as they are threatened by those with stronger occult powers than theirs, who might harm them. Pray for these people and those attacking them, to encounter Jesus face to face.

Revival focus: Nicholas Bengu and the awakening in the Eastern Cape

Nicholas Bengu, called the Black Billy Graham by *Time* magazine, was the son of a Lutheran pastor, but joined the Communist Party as a young man. After his conversion in a Pentecostal Church, he went to Bible School and in 1938 he joined the *Assemblies of God* and began to preach with much blessing. He had a dream in which he heard the words: *Africa must get back to God.* For 40 years his crusades worked systematically all over South Africa. His first big crusade was in 1945 in Port Elizabeth, with 1,000 converts in six weeks. He started work in East London and declared war on sin and crime. Thousands were converted including thieves, gangsters and murderers. He preached to crowds up to 7,000 people. Many times while he preached, the Holy Spirit fell upon the people. Boys as young as twelve years started to speak in tongues and prophesied. When the Spirit of God fell on the people, many could not walk, lay prostrate as though they were dead. Thousands were converted and many churches planted. Through the passing years the work just snowballed. Every year witnessed fresh revivals. All classes of people were reached. A Zulu queen was baptised in 1971 in front of 5,000 witnesses. Influential African political leaders were among the converts. This revival continued for decades in the black church in South Africa.

📣**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We cry out again that You would raise up men like Nicholas in our time who would fearlessly preach the gospel with much conviction. We cry out specifically for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and of salvation upon the Zulu people, upon influential African political leaders. Revive Your Church across all cultural divides. Baptise us once again with true and real revival. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Tuesday 9 December 2008

Revival focus: Wrestling with God

David Brainerd decided to give himself unreservedly to intercessory prayer. It is said that "whole nights were spent in agonizing prayer in the dark woods, his clothes drenched with the sweat of his travail." Suddenly the Spirit was poured upon the whole region of Susquehanna. His first audience there had consisted of four women and a few children. Now there came streaming upon him from all sides a host of men and women, who pressed upon him, and grasping the bridle of his horse, besought him with intense earnestness to tell them the way of salvation. In great, glad wonder he looked upon them, and the text that leaped to his lips was: "Herein is love". Men fell at his feet in anguish of soul. These were men who could bear the most acute torture without flinching. But God's arrow had now pierced them; their pain could not be concealed and they cried out in their distress: "Have mercy upon me!" The woods were filled with a sound of a great mourning, and beneath the Cross every man fell as if he and the Saviour God were alone there. (From: *Handbook on Revival* by H.E. Schmul).

📣**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We ask for men and women to set aside time for prayer and earnest supplication for issues of serious concern in our country. Pour out an awareness of right and wrong upon ALL people in our land, stir up a desire to change and live holy lives unto You. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Church focus: All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference 7-12 December 2008

The General Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches meets every 5 years. About 1,500 church representatives, Delegates, Observers, Ecumenical partners will gather from 7 -12 December in Maputo, Mozambique. Lift up to the Lord in prayer every person attending the conference, as well as those responsible for organisation. Ask especially for the group of young people from all over Africa to have a personal encounter with the Lord and a clear understanding of His purpose for them. (AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org or japhetn@aacc-ceta.org).

Wednesday 10 December 2008

Revival focus: A revival that still affects the church after 300 years

No-one could anticipate what would transpire in the next few hours as the small group of Moravian Christians gathered in Herrnhut, Germany, to observe the Lord's Supper on Wednesday evening, August 13, 1727. Those present had a growing recognition that all was not right among them. Though they weren't as openly critical of one another as they had been only weeks earlier, their leader challenged them to "quit judging each other." The Moravians in Herrnhut lived in harmony as a Christian community, but the sweetness of the faith seemed to be missing in their lives. When they assembled that summer evening, however, they experienced the presence of God. As a result, they were changed, "in a single moment into happy people." The revival went on for a hundred years. Those who gathered experienced the presence of God so profoundly that the prayer meeting began a few days later and continued 24 hours a day for more than a hundred years. Out of that prayer meeting, hundreds of missionaries were sent to carry the gospel to unreached peoples around the world. (From: *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever* by Elmer Towns and Douglas Porter, p. 57).

🙏**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We continue to cry out for a revelation of right and wrong upon all people in our land. Show us the heart of the Father who wants to correct His children because He loves them. Remove the lies of condemnation and an angry God who wants to punish us. Restore to our people the joy of Your salvation and uphold us by Your generous Spirit (Ps.51:12). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Church focus: All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference 7-12 December 2008

The AACC 9th Assembly will be a platform for the churches in Africa to show their participation in the agenda for the transformation of the continent. Pray for these discussions not to be hampered by personal views, political agendas etc., but that those gathering will have a hunger and thirst to advance for the sake of the gospel and making Christ known as the answer to all the issues of the day. (AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org or japhetn@aacc-ceta.org).

Thursday 11 December 2008

Revival focus: The Korean Revival of 1907

The Church in Korea heard about the revival in Wales that started in 1904. In the beginning missionaries and a few local Christians started to pray for an outpouring of the Spirit in Korea. After a few weeks they felt a deepening presence of God and expectations rose. Then it was time for the yearly meeting of pastors and missionaries. The first meeting however was cold and dead. On Monday afternoon (the second week of January 1907), the day after the conference started, several missionaries gathered together for prayer. They pleaded with God to move among them. One of their number later testified, "We were bound in spirit and refused to let God go till He blessed us." There was, however, division amongst two Korean pastors. Earlier one of them came to ask forgiveness and wanted to set things straight, but the other pastor did not want to forgive and repent. That night the unrepentant pastor got up, walked to the other pastor, asked for forgiveness before all the people. Then suddenly people started to pray. So many men wanted to pray, that Lee announced, "If you want to pray like that... then all pray." A revival started that lasted for more than 50 years. It was an awesome sight. One of the missionaries later said that he trusted the Lord never to see the beginning of a revival again, because of the terrible experience of seeing the

confession of sin. People in great agony confessed their sins. Within months tens of thousands of people were saved and came into The Kingdom.

🔊**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We are so sorry for the division and mistrust amongst ministers of the gospel of different denominations in our country. O Lord, please show us mercy and pour out Your Spirit of reconciliation upon every Christian and stir them up to right the wrongs in all their relationships with other Believers. We ask that they will find no rest until they are reconciled with everyone You put on their heart, even if it means intercession for breakthroughs until it happens. We pray for a holy violence to restore relationships, in small and in great matters. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Church focus: All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference 7-12 December 2008

Last week, stewards partook in a week-long *Ecumenical Learning Programme* which exposed them to the key issues of concern for the ecumenical movement in Africa. Pray now for those who took part in this training session, that God will, during this week, furthermore touch their hearts and minds with purpose and clarity about the future. (AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org or japhetn@aacc-ceta.org).

Friday 12 December 2008

Revival focus: Personal revival

D.L. Moody: "I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York – oh, what a day! – I cannot describe it. I seldom refer to it. It is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet, hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back there where I was before that blessed experience. If you give me the entire world – that would be as the small dust of the balance."

