

JERICHO WALLS PRAYER GUIDE

JANUARY 2009

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.

Monday 5 January 2009

Salvation focus: School children

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil (Eph.5:15-16). Primary and high school children are under much peer pressure to do drugs, try out other illegal practices or to become sexually active, some at the age of 9! Cry out to the Lord for the salvation of children from a young age; at least before they leave school. Ask that young people will be able to break with peer pressure and live holy lives, saving themselves for marriage. Also pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to them as a trustworthy Heavenly Father.

Mission focus: Forgotten peoples of Namibia

The Herero people (population of approximately 100,000) of central and eastern Namibia in Africa have been in Namibia for over 350 years. Today many of them combine Christian dogma with ancestor worship and magical ceremonies. The Herero believe in a distant Supreme Being called *Omukuru*, "the Great One." He is the heavenly god they point to as the author of human life and life's blessings. They only pray to him when all other means fail. There is very little evangelical influence among them. They are to some extent a "forgotten" people. Pray that they will grow in knowing God as a personal Friend. Please ask God to send labourers to minister among the Herero people. (Website: http://www.forgottenpeoples.info/herero/her_o.htm).

Tuesday 6 January 2009

Poor and needy focus: Township renewal project extended

The finishing date for the *Alexandra Renewal Project (ARP)*, a programme to develop one of Johannesburg's oldest townships, has been extended to 2010. The project has been extended for another two years because of the huge demand for adequate shelter and prolonged land acquisition processes. Originally, the infrastructure in Alexandra was designed for a population of about 70,000 people, but is now home to an estimated 350,000 to 400,000 people. (Website: <http://www.southafrica.info/about/social/alexandra-110408.htm>). Please pray for this and other projects to be completed successfully and within the set time frame.

Mission focus: The Mbalantu People of Namibia

The Mbalantu People (population of approximately 40,000) of the extreme north-central part of Namibia in Africa is one of the seven tribes of the Ovambo nation. Traditional ancestor worship, divination and mystical ceremonies are still practised. Empty, dogmatic Christian religion is only a sign of past missionary work. There is a lot of confusion and a strong resistance to the gospel. (Website: http://www.forgottenpeoples.info/mbalantu/mbtu_o.htm). Please pray for God's favour to bring the gospel to the Mbalantu people in a real and meaningful way and also to the other six tribes of the Ovambo nation. Ask for full-time workers, favour among the people and a group to spread the Word to other Ovambos.

Wednesday 7 January 2009

Justice focus: Turn the tide for farm murders

According to *Agri SA* there have been more than 10,700 farm attacks since 1991 in which more than 1,600 members of the farming community, including farm workers, were murdered. Agriculture is one of the cornerstones of the economy as well as one of the main employers in the country. The direct cost of crime for agriculture was estimated at more than R1 billion. (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/sa/734997.htm>). Please cry out to the Lord about this situation. Ask Him to turn this tide of murder and that it will come to a complete stop. Ask for farmers to begin praying together on a regular basis, crying out to God for breakthroughs and for those who plan and execute these attacks.

Evangelism focus: 2.8 Million more in the Philippines to hear the gospel

How do you reach 2.8 million people in the most cost-effective way where conventional missions methods were used and shortage of funds were experienced? The Church of Jesus Christ in the Luzon region of the Philippines came up with a viable solution to a problem which has inhibited their ability to reach the people of the Cagayan Valley with the gospel. Difficult to effectively evangelise on foot, pastors in the valley turned to *Far Broadcasting Company (FEBC)* for help. The result is the Cagayan Missionary Radio Project already being set up in Santiago City, Isabela. (*F.E.B.A. Radio Media Department*, P.O. Box 26270, Gezina, 0031. Tel. 012 335 5708 or cell: 082 670 3428. Website: <http://www.febaradio.co.za> or e-mail: febasa@corpdial.co.za). Praise God for this opportunity. Ask for many to tune in and be convinced to submit their lives to Christ.

Thursday 8 January 2009

Evangelism focus: *There is Hope Ministries*

After 20 years of full-time involvement with the *JESUS Film, There is Hope Ministries* now successfully reach out to people in need through the Internet, worldwide and in South Africa. Their focus is mainly evangelism, to follow up and facilitate spiritual growth of those who respond. (*There is Hope Ministries*. Tel.: 028 271 5124. Website: <http://www.hope365.co.za> or e-mail: pieter@hope365.co.za). Praise the Lord for wonderful testimonies of people whose lives are changed. Continue to pray for an increasing number of people to react and to feel safe to do so. Ask for God's financial provision for this and other ministries that proclaim the gospel over the Internet.

Mission focus: Mugali

A 1998 study listed a population of 3,557 Mugali people in north-west Nepal. Their homeland, which can only be reached on foot, is one of the most remote of any Buddhist group in the world. There are no known Mugali Christians. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p. 196). Let us never become tired of crying out for the unsaved peoples of the world. Lift up in prayer the Mugali people to the Lord, asking Him to release workers into this harvest field. Pray that a significant window of opportunity will soon present itself and be taken by Christian workers. Ask for a breakthrough for the gospel among all unreached Buddhist peoples of the world.

Friday 9 January 2009

Public health focus: Health dept launches programme for TB defaulters

A programme to trace people who default on their tuberculosis (TB) treatment was officially launched in the Northern Cape. TB tracer teams of nurses and community health workers visit homes to find defaulters and return them to their treatment regime. The programme, (granted an additional R33 million by the European Union), has also deployed 72 more teams in districts with poor treatment outcomes. Over 340,000 people in South Africa have TB, but the current challenge is to halt the development of *multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)* and *extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)*. (Website: http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=335690&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/).

Please pray into these health issues. Ask God to bring a breakthrough in research on *MDR-TB* and *XDR-TB*.

