

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE – JULY 2008

Tuesday 1 July 2008

Bikers Church

This ministry truly reaches and touches those who seem highly unlikely to be touched by the gospel of Christ. Pray for Christian bikers as they attend and also present various rallies with the sole purpose of finding opportunities to minister Christ to unsaved bikers. Ask for their physical protection and that bikers would receive the gospel in spite of a possible negative state of mind. Pray that they would also gain victory over addictions and preconceived ideas. Ask that new converts would realise the importance of their calling to reach out specifically to bikers. (*Bikers Church*, P.O. Box 1755, Brackenfell, 7561. Tel.: 021 982 2303, fax: 021 982 0997 or e-mail: bikercrc@mweb.co.za).

An urgent call for prayer for Christians in Gaza

Since October 2007, when a church leader was martyred, worship services at *Gaza Baptist Church* have shrunk to 10-15 Believers who are willing to risk publicly attending the only evangelical church in all of the Gaza Strip. In the midst of this calamity in which even long-time Gazans despair of any hope of a normal life, Christian activity remains largely underground. Underground, there may be as many as 200-300 evangelical believers in Gaza. Less than 1% of the population is culturally Christian by family tradition. (*ASSIST News Service (ANS)*, P.O. Box 609, Lake Forest, CA 92609-0609 USA. Website: www.assistnews.net or e-mail: "mailto:assistnews@aol.com" or assistnews@aol.com). Do not tire of praying for Christians living in fear of their lives in the Gaza Strip. Give thanks to the Lord for the freedom we in South Africa still have to gather as Christians.

Wednesday 2 July 2008

Every Home for Christ South Africa

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

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Iraq

Iraq now takes second place as a country that persecutes Christians. As conflict escalates between Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Shiite Arabs, Christians are caught in the middle. Increased persecution of Christians has caused an exodus of Iraqi Christians. In 1980, there were 1.4 million Christians in Iraq. By the beginning of 2003 that number had shrunk to 800,000 and presently there are only 250,000 - 500,000. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org). Please pray for the persecuted Christians in Iraq, that they will find refuge and safety within their country. Ask most of all for them to have favour to continue their witnessing for Christ and for favour with Iraqi Muslims.

Thursday 3 July 2008

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

SA has half the world's known deposits of zircon - the nuclear-age heavy mineral - and is the world's leading producer of gold, platinum, chromium, vanadium, manganese and alumino-silicates. It is also among the top producers of another 50 minerals. (*SA at a Glance*, 2007/8, p.8). Give thanks to the Lord for His favour resting on our country with regard to these underground resources of zircon, gold, platinum etc. as well as the already developed capacity of the country to mine and produce these minerals and metals for use and export. Continue to pray for scientists to find favour with God to invent and develop machinery, technology etc. that would be of world-wide benefit, leading to an increase in demand for South African products.

Tangsa, Yangkuk in India

In the 1981 India census, their total population was given as just 59! Since the 1981 census, when just two individuals declared themselves Christians, it is not thought that there have been any new breakthroughs for the gospel among this small group. K.S. Singh notes, "Only a few persons of the community have adopted Christianity and they have given up the

traditional faith." (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.293). Let us faithfully continue to pray for the salvation of the peoples of the Buddhist world. Ask for the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into the harvest.

Friday 4 July 2008

90 Days of Blessing: We worship You

To You alone be the glory forever! (**Rm.11:36**). You are the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, to You be honour and glory for ever and ever (**1 Tim.1:17**). We bless You, our God, the only Ruler and the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, which no one has seen or can see. To You be honour and might forever (**1 Tim.6:15-16**).

Lord, we proclaim that in the beginning, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But You remain the same and Your years will never end (**Heb.1:10-12**).

Lord Jesus, You are the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. You love us and have freed us from our sins by Your blood and have made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve You and God our Father. You are the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty One (**Re.1:6-20**). You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for You created all things and by Your will they were created and have their being (**Re.4:8-11**). Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise! (**Re.5:8-14**). Great and marvellous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear You, O Lord and bring glory to Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed (**Re.15:1-8**).

Ethné unreached peoples project: Least reached peoples of the Americas/Caribbean

According to the source, American churches pray for Muslim countries, but do very little to reach out to Muslims in their own communities. Ask for a greater awareness under American people to reach out to their Muslim neighbours by building friendship bridges to share the Good News. Website: www.joshuaproject.net/Ethne_globalregion.php or e-mail: Ethne06@Ethne.net.