Charles Finney: "I rushed into the room back of the front office, to pray. It seemed as if I met the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. It seemed to me that I saw Him as I would see any other man. He said nothing, but looked at me in such a manner as to break me right down at his feet. It seemed to me a reality that He stood before me and I fell down at his feet and poured out my soul to him. I wept and made such confessions as I could with my choked utterance. As I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was such a thing for me; without any recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me. No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love. I cried out: 'Lord, I cannot bear any more.'"

🔊**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We glorify You for the testimonies of so many saints who experienced You personally. O Lord would You grace us with personal revival. We ask it first of all for ourselves. We ask it for our spiritual and political leaders. We ask it for every person in business, for every man and woman in our country, for every young person and child. Do not pass any of us by. Visit us Lord Jesus through Your Spirit, make us whole, and reconcile us with the Father. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Church focus: All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference 7-12 December 2008

Today this conference concludes. Please pray for each plan of action, that God will be glorified in the execution of every aspect of the action plan. Pray for travelling mercies as people return home, for lasting relationships and all expenses to be covered. (AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org or japhetn@aacc-ceta.org).

Saturday 13 December 2008

Revival focus: Revival in Worcester in 1860

In April 1860, a conference on revival was held in Worcester. The attendees heard about the revival in New York. Three hundred and seventy preachers and laymen attended. Just 50 days later, the churches that sent delegates, experienced a move of the Holy Spirit.

The following also happened in Worcester where Dr. Andrew Murray (Jnr.) and Jan de Vries worked. During a prayer meeting, while a 15-year-old slave girl prayed, crying out "O, how I love Jesus", they heard the sound of thunder and the building started to shake. All of them began to pray simultaneously. Each one seemed so burdened by his load of sin that they continued to call upon God for forgiveness and cleansing with an intolerable weight of guilt, sin and shame. The movement of 1860 stirred every part of the community and soon it was wide-spread. All races even on remote farms experienced conversions. Prayer meetings started in many towns with people from all races crying out to God not to pass them by.

This spread out to the Free State, Transvaal, and the Cape. In Calvinia for instance, there was no minister at the time and ministers tried in vain for several years to start prayer meetings. Within weeks several prayer meetings started, even on remote farms, none knowing about the other.

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Like in 1860, will You visit us again in this generation and across South Africa? We pray for an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit convicting people of their sin and stirring in them urgency to cry out to You night and day. Forgive us our sins O Lord, for we do not know what we do. Please have mercy on our broken, rebellious land. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Sunday 14 December 2008

Memorise

Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal (Job 5:17-18).

Peace-it together: Am I really saved?

You cannot imagine how many people struggle with this question! You may ask: Are people who accepted Christ really saved if they doubt? The answer may well be yes. **Jeremiah 17:9** says that the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can be saved then? Jesus said: What is impossible with man is possible with God (**Lk.18:27**). There is no condemnation for those in Christ. It is as simple as that. No "buts". **Romans 10:8-9** is clear on the issue, and so everyone tempted to doubt should be: "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (**Rom.10:8-9**). Do you believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead? Do you understand that He died for your sins, do you accept in faith that He attained salvation for you? God's Word says: To all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God. If you have accepted that, you may know for sure that you are a child of God. Is it a reality to you? Take time with the Lord today and speak to Him about this issue if there is doubt in your mind. Be honest with yourself and with God, even if you have the slightest doubt. We cannot hide anything from Him. You might just as well speak to Him about any doubtful thought. If you are sure about your salvation, take special time to pray for those whom you know are uncertain of their salvation. Uncertainty brings fear. Fear puts God at a distance from us and a close and personal relationship becomes difficult. If you struggle with feelings of God being "far-off", pray about the issue whether He is real to you as a Person and if you really believe and are willing to accept that He cares for you personally. Do you value yourself

as special enough to God to embrace His goodness towards you? He made you special, and so you are. It is as simple as that.

Lord, I confess that I sometimes struggle with doubt whether I am Your child or not. Please forgive me. Today I put my heart before You and ask that by Jesus Christ, the Living Word in me, you will remove all doubt from my heart. I choose today to believe that Jesus died and rose again. I believe that Your Word is near me, and in my heart and I will speak it with my mouth. I trust You Lord.

Men-2-Pray: Fathers: Single and sane

Becoming a single father can be a life-changing experience. It requires massive adjustments and a host of coping skills, but many dads bravely do it alone. With the divorce rate at an unsettling 75% according to *FAMSA* figures, single fathers are now a common phenomenon, as in many instances they gain custody of the children after a divorce. Divorce is not the only reason for fathers raising their children on their own. The death or severe illness of a spouse rendering them unable to care even for themselves is another reason. How do you pray for yourself and your children as a single father? How can you as parents pray for someone in this situation? The following are a few practical hints for single fathers, with related Scripture verses:

1. You have to make the most of it when you have limited time with your children. Do not take time with them for granted when they live with you. Pray that God will give you wisdom how to spend the time you have with your children. Ask Him to show you small needs they do not necessarily express and wisdom on how to meet these needs. Ask the Lord to give you the capacity to be able to listen and relate to them in situations that are of concern to them.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Out of heaven let me hear Your voice, instruct me concerning Your ways (**Deut.4:36**).

2. You have to change your lifestyle and learn to plan things carefully and in advance. The planning of your business life or career must revolve around your children and their school holidays. Pray that God will give you favour in your work situation so that it will be possible for you to be available to your children. Also ask God for wisdom in your job/career and how to organise it in practical and beneficial ways, to the advantage of both your work situation and your children.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Show me Your way now, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And also consider my children Your children (**Ex.33:13**).

3. Children adore both parents because they know they are part of both. When one parent is angry or resentful towards the other, they feel guilty. After a divorce, parents will have a life-long relationship to negotiate, accommodating the children. Ask the Lord to bring peace between you as parents. Ask the Lord to help both of you to work out your differences and to find a peaceful way to live with each other. Pray without ceasing about this vitally important issue, not only for yourself, but even more so for your children.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Father I pray that grace and peace be multiplied to us as parents in the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus (**2 Pet.1:2**).

4. Often one parent cannot cope with the children due to chronic depression or self-destructive tendencies, addictions etc. In such cases this spouse still stays in the house, but is completely unable to care for the family. Sometimes there are no other relatives or family or support in this task which has now fallen on the other parent, e.g. the dad. Pray that God will show you in wisdom how to care for your incapable spouse in a really meaningful way, even if it means getting full-time help. Ask Him to show you how to minister to both your weakened spouse and your children in times such as these. Pray that most of all, they will have a revelation of their heavenly Father as they see you care for them in simple ways.

SIMPLE PRAYER: I pray that they may have eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (**John 17:3**).

5. If your spouse has passed away, you need a lot of wisdom with your children. Continue to pray for yourself until you experience a breakthrough that God will heal your own heart and that of your children in the loss and

all you have suffered. Ask for grace to accept the situation and for strength to face each day ahead. Also ask God to protect you from rushing into another relationship with someone because of your own needs and to also provide care for your children.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You (Ps.25:20).