Salvation focus: Simple way to free child slaves in Nepal

Olga is a retired lawyer and 82 years old. Her story reveals a remarkably simple solution to the child-slave problem in Nepal. Parents of girls sold into servitude were usually doing so because they could not afford to support the rest of their family. But when offered another way out of their dilemma, they would take it. The *Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation* tells the parents that if they keep their daughter instead of selling her into slavery, they will give that family a piglet or a goat kid—which can later be sold for a profit. In addition, the organisation offers to pay for the girl's education, a cost of about \$50 per year. Surprisingly, this simple resolution has helped to virtually wipe out child slavery in the few areas where it has been tried. (Website: <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/story?id=5312009&page=1>). Give thanks to the Lord for initiatives like these. Also pray for Christians to become involved in such initiatives so that young girls will have opportunities to come to Christ.

Saturday 10 January 2009

Employment & empowerment focus: IDC boost for goat farming

The *Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)* has given the Northern Cape goat farming industry a R15 million capital injection, to help transform local herders into commercial farmers when it launched the *Goat Commercialisation Programme* in 2008. The programme would expand the current goat population in the province, help to develop the live goat market, increase supply of meat to retailers and allow for the further processing of goat meat for exporting and goatskin for leather. (Website: <http://www.southafrica.info/business/economy/development/goat-200308.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for such projects in answer to unemployment. Pray for these herders to embrace this opportunity, to be good stewards thereof and give glory and thanks to the Lord for helping and empowering them.

Mercy ministry focus: Zimbabwe

ZOE reaches out to orphans. About 2,200 churches visit a total of 60,000 destitute children in their homes, providing a programme of care and advocacy. Each family receives ongoing support with some form of small enterprise or livestock, as well as help and encouragement in sending their children to school. The work is a challenge, as Zimbabwe is suffering from shortages of food, water, medicine and basic services, and the political situation is very difficult. Please pray for ZOE's work to provide advocacy for neglected and abused children. Pray for access to medicines in the coming year and particularly to cotrimoxazole and anti-retroviral drugs for children who are HIV-positive. (*Children at Risk* Prayer News, Websites: <http://www.viva.org>, <http://www.facesofchildren.net> or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

Sunday 11 January 2009

Memorise

The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Ex.33:14).

Peace-it together: Take the sword of the Spirit

For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb.4:12). Years ago when I asked a spiritual father how to live a truly holy life, he said; "you have to get into the Word of God. It will teach you all you need to know." I had expected a difficult answer, yet it was easy and possible to do. The Word of God is indeed food to the spirit, correcting us in our innermost being. Do you struggle to concentrate when reading the Bible? This is very common among Christians. What is the solution? The answer is: Ask God to make His Word alive to you. Even if it begins with one verse or thought. Keep on asking Him until you feel the breakthrough come. Then continue to do so, so that you may grow in the knowledge of His Word with strength and understanding. It is through His Word that we come to develop a clear sense of right and wrong. Eventually a clear sense of what to do in different situations begins to form. All of this happens over time and also helps us mature in our understanding of a Christian life. Fears about the daily issues of life are put to rest and we find peace in our hearts, as we increase in the knowledge of God who is so completely in control of everything. Do you want the living and active Word of God working in your life? There are no shortcuts. It is not always so easy to begin. It is not always so easy to continue. The secret is, just don't stop! Invite a friend to join you at least once a week; take turns and read the Bible out loud together. You have to take time to physically read the Bible. Begin with the Book of Psalms. Read 3-5 psalms a day and after one month you will have completed the whole book! Then take another book of the Bible and read 2-3 chapters every day.

Father God, give me a hunger and a thirst after Your Word. Open the eyes of my understanding to know and comprehend the riches and treasures of Your Word. Strengthen me to "eat" the Word every day, so that it may richly dwell in me and I will be able to teach and admonish others with all wisdom (Col.3:16). Please send someone on my way with whom I can begin to pray and read the Bible on a regular basis.

Monday 12 January 2009

Salvation focus: Children in broken families

He (Jesus) said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Mk.10:14). Children who grow up in broken homes because of divorce or the death of a parent need much prayer. Especially pray for boys to grow up to be sons with integrity, knowing God personally and faithful husbands. Ask for God to have their paths cross with humble and believing male adults whom they can trust and learn from. Pray for those who have lost a parent to be able to receive God's love and healing in their hearts.

Neighbour focus: Zimbabwe

The inflation rate is out of control, the economy continues to collapse and living conditions in Zimbabwe continue to deteriorate. The rich get richer, and the poor are starving and traumatised. Farmers are being brutally beaten, and rural people are still being abducted and violently beaten. One teenage boy died after being beaten until various bones in his body were broken. Pray that the Church takes a stand for righteousness, and for bold church leaders to be people of integrity and transparency and who are willing to speak out against injustice. Pray for mercy and grace for the poor and oppressed, for a turnabout in the economy, and for Believers to keep the faith and take a stand for righteousness. Ask for the covetousness to end and for God to expose every evil deed and all wickedness in the nation. (OM USA, Website: <http://www.usa.om.org/> or e-mail: nigel@usa.om.org).

Tuesday 13 January 2009

Evangelism focus: FEBA Radio (Far East Broadcasting Association)

Praise the Lord for the progress made with FEBA Radio's local FM radio project which sends the production and supply of Christian and social upliftment programmes to local rural community radio stations. Please pray for the research team as they will conduct the pilot research phase in the Free State in due course. (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@corpdiel.co.za.

World Bank shifts Aids focus in Africa

The *World Bank* unveiled a four-year strategy to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa that shifts focus from emergency response to long-term development. The change was made possible after grant funding became available from the United States *Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* and the *Geneva-based Global Fund* to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria which organisations alone have committed \$10.7 billion to fight disease. The *World Bank* has sent \$1.5 billion to more than 30 African countries to fight HIV and AIDS since 2000. (Website: <http://www.iolhiv aids.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=&fArticleId=4403687>). Give thanks to the Lord for projects like these. Continuously pray that HIV/AIDS victims will really benefit in practical ways from these grants. Pray especially that children will have the opportunity to come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour and friend.

Wednesday 14 January 2009

Youth focus: Schools reopen

South African schools reopen again for the new school year this week. Please pray for youngsters returning to school, that they will make good friends, fit in easily and be able to keep up with their school work this year. Ask that mothers will start prayer groups at their children's schools this year and begin to cry out to God to turn the lives of their children around. Also pray for teachers and principals to put their hope and trust in God for this year.

Niger

The Republic of Niger is one of the world's poorest nations, with a population of 8.3 million of which 80% is Muslim. About 228 children out of every 1,000 die before the age of 5. Poverty is increasing because of the collapse of the uranium market (Niger's only natural resource), and spurred on by recurring droughts and famines. Niger is completely dependant on foreign aid. The church in Niger is small and the majority of Believers are expatriates from other African countries. (Intercessors Network, Lars Widerberg, Intercessors Network, Storskiftesgatan, 87S-58334 Linkoping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se or Intercessors.Network@Telia.com). Pray for children to have opportunities to hear the gospel. Ask for teenagers, in their early or late teens, to start asking questions about their faith and have personal encounters with the Lord Jesus. Ask for the indigenous Church to grow and be established.

Women-2-Pray: Dealing with a miscarriage

The moment a woman finds out that she is pregnant, a very special bond forms in her heart towards the unborn child. Having a miscarriage in the midst of all this excitement, or when a baby is stillborn, is quite devastating, and many times cause women to become severely depressed. People may seem unsympathetic and tactlessly comment that they did not know the child or are young enough to have another one. The following are some guidelines to help you pray for yourself or someone who has lost a child through miscarriage.

1. **Acknowledgement** – Once someone has gone through a miscarriage or given birth to a stillborn baby, one of the most difficult things is to acknowledge what happened, and not to feel embarrassed or to blame oneself. Pray that God will reveal His love and His thoughts to those who experienced this event and grant them grace to accept that He understands their pain and wants to comfort them (**2 Cor.1:3**).

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord, help me know and believe the love that You have for me. You are love. Help me abide in love and in You in this difficult time (1 John 4:16).

2. **Anger/disappointment** – Feelings of anger towards their husband, friends, family or even God might occur after miscarriage. This happens because one has lost something no one can replace. Pray for them not to blame themselves for what happened. Ask that God will touch their emotions with healing and relieve their anger, disappointment and sorrow.

SIMPLE PRAYER: O Lord, help me not to turn away from You. Revive me and I will call upon Your Name. Restore me, o Lord God of hosts; make Your face shine on me, and I shall be saved! (**Ps.80:18-19**).

3. **Rationalisation** – They will try to compensate for the loss by trying to fill the void with something else. Pray that God will show them true wisdom in their situation and help them to re-establish healthy habits and not to fall prey to excessive eating or neglecting their bodies. Ask that they will turn to God for everything and not run away from Him.

SIMPLE PRAYER: God of peace, sanctify me completely so that my whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust in You as the faithful One who calls me by my name, please do this for me (**1 Thess.5:23-24**).

4. **Depression** – They will enter a time of intense sadness and cry a lot, wanting to be alone and may shut out the outside world completely. Pray that they will make time not only to be alone, but also to spend time with God, even just to be saturated with His presence. Ask that this will be a time for them to experience God like never before. Also pray for them to confide in a good friend, so that they will not become completely isolated. Ask that they will never consider taking their own lives.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ and my God and Father, who has 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**). Give me a friend that will love me at all times (**Prov.17:17**).

5. **Embrace** – When they have worked through their loss, a deep inner peace comes. They may still sometimes experience bad days when they hear something that causes sadness or when they see a child or another pregnant woman. Pray for them during the bad days, to find their comfort in the Lord and not to fall back into complete despair or depression.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord, who have I in heaven *but You*? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the Strength of my heart and my Portion forever (**Ps.73:25-26**).

6. **Facing your spouse** - Both parents are dealing with intense emotions and it is easy to turn away from each other, afraid to talk about the miscarriage/death. Ask that God will grant them grace and courage to sit down with each other and have an open discussion about what happened to them. Pray that they will be open and honest and together find a new depth in their relationship with each other, praying together on a regular basis and again giving their lives to God as a couple.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord, I call upon Your Name, heal our broken hearts and bind up our wounds as a couple (**Ps.147:3**). May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, o Lord, our Strength and Redeemer (**Ps.19:14**).

7. **Facing your family and friends** – Family and friends are the best source of practical support during such difficult times. Sometimes someone might need to speak with a professional therapist or counsellor to help them deal with what happened. Pray that God will give them understanding and supportive family and friends who will not try to solve their problems, but care and pray for them. Ask that they will be open to share their hearts.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord, please help us understand, support and pray for those suffering sorrow (**Ps.116:3**).

8. **You are not alone** – There comes a time when they will be confronted with people who also suffered a miscarriage. This is a time they will be able to share from their own experience. Pray for them to find even more comfort in beginning to comfort and pray for others who suffered a miscarriage.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Lord I thank You for being the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, Who comforts me in all my tribulation, that I may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which I myself have been comforted by God (**2 Cor.1:3-4**).

9. **Give thanks** – Give thanks to the Lord who answers prayer. Give thanks to the Lord who anoints us in our brokenness to preach good tidings to the poor; to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and opening prisons to those who are bound; to comfort all who mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil

of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness and the planting of the Lord (**Isa.61:1-3**).

(South African help lines: *Compassionate friends* (support for parents), tel.: 011 440 6322 or *Fertel Helpline* (fertility and miscarriage), tel.: 072 104 8352).

Thursday 15 January 2009

Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for every prayer project to prepare the Church to take up their position in prayer for the elections. Ask for God's provision financially and for favour with Believers across our country to mobilise others to cry out to the Lord in prayer for our nation and country. (*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).

India loses four tiny lives every minute

According to a UN report on children, India loses 5,753 children below five years of age every day — four a minute. That contributes to 21% of total deaths of children in the world. The *UNICEF's State of World's Children Report 2008* said about 20% of these children die within an hour of birth and another 30% within 28 days. Pneumonia kills most children in India — about 2 million — followed by diarrhoea. Of those who survive, about 46% are malnourished. (*Hindustan Times*, 23/01/08. Website: <http://www.efionline.org/template/?Ano=1440>). Pray for breakthroughs and improvement in child and infant care in India, but also worldwide. Ask for more Christian medical personnel to become involved in addressing this problem practically, but also to have opportunities to testify of God's love in their profession.