6. It is a major issue whom to entrust your children to when you as a single father are not around at times because of other responsibilities. Ask the Lord to show you trustworthy female mentors for your girls, whether it be their mother (if she is still alive), or the mother of a school friend, an aunt or someone from your church or work. Pray for a breakthrough in this area until you find individuals whom you respect and whose values are sound. This may be the greatest gift you can give your children.

SIMPLE PRAYER: I ask that my children will know and rely on the love You have for them. You are love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him (1 John 4:16).

7. It is not so important to do everything perfect as it is to be available to your children. Communicate with your children when you are together as a family, but also individually. Negotiate some 'alone time' with them, both together and individually on a weekly basis. It needn't be an hour at a time, but it does need to be at least once a week. Make sure you ask them questions and get honest answers. After such a session, always try to end your discussion in prayer for them and with them. In this way you model to them to always take their problems to their heavenly Father, even when you are not available. Ask the Lord to make you sensitive at these times; not to be in a hurry, but to be able to make them feel completely 'heard' by you, giving them your full attention even in the short while available.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Father, like Jesus, give me wisdom to explain Your ways to my children (Matt.13:36).

8. It is important that you spend time with friends who can build into and enrich your life too. Ask the Lord that your path crosses that of friends your age and if possible also in similar circumstances, who could also be prayer partners. If the opportunity arises, why not start a small group of three or four men to pray for each other and encourage each other on a regular basis. Be careful not to bury yourself in your work.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Father grant me friends to pray with, because You say; when two or three come together in My Name, there am I with them (Matt.18:20).

9. Ask the Lord to show you a fatherly figure that you look up to. Consider asking this person to become your mentor or spiritual father. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive insight and wisdom from someone with more experience. Jethro was like this to Moses in the matter of ruling Israel.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord I have many instructors in Christ, but lack a true spiritual father. Send someone my way that I can imitate as he imitates Christ (1 Cor.4:15,16).

10. Give thanks for what you have. We so easily get depressed and discouraged when we see what we lack or need. Nothing lifts one's heart so much as making a special effort to look at the things you do have and then to start thanking God for them. Even when you're driving your car or walking from one meeting to another, ask God to remind you to give thanks to Him.

SIMPLE PRAYER: I give thanks to You o Lord, for You are good; Your love endures forever (Ps.118:1).

Monday 15 December 2008

Salvation focus: Sculptors

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath made His light shine in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Cor.4:6-7). Sculptors are artists in their own right. All are subjected daily to different influences of the ongoing challenges in their sphere of life. Many are confronted with the question of whether God exists, alternative thinking etc. Pray for God to pour out His Spirit on sculptors in our country. Ask that they will have a revelation of who God is, and find creative ways to express that revelation in

their work. Pray that all perversion of the image of God will be stripped away and that the truth will make way for glorifying God in South African sculptures.

Revival focus: First a revival of prayer

Before all great awakenings, there was first a revival of prayer. We are seeing a definite revival of prayer over the last three decades. This time it is not just hundreds of thousands of Christians in only a few countries who are praying (like in the previous worldwide revivals). Literally millions of Christians, in almost every country of the world, are praying for revival. In Indonesia one of the prayer networks has approximately 5 million people and multiple 24/7 prayer watches. India has numerous large prayer networks. Young people are starting to pray 24/7 in unprecedented fashion in more than 50% of the nations of the world. Over the last 10 years prayer chains and prayer watches have grown from less than a hundred to literally many thousands worldwide! Large numbers of people are praying in China's house churches. There are numerous global prayer initiatives (like the *Global Day of Prayer*, *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*, prayer journeys into "closed" countries, etc.), mobilising millions of Christians to pray. This is not the work of a man. It is the Spirit of God working in His Church. Dr. James Edwin Orr, who dedicated a lifetime to research revival said: "When God is ready to do a new thing amongst His people, He sets them praying." We can truly declare: The Church has started to pray again.

✚**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Father, we honour You for gracing us in South Africa in tasting these times of a revival of prayer. Forgive us for growing cold in our hearts and minds when we do not see things happen as soon and in the way we want. We cry out that once more You would pour out Your Spirit of prayer and supplication upon the people of South Africa to stand, serve and minister in prayer before Your throne of grace night and day until the breakthrough comes and thousands turn to Christ. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Tuesday 16 December 2008

Day of Reconciliation

In the new South Africa, today is a day of reconciliation, focusing on overcoming the conflicts of the past and building a new nation. (Website: <http://africanhistory.about.com/library/bl/blsaholidays.htm>). Let us cry out to God for every South African to be reconciled again to God our heavenly Father through His Son Jesus Christ. Like never before, let us cry out for the salvation of millions of souls; that God may rescue them from the pit of everlasting death through the revelation of His Son Jesus Christ at this time.

The Algerian church blossoms

Algeria is predominantly Muslim with just about 0.3% of the population Christian. Despite the closure of some churches and threats against Christian leaders, it is reported that the Church is growing so fast that even the secular media is carrying the story. In some places hundreds stand in line for more than an hour to attend a service. Thank God that 70% of those coming to faith are youths and children. Pray that as these young people seek to protect their fragile faith they will grow in love for their Muslim brothers and sisters. Pray that the government of Algeria, which has been battling the violent activities of Islamic fundamentalists, will itself work to ensure freedom for all its citizens and protection for the minority of Christians. (*Children at Risk Prayer News*, Websites: <http://www.viva.org/>, <http://www.facesofchildren.net/> or e-mail: pray@viva.org or info@facesofchildren.net).

Wednesday 17 December 2008

Revival focus: Revival in Hawaii 1835

In the year 1835 Titus Coan landed on the shore belt of Hawaii. Multitudes flocked to hear him. They thronged him so much, that he scarcely had time to eat. He felt that God was strangely and divinely at work.

In 1837 the slumbering fires broke out. Nearly the whole population became an audience. He was ministering to 15,000 people. Unable to reach them, they came to him, and settled down to a two year camp meeting. There was not an hour day or night when an audience of from 2,000 to 6,000 would not rally to the signal of the bell. There was trembling, weeping, sobbing, and loud crying for mercy, sometimes too loud for the preacher to be heard; and in hundreds of cases his hearers fell in a swoon. Some would cry out, "The two-edged sword is cutting me to pieces." The wicked scoffer who came to make sport dropped like a dog, and cried, "God has struck me!" Once while preaching in the open field to 2,000 people, a man cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" and prayed the publican's prayer and the entire congregation took up the cry for mercy. For half an hour Mr. Coan could get no chance to speak, but had to stand still and see God work.