Friday 16 January 2009

Family focus: Families see prostitution as a quick fix for survival

East London families are forcing their teenage daughters into prostitution as a means of survival. Organisations working with children say they have recorded a noticeable increase in the number falling victim to such abuse. Sometimes children get into prostitution because of their own poor choices, but there is an increase in forced prostitution. *Masimanyane Women's Support Centre* said husbands were also acting as "pimps" for their wives. (Website: <http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=228649>). Let us cry out to the Lord about this issue. Ask Him to turn the hearts of fathers to their children and *vice versa*. Pray for fathers to be restored to their position of authority and to care for their families, so that these plans will not even cross the minds of parents. Ask for parents forcing their children in this way to come to their senses and do restitution with God and with their children.

Breakthrough: First complete Dari Bible available in Afghanistan

After about 20 years of work the Dari Bible is ready for Afghans to read. Twenty-five years ago the Dari New Testament was published, but for the Old Testament Afghans had to rely on Persian-related translations. The Psalms in Dari were first printed and distributed in 2007. The Bible is 1,710 pages in length, with maps and much more. An Afghan believer said, "To be able to read the Word of God in my own mother tongue will be very special. Looking at all odds against our country, the first Dari Bible is a new beginning of hope and a future." (Lars Widerberg, Intercissors Network, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se). Give praise to God for answering many prayers about Bible translation worldwide and now here in Afghanistan. Ask that many Afghans will turn to Jesus now that they have the Bible available in their own language. Pray also for the necessary funding of this project.

Saturday 17 January 2009

Family focus: Alcohol abuse

In a *World Health Organisation* study last year on the relationship between alcohol and injuries conducted among people admitted to emergency rooms of 12 medical centres in 12 countries, South Africa had the highest number of injury cases where alcohol was consumed in the six hours before admittance. (Website: http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=334581&area=/supdrinknation_home/supdrinknation_content/).

Lift up in prayer every person in South Africa who abuses alcohol, no matter to what extent. Ask that God will encounter each one and convince them of their folly and the dangers involved, both for themselves and those around them. Pray that many will be converted and turn their lives over to Jesus and be completely rehabilitated. Pray especially for fathers of households for a turnabout in their lives.

Evangelism focus: Radio broadcast in Thailand

The Book of Hope organisation recently produced a film, *A Father's Love*, which spans the period from Creation to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Thai people have no knowledge of a creator God, and the film presents the story accurately. To date missionaries there have shown the film in about 50 different locations, and over 10,000 people have seen the film in one of the regions. Over 2,000 have made decisions for Christ. God is at work in North East Thailand! Thank God for this film that helps missionaries and small churches to tell the Thai people about Jesus. Pray that many more people would see the film and that what they experienced will be followed up, and pray that the local churches would be strengthened and encouraged by the outreach. (Global Prayer Update, *Operation Mobilization*, website: <http://www.omusa.org>).

Sunday 18 January 2009

Memorise

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me (John12:26).

Peace-it together: Look inside

... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people (Heb.8:10). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shows the fulfilment of this promise, not only for Israel, but for people of every tribe and tongue and nation. Do you know it is impossible for any person on the face of the earth to ignore God? As sure as having a physical heart is vital for the body to live, the laws of God have been written by the finger of God Himself on every heart of every person alive right now, a sense of right and wrong, a sense of love and wanting to be loved. You cannot even have a hardened heart without knowing that it once was soft, gentle and trusting! The 'laws of God' are written in our minds and on our hearts. Even small children understand the difference between 'right and wrong'! How many stories do we hear of people who were healed from certain sicknesses after forgiving someone or just changing their attitude to one of love, or because they stopped hating or accusing people etc. A hardened heart has no peace. What does your life look like? Do you have peace in your heart? God's handwriting is on your heart and in your mind. Will you not take a moment to meditate on this thought? What does this mean to your life and to you personally? Take time to speak to God about the things that steal your peace. Speak to Him about your hardness of heart towards a spouse, child, family member, colleague or another Believer. Ask Him to give you His heart for each of these people. Make a decision to let go of hurt and pain and forgive those who have wronged you. Give thanks to the Lord for His fingerprints on your mind and heart.

Heavenly Father, how awesome the thought that Your fingerprints are in my mind and on my heart. I love You for Your love towards me. I give my heart to You today and ask that You show me the areas where I have become hardened, unforgiving, disappointed etc. Help me through Your Holy Spirit to forgive and let go of the things and people hurting me. You are love. Teach me Your laws of love, mercy and forgiveness.

Monday 19 January 2009

Salvation focus: Fathers

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing (Deut.10:18). Fatherless-ness is a huge problem in our country and worldwide. Some fathers work so hard they never see their children. Some fathers do not care for their children at all. Other fathers do not want to acknowledge their children and distance themselves from them completely. Let us cry out for the salvation of fathers in South Africa, that God will intervene in everyone's life in a special way that will make them turn to God for everything. Ask for fathers to reach out to their children in new and creative ways. Pray that children will respond to their fathers' reaching out to them and learn to trust them again.

Health focus: Cheaper cholera vaccine passes pilot trial

The current international cholera vaccine is too expensive for developing countries. A reformulated oral vaccine against cholera promises to be an affordable and effective weapon to combat the disease for people living in endemic areas of developing countries. The reformulated vaccine is now undergoing a trial in around 70,000 people in Kolkata. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/cheaper-cholera-vaccine-passes-pilot-trial.html>). Pray that a safe and protective vaccine will be found soon to control cholera worldwide. Also ask for God to heal thousands of people crying out to Him for healing.

Tuesday 20 January 2009

Family focus: HEARTLINES

Pray for men and women to take the responsibility of parenting seriously - to look after children in every way - physically, morally and spiritually - whether in a family situation or in church family relationships. Ask that they will respond to warnings of drastic change in behaviour of their children and search out matters in order to protect their children from exploitation in any way. Ask God to teach families to pray together and that parents will intercede for their children continually, starting even before birth. (HEARTLINES, tel.: 011 771 2540. Website: <http://www.heartlines.org.za> or e-mail: info@heartlines.org.za).

Child evangelism focus: New pre-school show

Teachers of small children know that one of the very best ways for them to learn new ideas is through songs. In a new SAT-7 KIDS program entitled *Colours*, children will learn basic words, concepts and Bible lessons through song. SAT-7 KIDS staff members are extremely excited about this new programme which will catch the attention and imagination of many young children. Thank God in prayer for this new show. Pray also that it permanently implants biblical truths in the minds of children as they watch and learn, and for many to be established in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, as well as the adults watching it. (Website: http://www.sat7.org/files/n%26p/0806_Newsletter_KIDSUpdateUK.html).

Wednesday 21 January 2009

Economy focus: SA household debt exceeds R1 trillion

Household debt in SA has quadrupled to more than R1 trillion in the past five-and-half years. Credit extension to households rose from R289.8 billion in 2002 to R1.1 trillion in 2008. Mortgages accounted for more than 50% of the debt, while other credit classes, including overdrafts, leases, instalment sales and credit cards chalked up the balance. SA's credit market, which includes business, corporate and household credit extension, is estimated at about R2 trillion. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/topstories.aspx?ID=BD4A770973>). Continue to pray for people to be able to pay off debt. Ask that Christians will not fall prey to money-making schemes or get involved in illegal transactions to try and pay debt. Pray that the Church will take up its role to teach and educate Believers with regard to budgeting in all its facets. Pray that Christians will understand God's command not to be in debt to anyone, except to love one another.

Evangelism focus: Radio reaches Egyptians

According to a report in May, almost 2-3 million Egyptian Muslims listen to Radio Monte Carlo's hourly newscasts and other secular programmes. It is estimated that one third of them stay tuned to listen to the gospel broadcasts aired afterwards every evening. Teams of trained Egyptian Believers do a one-to-one follow up on serious listeners who respond to these broadcasts. (News Bytes. E-mail: newsbytes@yahoo.com). Praise the Lord for testimonies like these. Please pray for those who tune in to the newscasts to also attentively begin to listen to the gospel broadcasts, to ask questions and begin to hear God speaking to them about life in Christ.

Thursday 22 January 2009

Public health focus: TB antibiotic use has "resistance side-effect"

An antibiotic used to combat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in children could be leading to resistance to a similar drug in an unrelated bacterium that causes pneumococcal disease. Researchers discovered that 12 children who had been infected with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were resistant to treatment with a drug called levofloxacin. About 89% of these children had previously been treated with fluoroquinolone for tuberculosis and most acquired the infection while in hospital. (Website: <http://web.scidev.net/en/health/antibiotic-resistance/news/tb-antibiotic-use-has-resistance-side-effect-.html>). Please pray about this situation so that children will not spread it to communities where they live. Ask for a breakthrough vaccine to be found soon to combat this problem. Pray specifically for the 12 children who were infected.

Unreached people focus: Zhaba of China

A 1983 source listed 15,000 people belonging to the Zhaba ethno linguistic group in China. The Zhaba worship a wide variety of demons and ghosts. There are no known Christians among the Zhaba. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p. 362). Please pray to the Lord of the harvest to send full-time workers to the Zhaba. Also to raise up Christians that will faithfully pray for breakthroughs for the gospel in this people group.

Friday 23 January 2009

Justice focus: Pretoria anti-crime drive yields results

Operation Thiba, running in Pretoria since last year, saw over R800,000 in fines for contravening liquor and municipal bylaws, the confiscation of 8,900 rounds of ammunition, the seizure of 668 firearms and 4 stolen vehicles. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080408ah&click_id=13&art_id=nw20080408113803269C194074&set_id=1). Give thanks to the Lord for every arrest and breakthrough in resolving crime in answer to faithful prayers of Believers. Continue to pray for this and other similar projects to be successful, as well as for syndicates to be discovered and shut down.

Praying the promises for Israel: I will be your God

God's covenant with the people of Israel is forever and without end (**Gen.17:8; Gen.15:18-21**). On May 14, 1948, the Jews again received the land of Israel after being exiled by the Romans in 70 after Christ. Let us ask the Lord to continue to show Israel His favour and to fulfil all His good promises to them.

*Abba Father, You have been faithful to re-establish the nation of Israel in the land of Israel. We trust You for the fulfilment of Your promise according to **Genesis 15:18-21**. We praise You for Your faithfulness to Your Word and for keeping all of world history in Your hand! Thank you that You are the same yesterday, today and forever and that we can trust Your Word (**Heb.13:8**). As You accomplish these things, open the hearts and minds of Jewish people to know that You are their God.*

Saturday 24 January 2009

Public health focus: Cry out for God to turn the tide of HIV-AIDS

According to the *Development Bank of South Africa's (DBSA) 2007/2008 statistics*, more than 27% of men and women aged between 20 and 64 are HIV positive, more than 92,000 babies have been infected, either perinatally or through mother's milk in the past year and the total number of AIDS sufferers was 1,287,844 by mid-2007. An estimated 1.2 million of the country's 1.49 million orphans lost their parents to AIDS and this number is expected to increase by more than 336,000 this year alone. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080504ah&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080504084109386C950315&set_id=1). Cry out for the salvation of those at the point of dying without Christ. Ask for more churches to become involved in helping people suffering from AIDS. Ask God to turn the swelling tide of death in our country.

Missionary focus: Small church

Recently, a group went on a prayer drive in a part of a Near East city that desperately needs prayer. In the area of about 20,000 people, a small evangelical church faces opposition and problems. This small church is surrounded by at least 20 mosques. The main mosque's leader often causes problems for the church with the local authorities and the Muslim brotherhood. The pastor has been called in for interrogation many times and has also been threatened by local Muslims. The pastor and his wife have been labouring in the church for nine years and need renewed strength and financial provision. Please pray for this small church to be able to stay true to God and for spiritual and material provision for the pastor and his family. Ask for the young people in the church who face pressure to become friends with and even date young Muslim girls and boys. Pray against witchcraft in the city as many nominal Christians are involved in magic; pray for the spirit of Islam in the area to be broken. (Graham Wells, *Global Prayer Ministries, OM USA*. E-mail: Prayer request: prayer@globalprayer.com or Bookings: bookings@globalprayer.com or Inquiry's: admin@globalprayer.com).