Quarrels were resolved, drunkards set free, adulterers converted, and murderers revealed and pardoned. Thieves returned stolen property, and sins of a lifetime were renounced. In one year 5,244 joined the Church. There were 1,705 baptised on one Sunday, and 2,400 sat down at the Lord's Table, once sinners of the blackest type, and now saints of God. When Mr. Coan left he had himself received and baptised 11,960 persons. (*The Passion for Souls* - Oswald J. Smith, pp. 11-12).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We are desperate to see You move in our land! We meet in small groups and hear many testimonies, but today we cry out for a mighty outpouring so people across denominational and cultural divides will come into Your Kingdom, thousands at a time. We ask that You will raise up many humble men and women who will be able to faithfully counsel and disciple these new Believers. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Thursday 18 December 2008

Revival focus: Darkness before revival

In 1776 England was in such a shocking state that some historians say that many people became more savage than any since the world began. Some men sold their wives on auction in the cattle market. Immorality was so rampant that most birth registers were filled with illegitimate births. Drunkenness was so common that even five-year-olds would be seen lying drunk in the gutters. Public houses advertised: Guaranteed drunk for a penny, dead drunk for tuppence (2 pennies). Vulgar demonstrations were the order of the day. Sex shows with immorality openly displayed could be seen on the streets. High society had low morals, from the throne to the House of Lords and the House of Commons; many of these men kept mistresses openly and had children by them. Gambling was common among both rich and poor. Women wore such scanty dresses that one historian remarked: "She was as naked as a Greek sex goddess", at a ball where the king, who enjoyed the open flouting of convention by public showing off of women's bodies, was present. The country was crippled by depression, tens of thousands being unemployed. Sometimes church services were disrupted with cursing, profanity and sputum; colleges were burned down and it seemed as if there was no hope for society. People were hanged for the most minor crimes, like spitting over the wall of a nobleman, but for these atrocities, there was no condemnation. Children as young as eight were hanged.

Then God intervened. For more than 30 years John Wesley and George Whitefield preached to the masses. Hundreds of thousands were saved. Suddenly the whole of Britain changed. The nation began to prosper, slavery was abolished, and people started to live respectable lives. (*Breath of Heaven*, Ken Terhoven, pp. 46-48).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We confess that our nation does not fall too far behind this story. Lord we cry out that You would grace us with a spirit of conviction in this generation. Pour out divine understanding of the holiness of Your Name, even upon Christians blaspheming and displaying disrespect for Your Name. We ask for ALL criminals to effectively be convicted of their crimes and for all efforts to cover them up to fail. Restore holiness, righteousness and justice as foundation of Your throne in our land (Ps.89:14). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Friday 19 December 2008

Revival focus: Young people's prayers in the Welsh revival of 1904

One evening in the spring of 1903, four young men, eighteen years of age, were found on the mountain having a prayer meeting. It transpired that they had been doing so every night for several months. Their one objective was to pray for revival. The person who discovered them heartily joined in with them. Soon the news leaked out and the whole church was moved by the thought that her condition was keenly felt by those who were so young; soon others joined them and as the numbers increased, so did the fervour; soon the flame reached the whole church and we were all swept up into a vision for revival and passion for souls; in a short time the whole neighbourhood was aflame with divine fire and every church in town commenced revival prayer meetings; on Sundays as many as six meetings would be held in our church alone with up to thirty souls each Sunday coming to know the Lord. It was an unforgettable experience. Never will I forget that time. It was a time of unspeakable joy; for six months we continued in prayer every night with such joy and expectancy until we were submerged with the overflow of the general revival which overflowed across Wales. (*Rent Heavens*; R.B. Jones, pp. 51-52).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Father we cry out for our deteriorating younger generation. Please visit them with an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit to show them life in Christ in a new and fresh way. We ask that the rise of the younger generation and children will provoke adults to lay aside all petty disputes and radically convert to Christ. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Saturday 20 December 2008

Revival focus: The revival in Wales 1904

It was 1904. All of Wales was aflame. The nation had drifted far from God. The spiritual conditions were low indeed. Church attendance was poor and sin abounded on every level. Suddenly, like an unexpected tornado, the Spirit of God swept over the land. The churches were so crowded that multitudes were unable to get in. Meetings frequently lasted from ten in the morning until twelve at night. Three definite services were held each day. In some services there was very little preaching. Singing, testimony, and prayer were the chief features. There were no hymn books; they had learnt the hymns in childhood. No choirs, for everybody sang. No collection; and no advertising. It all happened because the Church in Wales prayed for 7 years for revival with increasing intensity.

Nothing had ever come over Wales with such far-reaching results. Infidels were converted, drunkards, thieves, and gamblers saved; and thousands reclaimed to respectability. Families were restored. Confessions of awful sins were heard on every side. Old debts were paid. The theatre had to leave for want of patronage. Pubs were closing. Prison doors stood open. Mules in the coal mines refused to work, being unused to kindness. In six months 100,000 joined the churches. The nations started to prosper; poverty was dealt a severe blow. (*The Passion for Souls*, Oswald J. Smith, p. 11).

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. O Lord we desperately cry out for the condition of our nation. Our prisons are so crowded that there is no more space! Please turn the tide. Remove the shame resting on the Church, being a silent spectator. Strip us as Believers of all our religious practices, teach us godly discipline, order, how to prevail in difficult situations and to stop us from constantly accusing You and others, and also to stop feeling sorry for ourselves. Restore Your Church to become a testimony of Christ, the Desire of the nations and the Light of the world (**John 9:5; Rev.1:1-2**). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Sunday 21 December 2008

Memorise

*Every Word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him (**Prov.30:5**).*

Peace-it together: Do not lose heart

Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up) (Lk.18:1, Amp). How often Believers who have a close relationship with the Lord Jesus are faced with overwhelming troubles. It is natural for people to feel overwhelmed, faint or to give up. The important truth here is not whether it is right or wrong to lose hope. Rather, it is important to God, in all circumstances, to encourage and comfort us. It is often written that God sent Paul an angel or someone to comfort him. (See **Acts 18:10; 2 Cor.1:3-4; 2 Cor.7:4,14**). He wants to comfort your heart as well. How do you obtain His comfort? You simply have to take time alone with God (**Job 10:20**), ask Him to comfort your heart and wait on Him to do so. It is not something you can do or make happen. But God, through His Holy Spirit does this mysterious work in our hearts, to strengthen, invigorate and cheer us up. Taking regular times of simple prayer for God's comfort to flood your body, soul and spirit, is one of the most cherished times of one's personal relationship with the triune God. Simple prayer does not involve long explanations, but simple, short sentences from Scripture. The comfort of the Holy Spirit brings relief from pain. Webster's dictionary states: Comfort means relief from distress of mind; the ease and quiet which is experienced when pain, trouble, agitation or affliction cease.

Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, who have loved me and given me everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort my heart and establish me in every good word and work (2 Thess.2:16-17). Comfort me when I lose heart. I put my hope and trust in You alone.

Prayer focus on people holding influential positions in SA

We began to pray for people of influence in our previous issue of the *Jericho Walls Prayer Guide*. Realising the influence people have on others, we decided in this issue to focus on such people in South Africa. There are many more people holding positions of influence than those mentioned here. It is a biblical command for us to pray for those in government and in authority, therefore we felt it fit to note down these prayer pointers to serve as a guideline on how to pray for people of influence in South Africa. Our prayer focus is on the position and sphere of influence these people have, more so than on the person. Please feel free to add others to your list as the Lord leads you and continuously remind yourself and other Believers to pray for the leaders of the day.