KIDS-2-PRAY-4-KIDS

This week we will pray for other children that are in trouble because bad things have happened to them. Every time we pray for a child who is in trouble, we can also say thank you to God for giving us so many things, and people who are our family and love us. We do not always think about it this way, but we have many things that other children do not have.

Monday: HIV/AIDS: South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS. This means that many children are born HIV positive because their parents have AIDS. Many children are left behind all by themselves when both their parents die of AIDS. Often other family members are also sick or too far away to take care of them. *Lord Jesus, I pray for these children, that they will not feel alone. Please send someone to take care of them and give them food every day. Help them to come to know You, Jesus.*

Tuesday: AFTERCARE: Many parents work during the day and leave their children at daycare or after school care centres. The people caring for children at these places are really amazing and special. But, sometimes bad things happen to children in these care facilities, because some adults do not really love the children and do and say nasty things to them. *Lord Jesus, I pray for children that suffer because adults do and say nasty things to them. Please help them so that these bad people will be found out. I thank you for the good people who watch and take care of children everywhere in South Africa.*

Wednesday: POVERTY: Many parents are not able to find a job and then they cannot buy food for their children. It sometimes happens that children begin to beg for money at street corners, because they really want something to eat. *Lord Jesus, I pray for children who do not have enough food to eat every day. Please will You do miracles for everyone, so that they will know You are a good God. Please help their parents to find good jobs, so that they can buy food for everyone.*

Thursday: PARENTS: Many children do not have parents and live with their grandparents. Other children's parents work in towns far away and they only see them once in a while. *Lord Jesus, I want to say thank you for*

every child who has parents and who is able to live with them. Please help these children to love and respect their parents. Also comfort those children who do not have parents or who are in orphanages to know that You are a heavenly Father who also provides for their needs on earth.

Friday: GIVE THANKS: As we have prayed about the troubles of other children, let us take time to look and see what we have, compared to them. Ask someone to help you to write down the things you have that you can thank the Lord for. Also say thank you to your parents/family or guardians who look after you. *Lord Jesus, I give thanks to You for You are good and Your mercy endures forever (1 Chr.16:34). Thank you for showing me how much I have to give thanks for.*

Sunday 25 January 2009

Memorise

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know (Jer.33:3).

Peace-it together: Tell God

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil.4:4-7). If medication should be available to guarantee happiness, it would be sold out within 24 hours, worldwide! The secret is this; it is available. It is just in a different format. The prescription is clear; *to have your mind and heart guarded in Christ: Rejoice, let your gentleness be evident to all, do not be anxious about anything, but present everything that troubles you to God in prayer.* The first part of the prescription is repeated: REJOICE. This must then be step 1! How do you rejoice when you are not feeling happy at all? It is difficult, but you can do it. Begin by saying thank you to God for something good in your life, even if it is something small. Continue to do so. After some days you will begin to feel the difference. As you begin to feel the gentleness of God's goodness upon you through thanksgiving, you will begin to experience gentleness towards others too. Suddenly it becomes easier to make known in prayer to God those things troubling you. Your faith increases, because you see what He is doing for you through regular thanksgiving. And you will begin to REJOICE!

Father God, forgive me for not saying thank you as often as I ask things from You. Open the eyes of my heart to see Your goodness upon my life. Help me to give thanks with a grateful heart (Ps.100:4), to be gentle towards others and have more confidence to entrust my concerns to You in prayer (Phil.4:4-7).

Global health focus: World Leprosy Day

For more than 50 years, on the fourth Sunday of January, thousands of people across the globe have stopped to remember those who suffer the horrendous effects of leprosy. Every year, more than 400,000 children, women and men discover they have leprosy. In 1982 the cure for leprosy was discovered. *World Leprosy Day* helps to focus on the need of all people affected by leprosy, especially those in the poorest nations. (The Leprosy Mission - Northern Ireland, website: <http://www.tlm-ni.org> or <http://www.leprosy.ca/site/c.anKKIPNrEqG/b.1037173/>). Give thanks to the Lord for the cure that was found and for so many that now benefit from it. Continue to pray for many leprosy sufferers in poor nations to be healed physically and also have opportunities to find and follow Christ.

Monday 26 January 2009

Salvation focus: Sons and daughters

All children reach a stage where they challenge the authority of their parents, teachers or any form of authority over them. The way those in authority react at that particular stage may influence/harm their perceptions for life. All of us need correction at various stages of our lives, young or old. Pray for sons and daughters who challenge those who care for them with rebellious behaviour. Ask that God will reveal Himself to them in special ways, softening their hearts and helping them grow into amazing young people of integrity. Specifically ask the Lord to

restore their personal image of a good and trustworthy father in their relationship with their Heavenly Father. Pray that children will have intimate relationships with their fathers, in order to have the right perspective on God as Father.

Salvation focus: The lost people around Lake Tanganyika

Many people are living in poverty on the banks of Lake Tanganyika. Pray for their salvation, that they will understand salvation, that they will repent, believe and will be baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray for the old people, the youth and the children, for each of them to have a personal encounter with Jesus at the cross. Ask that everyone will experience the power of the gospel through the cross of Jesus and be freed from the bondages of sin. (1 Cor.1:18). (Div du Plessis, website: <http://www.ltpayer.org> or e-mail: gnews2@gmail.com).