1. **Spiritual influence: Retha McPherson: Mrs South Africa 2004:** On Saturday, 19 June 2004, Mrs South Africa, Retha McPherson, her husband and their two children were involved in a serious car accident. (Website: <http://www.rethamcpherson.co.za/aldo.htm>). Their son Aldo sustained serious injuries. God gave Aldo a visit to heaven, downloaded the entire Bible into him, which he is able to recall as needed, and much more. He heard people outside knocking, trying to get in, crying because the door was closed. Jesus told Aldo the feast was for His Bride, but many were not ready (this was in 2004). Retha now ministers the gospel in many places in both South Africa and abroad. *Lord, we praise you for turning their mourning into dancing (Ps.30:11). Thank you for making everything beautiful in its time (Eccl.3:11). We pray for them and others who have such testimonies of Your goodness, for favour to proclaim the gospel freely and lead many to accept Christ as Saviour.*
2. **Cultural, social and arts influence: Zola:** Zola has enjoyed success as a Kwaito superstar, and is probably the most popular Kwaito artist in the country. Some refer to him as "the second biggest brand name in the country next to Nelson Mandela." He has received four South African Music Awards of which one was: *Artist of the Year - 2002*. **Yvonne Chaka Chaka:** From pop star in the 1980's, to talk show presenter and host, Yvonne Chaka Chaka is an entertainment icon of South Africa and Africa. She shed her disco image, restyled in African head-dress and fabric and was repositioned as a "Princess of Africa". During the 1990's, she sold albums in almost every sub-Saharan country. She has performed for a multitude of African heads-of-state and is involved in a variety of fundraising and benefit causes, and HIV work. In 2006 she was appointed *UNICEF Regional Spokesperson for Malaria*. (Website: <http://www.princessofafrica.co.za>). *Lord we lift up all artists like these to Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). We pray that each one will come to know You and continue to grow*

in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Give such people many opportunities to do good to others and testify of who You are to the multitudes following their lead.

3. **Leadership influence: President Kgalema Motlanthe** was elected as South Africa's new president on 25 September 2008. Motlanthe is the first president who was voted in by parliament. Kgalema Motlanthe was born on 19 July 1949 in the Johannesburg township Alexandria as a member of a working class family. He was elected unopposed in 1997 as secretary-general of the ANC and re-elected in 2000. In December 2007 he was elected as deputy leader of the ANC and in July 2008 he was appointed minister in the presidency. (Die Burger 25/09/08.) *Lord, we lift up our current president before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). Will you reveal Your will and purposes for South Africa to him. Reveal Yourself to him as a rock of refuge, and a fortress of defence, for Your Name's sake, lead and guide him (Ps.31:2-3).*
4. **Political influence: Helen Zille:** Helen Zille was born in South Africa and is fluent in Xhosa and German. In April 2008, Zille was asked to address the *United Nations* in New York on population and development, offering her experience and lessons she learnt as mayor of Cape Town. In the same year she was awarded the prize *World Mayor of the year 2008*. Although criticised a lot, she shows strong leadership in her current position as the first female leader of a political party, the *Democratic Alliance*, since May 2007. **Patricia de Lille:** Mrs Patricia de Lille was born in 1951 in Beaufort West. She is currently leader of the *Independent Democrats*, which she formed in 2003 when she broke away from the *Pan Africanist Congress (PAC)*. She was elected to Parliament in 2004. She was voted 22nd in the *SABC's Top 100 Great South Africans* in 2004. (Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patricia_de_Lille). *Lord we lift up all political leaders before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). We ask that You will establish them all in righteousness and justice, speaking all truth and with integrity. Reveal to them Your works and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon them and establish the work of their hands for Your glory (Ps.90:16-17).*
5. **Media influence: Ms Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu:** Ms Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu was born and raised in Umtata. Noeleen is a journalist and has spent a number of years in news handling, both Radio and TV, for *Radio Transkei* and *Radio 702* respectively. In 2002 Noeleen received the *Population Institute's Global Award for Radio Programme Excellence* in Cuba. She was voted one of *TIME Magazine's "Top 100 people of 2004"*. In 2004 and 2005 Noeleen won the *Crystal Award for Best TV Talk Show Host*. (Website: <http://www.tvsa.co.za/actorprofile.asp?actorID=40>). She is now known as the "Queen of Talk" in South Africa. *Lord, we lift up all those with influence on the minds and thoughts of people in South Africa through the media (Heb.4:16). Father of glory, we petition that You might give to them Your Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Christ as well. Open their eyes that they may all know the hope of their calling in You and know and proclaim the exceeding greatness of Your power toward us who believe (Eph.1:17-18).*
6. **Sports influence: Natalie du Toit:** Natalie du Toit, born in 1984, is a South African swimmer. She is known for the gold medals she won at the 2004 and 2008 *Paralympic Games*. She has won 5 gold medals during the 2008 *Paralympic Games*. Natalie is the most successful Paralympic partaker ever up until 2008. She is the proud winner of 10 gold medals at the *Paralympic Games*. Natalie du Toit was born in Cape Town and has been competing internationally in swimming since the age of 14. In February 2001 her left leg was amputated at the knee after a scooter accident on her way back to school after swimming practice. Three months later, before she had started walking again, she was back in the pool with the intention of competing in the 2002 *Commonwealth Games*. Natalie swims without the aid of a prosthetic limb. (Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natalie_du_toit). *Lord we thank You for Your great mercy that You pour out on people in distress. Thank you for testimonies like these encouraging others to believe and trust that You are real. No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame. Show Your ways to especially sportsmen and women, teach them Your paths; guide them in Your truth as their God and Saviour. Let their hope be in You, remembering that Your great mercy and love are from of old (Ps.25:3-6, NIV).*
7. **Financial influence: Trevor Manuel:** Mr Trevor Manuel was born in 1956 in Cape Town. He received the *Global Leader for Tomorrow Award* in 1994 and is currently appointed *Minister of Finance*. South Africa reported its first budget surplus in 2007. Manuel increased spending for education, housing and sanitation. (Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_Manuel). **Tito Mboweni:** Mr Tito Mboweni was born in 1959 and

has served as *Governor of the SA Reserve Bank* since 1999. He was awarded *Global Leader of Tomorrow* in 1995. Upon joining the *South African Reserve Bank*, first as *Advisor to the Governor* in 1998, he resigned from all his elected and appointed positions in the ANC. (Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tito_Mboweni). *Lord we thank You for answering many prayers concerning our economy over the past 15 years. We bring these and other role players in the financial sphere before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:12). We pray for all those in government, not to fall prey to greed, for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves with many sorrows. We pray that You will deliver them and help them flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Help them turn all areas of their lives over to Christ (1 Tim.6:10-12).*

8. **Justice influence: The Chief Justice of South Africa** is the chief judge in South Africa, who exercises final authority over the functioning and management of all the courts. *The Chief Justice* therefore now presides over the *Constitutional Court*. **Mr Justice Pius Nkonzo Langa** (born in 1939) is the current *Chief Justice* of the *Constitutional Court of South Africa*. He was appointed to the bench in 1994 by Nelson Mandela, and was elevated as *Chief Justice* in 2005 by Thabo Mbeki. (Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pius_Langa). *Lord we lift up in prayer these and all other people of influence over our judicial system before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:12). Strengthen them to establish righteousness and justice as the foundation of Your throne (Ps.89:14). Pour out on everyone who does not know You, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding; may it guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus in everything they do (Phil.4:7). Help them to be faithful to also execute righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Ps.103:6), for to do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to You than sacrifice (Prov.21:3).*

Monday 22 December 2008

Salvation focus: Street children

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). There are thousands of children living on the streets in South Africa. Almost all beg at street corners during the day. Many are used by adults to beg and then money is taken from them. Many are HIV/AIDS orphans; others are just deserted by their parents. Many are addicted to drugs and alcohol. All have a daily struggle to survive and find the next bite of food. Ask for more outreach programmes to take children off the streets. Pray that they will have opportunities to be clothed, cared for and educated. Ask for them to be able to embrace such care and be willing to change their lifestyle and dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ.

Revival focus: The Jamaican Revival of 1869

The Jamaican churches heard about the revival in New York in 1857-1859 and began praying for a similar outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jamaica. As people prayed, anticipation of an imminent revival heightened. By 1869, most Christians believed God would send them revival by year's end, but none anticipated the intensity of the showers of blessing they were about to receive. This revival closed rum shops and gambling houses, reconciled long-separated husbands and wives, restored prodigal children, crowded every place of worship, quickened the zeal of ministers, purified the churches, and brought many sinners to repentance. It also excited the rage of those ungodly people whom it had not humbled. The nation of recently liberated slaves had discovered their real liberty in Christ, and most chose not to return to the bondage from which Christ had set them free.

📣 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. O how quickly we forget the encounters we had with You. Like Solomon we return to our former lives over and over again! Please show us mercy, visit our land. Deliver us from our weak attempts, tirades and displays to try to convince ourselves and others to do what is right. By Your Holy Spirit, touch the lives of so many people in so many places that the tide will indeed be turned. Release a lasting holy zeal to live a holy life in every heart and mind and soul that will increase mightily throughout our land. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Tuesday 23 December 2008

Revival focus: The place of prayer in revival

Revival never just happens. There is always a time of preparation preceding it, and the preparation always includes prayer. With the mighty outpouring in 1859 in Ulster, Ireland, there was a steady increase of prayer in the months before revival came. Prayer groups sprang up everywhere. Many of them were amongst the young people. When revival broke out, there were 104 prayer groups in Ulster that were praying for revival.

R.A. Torrey went to Australia in 1905 for a series of meetings. When he came to Sydney, there were already 2,100 prayer cells praying for the meetings. Those meetings had the atmosphere of revival and there was a remarkable harvest.

Before the worldwide revival in 1904 which started in Wales, there was a period of 7-8 years where the thrust of prayer began increasing all over the world in dozens of countries. In Wales itself Jessie Penn-Lewis reports that since 1897 there was suddenly an increase in prayer, a hunger for revival and a deep concern about the state of the Church.

📣**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Stir up Your children to begin to cry out to You everywhere, in small groups, in churches, in schools, in stadiums. We are desperate for Your salvation, deliverance and healing. Pour out Your Spirit of prayer and supplication upon our land (Eph.6:18, NKJ). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Missions focus: SA Missionaries abroad

Lift up in prayer thousands of South Africans who serve as missionaries abroad, often in closed countries, especially those who cannot be united with their families at this time. Ask for God's favour and blessing on their work, families, marriages and interpersonal relationships with other Believers. Pray for a raise in their financial support, to have time and a pleasant place to rest and to experience God's presence in their relationship with Him. Ask that God will affirm their vision and work and speak clearly to them about their purpose in these countries.

Wednesday 24 December 2008

Revival focus: The power of God in the Early Church

Take time to read the book of Acts this week. At the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God literally broke into the nation of Israel. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost 3,000 responded to that first appeal. There was a definite outcome (**Acts 2:41**). The Word of God grew mightily and prevailed (**Acts 19:20**). The churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily (**Acts 16:5**). Believers were increasing immensely and joined the apostles, multitudes of both men and women. As a result, people brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches (**Acts 5:14-15**). So God's message continued to spread. The number of Believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted as well (**Acts 6:7**). The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message (**Acts 8:14**). Many of them who heard the Word believed, and turned unto the Lord (**Acts 11:2**). A great multitude believed (**Acts 11:1**). All who were chosen for eternal life became Believers (**Acts 13:48**). Some believed, of the devout Greeks a great multitude (**Acts 17:4**). Many believed (**Acts 17:34**). And Paul was able to declare "what things God had wrought by his Ministry" (**Acts 21:19**).

📣**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We cry out for a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit and stirring of the hearts of Your children to trust and believe You for the impossible in South Africa. Restore Your strength and power to the Church to glorify Your Name in preaching the gospel, healing the sick and leading thousands out of darkness into Your marvellous light (1 Pet.2:9). Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Thursday 25 December 2008

The Word became flesh

Today Christians in the Western world will celebrate Christmas Day. Let us declare the plan and purpose of God the Father through His Son for every tribe, tongue, nation and people. The celebration of Christmas reminds us that the Son of God became the Son of man, bringing the Kingdom of God to the earth to rule and reign as it is in heaven.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that you loved the world so much, that You gave Your only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him, would not perish but live forever. Jesus Christ, we give thanks to You our humble King, who stepped down from heaven and became a man in obedience to Your Heavenly Father. Thank you that You did not love Your life until death. We join the heavenly host saying; worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing (Rev.5:12). To Jesus Christ be all the glory, in heaven and on the earth, Amen.

Friday 26 December 2008

Revival focus: Villiersdorp revival in 1905

On the evening of 23 July 1905, about 130 young people were in a church meeting when conviction gripped the entire meeting. The Holy Spirit came in power. They were suddenly concerned about their sins. This was followed by deep brokenness, tears and people calling on God for mercy. Every evening the people gathered for up to three hours. The number swelled and attendance increased from 350 to 500. Sometimes scores of people could be heard praying simultaneously. This was the talk of the town. More than a hundred villagers were converted, including some of the roughest and most reckless sinners in the district.

The Christians were transformed into fearless witnesses, witnessing with great power, urging friends to respond and praying for them by name in the open meetings. One young man became a pioneer missionary in Nigeria. Three months after the revival started, the minister asked his colleagues for help, because the revival was spreading. This move of the Spirit influenced 30 other Dutch Reformed congregations, chiefly in the Cape Province, in the Western Cape, the Boland and the Eastern Province.

📣**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Once again bring upon our hearts and minds a conviction of sin and a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Baptise us with deep brokenness, tears and reconciliation with one another and with You. Once again, touch whole villages and whole families, drawing all out of darkness into Your marvellous light. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Saturday 27 December 2008

Revival focus: The deep river of the East African Revival

The revival in East Africa (mainly Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) was like a deep river, flowing smoothly, but with great force. It continued for nearly 50 years. It started in Rwanda in about 1927 and spilled over into Uganda from 1935 onwards. Teams were prepared and then went throughout Uganda, asking the following questions to ALL church members: 1. Do you know salvation through the cross of Christ? 2. Are you growing in the power of the Holy Spirit, in prayer, meditation and the knowledge of God? 3. Do you have a great desire to spread the Kingdom of God by example, and by preaching and teaching? 4. Are you bringing others to Christ by individual searching, by visiting and by public witness? Many met with God and started urging others to be saved. They were called the "Saved Ones". They were bold witnesses, uncompromising in dealing with sin. Groups met together for fellowship and determined to spread the news of brokenness of spirit, humility, holy living and for people to allow the Holy Spirit to rule in their lives.