Tuesday 27 January 2009

Stewardship focus: Gambling addiction

Compulsive gambling starts out as a form of recreation and slowly progresses to the point where it has serious consequences for both the gamblers and their family in three ways: mentally, physically and spiritually, with the main symptom being that of denial and its major characteristic loss of control. About 75% of compulsive gamblers report that they had a large win early in their gambling stint. This win leads to fantasies about winning more and an attitude that gambling is an easy way of earning additional income. Research shows that people with a low income and the unemployed are most vulnerable. Young men between 16-30 playing fruit and slot machines and betting on horses are more at risk than their contemporaries purchasing lottery tickets. Bingo, scratch cards and slot machines have more appeal for older women. (Website: http://www.health24.com/mind/Sexual_dysfunction/1284-1300,14269.asp). Pray that people who start to gamble for fun will realise the dangers of their game and stop in time. Pray that Christians involved in gambling, will repent, turn their backs on the goddess of luck and that they will trust God fully for their daily provision, lifting up in prayer especially young men and older women.

Breakthrough: Jews turn to Christ

Christian World News (CWN) reports that in Israel, there is an attention-getting resurgence in the number of Jews who believe in Jesus, with many leaders saying it's the strongest growth since the time of Jesus, and that the Messianic movement could be on the brink of a great revival. Although nobody knows for sure how many Messianic Jews live in Israel, it's believed there are about 120 congregations now and 10,000-15,000 Jewish Believers in Jesus. Ten years ago, it adds, there were only about 3,500 Jewish Believers and 80 congregations. (*Breaking Christian News*, e-mail: editor@breakingchristiannews.com). Give thanks to the Lord for every Jewish person who turns their life over to Christ. Give thanks to the Lord for answering our prayers.

Wednesday 28 January 2009

Education focus: HIV/AIDS is killing more than one teacher a day

As many as 40 of South Africa's teachers are dying each month of Aids-related illnesses. It shows that the campaign to educate the public on HIV/AIDS is not working, either because the message is not clearly conveyed or because it is not believed. (Website: <http://blogs.thetimes.co.za/hartley/2008/04/15/aids-is-killing-more-than-one-teacher-a-day/>). Government cannot really change this situation. It is beyond human capacity. Please pray that the Church will take up their responsibility to turn the tide in our country, first of all in prayer and secondly by advocating holy lifestyles and furthermore by reaching out in practical and meaningful ways to those infected with HIV/AIDS. Also ask for more people to become convinced of their dangerous and wrong lifestyles, to turn their hearts to God and serve Him alone.

Evangelism focus: The Nama/Damara people

The Nama were one of the first peoples to enter Namibia. The Nama/Damara people (combined population of approximately 190,000) of central and southern Namibia in Africa – closely related to the Bushman – have a similar Khoisan language. They are no strangers to missionary influence. They are traditionally a very

superstitious people. Evangelism for the Nama/Damara people needs to clearly communicate the true gospel in their heart language. Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to send more full-time workers, able to speak their language, to work among them, win their trust and draw many unto Jesus. (Website: http://www.forgottenpeoples.info/nama/nama_o.htm or e-mail: swacsc@iafrica.com).

Thursday 29 January 2009

Justice focus: Radical plan for 24-hour courts

Senior advocates in South Africa have proposed a radical plan to tackle rampant crime and the snail's pace of the justice system by introducing 24-hour criminal courts to be manned free of charge by private lawyers. The proposed legislation would serve two purposes: it would demonstrate zero tolerance by immediately dealing with petty crime, and it would target violent crimes where the release of an accused or a delay in prosecution might compromise public safety. The benefits would be many, including reducing prison overcrowding. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20080515055346704C109698&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20080515ah). Let us pray for godly wisdom for those proposing this legislation. Ask for favour for them, and for those taking up this task to walk in righteousness and justice in all they do. Pray also that private and retired lawyers will provide their services free of charge.

Breakthrough: Prayer for the Comoros

Thank you so much for continuing to pray for the Comoros. Give the Lord all the praise for new converts. During the month of April and May 2008, as many as 22 new Believers enlisted on one island only. A constant trickle of new Believers is reported and soon the islands will be overturned for Jesus. Pray for the young leaders to be faithful and for spiritual growth in young Believers. Also keep on praying for the Bible and literature project that needs funding in order to be completed. (Source: Confidential. E-mail: rentia@fn.org.za).

Friday 30 January 2009

Public health focus: New stats show millions more HIV positive

According to statistics released by the *Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)*, more than 7.6 million South Africans are HIV-positive – 2.2 million more than the department of health's figures for 2007. The data on which these statistics are based is probably more reliable as it was collected at grassroots level and not based on estimates. The highest rates of infection now appear to be among men over 50 and women over 40, with the rate among those adults of child-bearing age apparently subsiding due to illness and death. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080504ah&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080504084109386C950315&set_id=1). Let us cry out to the Lord to turn this tide in our country. Ask for the thousands that die to each have an opportunity to choose Christ. Ask the Lord to show you how you can share the gospel with someone at least once a day or once a week.

Life change focus: Support for disadvantaged children and youngsters

Church persecution in Eastern Europe causes problems for Christians attempting to reach out with the gospel in practical ways. Pray for *Siloam Christian Ministries* which supports camps for disadvantaged children and young people in Eastern Europe and Portugal. Ask for children to become spiritually hungry and that young people will choose a Christian lifestyle over options such as drug abuse and child prostitution. (Christian Today News. Website:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/persecuted.christians.in.ukraine.praise.god.in.spite.of.hardships/20502.htm> or e-mail: newsletter@christiantoday.com).

Saturday 31 January 2009

Household focus: More houses, running water

The proportion of South African households living in informal dwellings decreased from 16.4% in 2001 to 14.4% in 2007, while 74.4% of households now have access to piped water compared to 72.1% in 2001. South Africa's

population increased from approximately 44 million to approximately 48 million people over the same period. The survey found an increase in the percentage of households using electricity for lighting (from 69.7% to 80%), for cooking (from 51.4% to 66.5%) and for heating (from 49% to 58.8%) between 2001 and 2007. (Website: <http://www.southafrica.info/about/social/communitysurvey-housing.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for each household that now has access to water and electricity. Let us not become discouraged by the many problems with electricity, but remember to glorify God for answering so many prayers. Continue to pray for those responsible in this sphere of life, that they will have godly wisdom to manage our growing economy, especially in planning for the future.