The result was an upsurge of conviction across the country and then across the borders. Churches were filled, personal evangelism became as natural as breathing and the Church in East Africa started living by the power of the Holy Spirit, transcending the barriers of language, custom, denomination, culture and race. These "Saved Ones" would walk down the street and when they met someone, they would ask: "How is it with your soul?", "Are you sure you are born again?", "Are you walking in the light?", "Did you have a quiet time this morning?" Throughout the bloodbath of the Mau-Mau and Simba uprisings, the terror reigns of Idi Amin and Milton Obutu, the Church in East Africa stood firm and the revival continued to spread. (*Breath of Heaven*; Ken Terhoven, pp. 77-78).

✠ **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We cry out for Your Holy Spirit to once again touch the hearts and minds of people like it happened in 1927. Stir up the evangelistic spirit in our hearts, give us favour to spread the gospel unashamedly, to be bold witnesses, being uncompromising in dealing with sin. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Sunday 28 December 2008

Memorise

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess.5:16-18).

Peace-it together: When trouble surrounds you

For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever (2 Cor.7:5-7, NIV). It is inevitable in our spiritual lives that we will be tested by hardship. In times of trouble it always seems as if everything is happening at the same time. In this verse Paul and those with him were harassed by conflicts on the outside and fears within. Conflict in relationships or in ministry easily brings tension and fear in our hearts. Fears that the Kingdom of God will be harmed by such conflict, fears that our name will be shamed etc. Paul had firsthand knowledge of all of these things. Other Believers experienced deep sorrow. These emotions are real today too. How do you deal with such emotions? Ignoring or spiritually covering up these emotions is certainly not the answer. You have to deal with your emotions. Face your conflicts on the outside (with people) and your fears on the inside (with God). The only way out of these troubles, is facing them. One by one. Often alone and before God. There is no quick fix. There is no easy way. Humble yourself before God and people for the sake of reconciliation and His kingdom will not suffer. Do not put yourself first. Pray as long as it takes. Then only will you have victory.

Father God, my heart is troubled because of conflicts on the outside and fears on the inside. I need Your help to face these things. Help me to humble myself like Jesus, not to defend myself, but to really put Your kingdom first. Teach me to endure in times of trouble. Teach me to trust You and to grow in my relationship with You.

Monday 29 December 2008

Salvation focus: Contract workers

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Rom.12:12). Contract workers do not earn a regular salary and are almost always on the lookout for new contracts. Some earn a small fee, while others literally earn thousands for the days they work. They move around a lot, whether between businesses or cities or even countries. Ask that they will receive reasonable wages. Pray for the salvation of unsaved contract workers. Ask that they will be faithful in their work. Also that their conduct would draw many unto God, even more than their words.

Revival focus: Revival in Scotland 1860

When the news of the American revival (1857-1859) reached Scotland, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met to give thanks to God for what was happening across the ocean and to plead with God for a similar outpouring of His Spirit on Scotland. The second Sunday in July 1860 was set aside as a day of prayer for revival. The news spread quickly. Among the Presbyterians alone 40,549 members were found weekly in their prayer meetings, praying for revival. Apart from the 1,205 prayer meetings, there were also 129 new interdenominational prayer meetings per week. The prayer burden deepened when the Scottish people heard that God visited Ulster in Northern Ireland with revival. Crowds up to 20,000 came to listen to speakers telling of the revival in other countries. The subject on everyone's lips was revival. In many places the crowds were so big that the churches were too small. Then people started to come to the Lord in growing numbers. In some places as many as 500 people stayed behind to be helped. There were no great preachers, advertising or organising. The revival spread to the Orkney Islands and Shetland. Even five years afterwards, the Presbyterian Church reported that the revival was still continuing. Many "good Christians" realised that goodness is not enough, and turned to Christ, the Crucified One. Others turned from open sin to lives of holiness, some weeping with joy for sins forgiven. (*Breath of Heaven*, Ken Terhoven, pp. 8-81).

☛**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Pour out Your Spirit upon our nation. Let the people gather in large numbers to hear the Word of the Lord, to be prayed for and to receive healing. Let us not make a show of ourselves, but portray with great boldness the goodness and works of the Lord so that more may believe and turn to You. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Tuesday 30 December 2008

Revival focus: The "Jonathan Edwards" revival 1741

The First Great Awakening, referring to the first "worldwide" revival, started in 1741. In America it started with the preacher and theologian Jonathan Edwards. For months before the revival started in Enfield, Edwards composed his now famous sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God". He first applied every sentence of the sermon to himself. Broken and humbled, he entered the pulpit in Enfield, New England in 1741. He had a lantern in one hand and the sermon in the other hand and started to read the sermon in his usual undemonstrative manner. When people entered the house of God that day, they were apathetic, their faces expressionless; they had come to church simply because it was tradition to do so; it was customary. Some people were gossiping and barely conducted themselves with common decency. As Edwards began to read his sermon, the people became solemn and soon the whole assembly began to bow their heads in awful conviction of their sin and danger. There was such a breathing of distress and weeping that Edwards was obliged to speak to the people and desire silence so that he might be heard, but it was impossible. The Word of God was having such a powerful effect on the whole congregation that many of the hearers were seen unconsciously holding themselves up against the pillars and the pews crying: "I am slipping into hell! Save me, O save me." (*In the Day of Thy Power*, Arthur Wallis).

☛**OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. We are so much in need of those preaching the gospel with power and conviction, consequently turning hearts with ease to a loving and caring, holy God! Please raise up such people to preach Your Word in our time again. Touch hearts and minds not to be hearers of the Word only, but to also uncompromisingly become doers of the Word. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Wednesday 31 December 2008

Revival focus: Interceding for the lost

David Brainerd was a missionary to the Indian tribes in North America. On several occasions he saw remarkable breakthroughs and revival amongst the Indians. In his diary for 1742, we read: "I set apart this day for fasting and prayer, to prepare me for the ministry, to give me divine aid and direction and for Him in his own way to send me into His harvest field. In the afternoon I felt the power of intercession for precious souls and for the advancement

of The Kingdom of my dear Lord and Saviour and even consolation and sweet resignation at the joy of thoughts of suffering hardships, distress and even death itself in the promotion of His kingdom. I had special enlargement of heart pleading for the poor heathen. God was with me in truth. God enabled me to agonize in prayer and I was quite wet with perspiration though it was snowing all around me. I cried for multitudes of souls. I felt I could spend my whole life just crying to God for the souls of sinners and for holiness among God's own people."

On another occasion we read: "With the sun half an hour until near dark, I wrestled all day until I was all over wet with sweat ... O dear Jesus you sweat blood for poor souls. How I long for more of your compassion." (*Life of David Brainerd* as quoted in *In the Day of Thy Power*, Arthur Wallis, pp. 163-164).

🙏 **OUTCRY for revival:** *Father in heaven, we cry out to You on behalf of our land and its people. Stir up a holy compassion in the hearts of Believers to cry out to You for breakthroughs like this man! Raise up thousands upon thousands of faithful intercessors who will not let go of You in fasting and prayer unless they see breakthroughs. Here am I Lord, touch me.*

Thursday 1 January 2009

Give God more time to speak to you

This is the desire of every Believer at the beginning of a new year. Yet, almost all of the time, we are not able to do it consistently. One way of making sure you give God time, is to invite a friend for a regular appointment, at least once a week. This works wonderfully well for men and women who have a busy schedule! Decide on a day and hour during the week (or over a weekend) that would suit you both. Consider beginning your time together by reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, even if it takes the whole year. You may start with Matthew or the Book of Psalms. One way of giving God time to speak to you is by reading the Word. As you read, stop and pray together when you feel the Lord speak to you. Then continue reading. There is no simpler, more exciting way to spend time with God and at the same time have someone help you to be accountable for time taken with God. (This of course does not replace your personal quiet time with the Lord. It only increases your time with God in an enjoyable way).

Church focus: Missionaries abroad

Please pray for South African missionaries Hans and Gerda Leithgöb when they minister in England on practical prayer and intercession. Ask the Lord to give them insight and much wisdom into every situation, so that they can minister to the "felt needs" of the congregations where they are teaching. Pray for openness among Christians to hear the word of the Lord and be strong to implement these tools practically in their lives and personal relationship with their Heavenly Father. (*Herald Ministry*, P.O. Box 72163, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel./fax: 012 348 1377. Website: <http://www.heraldministry.org> or e-mail: herald@mweb.co.za).

Friday 2 January 2009

Health breakthrough: SA's donated blood clear of HIV since 2005

According to the *South African National Blood Service (SANBS)* no HIV infections through blood transfusions have been recorded since 2005. The use of *nucleic acid amplification technology (NAT)* identifies traces of genetic materials of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses in the blood more effectively than other methods. Only 1% of the South African population donates blood, which is insufficient for a country that has a high demand. (Website: http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=337217&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/). Give thanks to God for answering prayers concerning health conditions in our country. Continue to pray that this record will be kept. Also pray for the availability of more blood to meet the demand for saving lives.

Health focus: Swazi population in decline

The population of the Aids-ravaged kingdom of Swaziland, already one of the smallest countries in Africa, has diminished by around a fifth in the last decade. Swaziland has been particularly badly hit by southern Africa's Aids

pandemic, with up to 40% of the adult population affected by the virus. A census showed that 589 out of every 100,000 women died while giving birth, a fact which is a particular cause for concern. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20080725162615243C729518&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080726ah). Please pray that God will turn the tide for this country. Ask that Swazi Christians will listen to what the Lord God says, for He promises peace to His people, but they must not return to folly. Ask for His salvation to come to those who fear Him so that His glory may dwell in Swaziland (**Ps.85:8-9**).

Saturday 3 January 2009

Justice focus: You can help to solve crime

The *Crime Line* initiative was started in June 2007 and operates independently and anonymously and is aimed at getting criminals off the streets. This project has been endorsed by the *South African Police Service (SAPS)*. If someone suspects someone else (even family or friends) to be involved in crime, they can now anonymously report it. Any information about criminals passed on to *Crime Line* will be acted upon – whether the perpetrators be murderers, rapists, robbers, hijackers, drug dealers, gangsters, child abusers, etc. (Website: <http://www.crimeline.co.za>). People can send a SMS to 32211 or visit <http://www.crimeline.co.za> enabling them to send in anonymous tip-offs relating to any crime or suspicious activity. Give thanks to the Lord for initiatives like these in answer to much prayer over the years! Pray that people will become aware of this initiative, and for many criminals to be put to trial for their deeds. Ask for the protection of innocent people.

Economic welfare focus: China on the rise

With little fanfare, 750,000 Chinese have settled in Africa over the past decade. More are on the way. China will eventually need to send 300 million people to Africa to solve their problems of over-population and pollution. China's population has almost trebled from 500 million to 1.3 billion in 50 years. Turnover in trade between Africa and China has risen from £5 million annually a decade ago to £6 billion today. Post-independence African leaders are happy to do business with China for a straightforward reason: cash. Yet little of it reaches the continent's impoverished 800 million people. (Website: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1036105/How-Chinas-taking-Africa-West-VERY-worried.html>). Ask for wisdom for African leaders to see the dangers of unwise decisions. Never stop praying for the salvation of presidents and government officials in Africa and also in China. True godly governance is the only solution to this problem.

Sunday 4 January 2009

Memorise

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord (Hos.2:19-20).

Peace-it together: Do it as unto God

We speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts (1 Thess.2:4, NIV). What a disturbing thought; God, testing our hearts. Right through the Old Testament God looks into the hearts of people, to see what is hidden deep inside. In this verse, God specifically tests whether they were trying to please men or God in their preaching of the gospel. The question is put to you and me today. When you testify for Christ, what is in your heart? Are you trying to impress people with your relationship with God? Or do you testify about God in such a way that it provokes others to seek God for themselves? Do you portray God to people in relation to what He does for you? If we ONLY portray God for what He can do for us, rather than what He has done for us in Christ, people will be disappointed in God if He does not do for them what they want. Then they have the right to be disappointed or lose faith in God. Then they trust in what they can get out of the deal of being a Christian. If we FIRST OF ALL portray God for what He has done for us in Christ, people will adore Him and trust Him as the eternal, wise One, despite difficult circumstances. Then they believe like a child in his father, that whatever happens, everything will work out in the end because their

father loves them. Then they trust in love. What witness does your life portray? Do you try to please men or God? Will you not consider for a moment how you please the Lord? Take time in prayer today and ask Him to show you. Wait upon Him and be humble to admit wrong attitudes of your heart when He shows you some areas in which you still please man. When you and I please God, our hearts are at peace and whole.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for the times that I testify, preach, write or live in ways that give people the wrong impression about You as a loving and caring Father. I need Your correction in my own heart. Please speak to me through Your Holy Spirit so that I will know how to please You and be quick to confess when I am not doing so. Help me to selflessly live the gospel to Your glory.

Are you a real man?

Being a man of God will cost you. The man who wants to be a man of God, must find his identity in God. Many of us don't want to. We still want to be "our own person". When we become a man of God, our name becomes "man of God"; any other name or identity becomes unimportant. We still want to be known by our own name. We still so badly want recognition for what we have done, for our successes, achievements and that which is unique to us. When we are just "man of God", there is no room for personal glory. There is however more: one of our greatest fears is probably that we must be in God's presence every moment and not just when we want to. To a human being this is an absolutely terrifying thought. Think about it for a second: *every moment*. There is not one moment that God does not know what we are thinking or what we are doing. There is nowhere we can be alone. There is never a moment that we can just sit and be left alone, where no one bothers us. God is always there, like a shadow. And this could be the deepest fear of the great majority of us: that He will be there every moment. Then there's no more looking one more time where we're not supposed to look and thinking a few "private" thoughts, sometimes saying precisely what we feel in our heart to say, and now and again being just "a little bit unholy"; having to watch our step all the time. Maybe we haven't thought about it like this, but at the deepest level, the Adam in us is still trying to hide from God.