Unreached people focus: Lake Tanganyika, bordering on Zambia, Tanzania, Congo and Burundi

Pray for the lost people around Lake Tanganyika who are bound in witchcraft by lies, culture and tradition. People have heard about the Church, but don't know what it means or who Jesus is. They still sacrifice people to the spirits of the lake in order to be blessed with good catches, but also pray for God to help and provide for them. Pray for them to be convicted of sin and turn from their wicked ways. Ask that the leaders of the churches will each have a personal relationship with the Lord and also turn their back on witchcraft and evil, that worldly principles will be removed from the Church and be replaced with biblical principles (**Eph.4:22-25**). Pray that they may truly believe and understand that Jesus Christ is the One and only True God and that they will repent from idolatry. (*ProChristo*. Website: <http://www.ltprayer.org> or e-mail: diveleanor@gmail.com).

Sunday 1 February 2009

Memorise

For nothing is impossible with God (Lk.1:37).

Lift up Your Name: Yahweh-Elohim, we lift up Your name as "God the Creator" over all the earth (**Gen.2:4-25**). May all people profess and worship You as the one and only "Creator" of the earth and the heavens.

Reveal His character: Wonderful and good Lord, let the Church arise, live and proclaim that the Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for Him and seek Him, that it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord (**Lam.3:25-26**). Cause the Church to know and make known that our God is a God who saves! The Sovereign Lord rescues us from death (**Ps.68:20**).

Declare His works: We declare over the earth and its inhabitants that the Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He dwells among the cherubim; let the earth be moved! (**Ps.99:1**). We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your Name is near (**Ps.75:1**).

Cry for mercy: Jesus Christ, have mercy, forgive us for despising and blaspheming Your Name.

Repentance focus: Abortion in SA

On 1 February 1997 abortion on demand was legalised in South Africa. The 1st of February 2009 will mark the 12th anniversary of the legalisation of abortion on demand in South Africa. The goal of this day of repentance is to encourage pastors in South Africa to preach what the Bible teaches on the subject of abortion. It is also hoped that many Christians will observe February 1st as a *National Day of Repentance* for the national sin of abortion. Will you not consider mobilising your congregation to pray about this issue this Sunday? (*Africa Christian Action*, P.O. Box 23632, Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884. Website: <http://www.christianaction.org.za> or e-mail: info@christianaction.org.za).

Monday 2 February 2009

Lift up Your Name: Yahweh-Eloheenu, we lift up Your Name as the "Lord our God" over all the earth (**Deut.6:4**). May all people come to call You the "Lord our God".

Reveal His character: Glorious Lord, let the Church arise, live and proclaim who You are until the nations know Your goodness. Call out Your Name "the Lord", to them as You did before Moses of old. Show kindness and mercy to all You choose (**Ex.33:18-20**).

Declare His works: We declare over the earth and its inhabitants, that for unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His Name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. To the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to uphold it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (**Isa.9:6-7**).

Cry for mercy: Jesus Christ, have mercy, forgive us for using witchcraft, consulting spiritists and mediums (**2 Kings 21:6**).

Salvation focus: Teachers

There are too few teachers teaching in schools right now. Some classes are so big that it is nearly impossible to keep simple order, let alone conduct the teaching lesson of the day. Disciplining scholars is difficult. Many teachers are responsible for many after school tasks as well. Pray for teachers, to have patience and much grace, with scholars and with themselves. Pray for Christian teachers to have many opportunities and favour to testify about God. Ask for unbelieving teachers to have a hunger and thirst after God, and turn their lives around.

Tuesday 3 February 2009

Lift up Your Name: Yahweh-Elohay, we lift up Your Name as the "Lord my God" over all the earth (**Zech.14:5**). May all people come to call You the "Lord my God."

Reveal His character: God, nothing is too difficult for You! Let the Church arise, live and proclaim to every tribe, tongue and nation of the earth that what is impossible with men is possible with God (**Mk.10:27**). Reveal as heart knowledge to the Church that, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts and Your ways are higher than our ways (**Isa.55:8**).

Declare His works: We declare over the earth and its inhabitants, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (**John 3:16**).

Cry for mercy: Jesus Christ, have mercy, forgive us for sowing seeds of hatred.

Wednesday 4 February 2009

Lift up Your Name: Yahweh-Eloha, we lift up Your Name as the "Lord your God" over all the earth (**Lk.10:27**). May all people come to love You with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Reveal His character: Wise and powerful God, let the Church arise, live and proclaim that true wisdom and power are with God; counsel and understanding are His (**Job 12:13**). Let her understand and proclaim that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. May she gain the knowledge of the Holy One that results in understanding (**Prov.9:10**).

Declare His works: We declare over the earth and its inhabitants that He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (**Col.1:13-14**).

Cry for mercy: Jesus Christ, have mercy, show your power to those who plot against You, silence the voice of the accuser.

Are you a real man?

David says in **1 Chronicles 29:17**: *I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.* So much is said about integrity. What does integrity really mean? Integrity is what we think and do when no one sees us and when no one will ever know about it, except us. It is to live in such a way that we do not mind if God or people know everything we do. It is a life in which whatever we say, think and do will not be an embarrassment to us should our wives, children and colleagues get to know about it, or if it is published in a newspaper. It is when we

live in such a way that our words, deeds, character and whatever God expects from us are in accordance. It is when our *character* is in accordance with God's character. To a Christian, integrity is to choose God (Himself, His will and precepts) consistently, in all circumstances and under any form of pressure. A man with integrity is not controlled by a fear of people or by being pressurised. Jesus' critics had to admit in the end: "*Teacher, we know you are a man of man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth*" (**Mark 12:14**). This is integrity. We read in **Daniel 6:4**: *At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.* This is integrity. Look at God's promise to those who have integrity: *The man of integrity walks securely* (**Prov.10:9, NKJ**). For the man of God, being a man of integrity is not feeling good about himself, but feeling right about himself, in other words, knowing that he lives the *right* way.