Saturday 5 July 2008

Drug epidemic is robbing SA of its kids

Many young people are dying because of drug abuse. Some Pretoria drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres are helping children as young as nine. Large numbers of children who are using cocaine, heroin, dagga and alcohol are treated here. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080201045358636C335337). Pray for God to pour out His Spirit of prayer and supplication on thousands of people in South Africa to start praying for the deliverance of young people from all these substances. Ask that churches would begin special intercessory meetings to pray for young people, minister to them and also help them in practical ways.

Tearfund - Please pray and take action

More than 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation and 1.1 billion people lack safe water. As a result 2.2 million children under five years of age die from diarrhoeal diseases each year. Over the next week the G8 will meet in Japan to discuss this and other issues. Please pray that these countries take the lead in putting together the execution of a global action plan. (Website: <http://www.tearfund.org/News/World+news/Tearfund+Sanitation+report.htm>).

Sunday 6 July 2008

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

Acts 20: He'll change your leadership

God did not send His Spirit to Earth so that we could neglect our duties. As a Counsellor and Guide, He shows us how to take responsibility for God's work and empowers us to do it with supernatural results, giving us a place of responsibility and influence in the kingdom. In Paul's farewell message to the Ephesian elders he told them with great emotion, "*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood*" (**Ac.20:28**). Paul issued this challenge with great confidence because he knew the Holy Spirit would give them all they needed to succeed in spiritual leadership, even overcoming challenges like those challenging unity. God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, wants to do the same for you and through you today. Are you

struggling in your congregation or cell group meeting? Do you have trouble in your camp? This is nothing new. But there is a way out – the Holy Spirit has put you in this group, whether as leader or participant and you can press in with God to bring a breakthrough in any circumstances, even if it does take a while. Remember, difficult situations also teach us more about leadership and greater dependency on God.

Father God, we confess that we become discouraged and disappointed when things in Your kingdom do not work out or glorify You. Forgive us for often taking the responsibility to correct things ourselves. Teach us what true dependence on Your Holy Spirit's leading means. Today, once more we put our lives and the ministry You have entrusted to our care in Your hands. We are unable to make a success of anything. It is only by You, through You and in You that Your Name can truly be glorified.

Monday 7 July 2008

Illegal abortion in South Africa

Illegal abortions remain a serious problem in Cape Town, although Johannesburg has a much bigger problem. The *Department of Health* does not have figures on the number of illegal abortions performed or the number of women who develop complications after having one. Although public hospitals offered abortions free of charge, the lack of access to and education on the free service, contributed to the illegal abortions problem.

(Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20080129030137483C158794). When young people fall pregnant, many consider abortion and because they are afraid someone might find out, they are often convinced to have a private abortion. Please pray for young people who fall pregnant, that they will realise the dangers of having an abortion. Ask that they will put their hope in God and bravely face the responsibility awaiting them.

G8 Summit 2008: Hokkaido Japan

This year Japan hosts the *G8 Summit* from July 7-9, 2008. Representatives from the United States of America, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and some representatives from the *European Union* will attend this meeting. (Website: <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008hokkaido/2008plan/2008plan.html#africa>). There is much controversy and criticism around this gathering. Let us pray for each of the *G8* leaders, as they gather this week, that they will have special cross-roads moments, realise their inadequacy, and turn their hearts to enquire of God. Lift up in prayer each of these countries' leaders and ask that God's agenda will find its way no matter what man plans.

Tuesday 8 July 2008

SA will come out on top

Recent pessimism in South Africa about a possible recession caused much fear. It is true that growth will slow down and there will be challenges during 2008 and 2009. However, the managing director of the international rating agency *Standard & Poor's Sovereign Ratings*, confirmed that South Africa's sovereign ratings are "one of the better protected considering the current disturbances". (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/900438.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for His favour upon our economy. Let us continue to pray for His favour to wipe out all the negative influences of these "disturbances" (electricity crisis, political uncertainty etc.) the past few months. There is no One better to trust for the impossible. Also continue to pray for people to walk in integrity, so God may continue to bless our economy.

G8 Summit 2008: Hokkaido Japan

In the issue of development and Africa, the *G8* will focus on health, water and education. In terms of health, they will focus on mother and childcare, as well as on the shortage of health workers. Stronger cooperation in the area of global health is needed and leaders must formulate a framework for action to raise the overall level of the health care system. (Website: <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008hokkaido/2008plan/2008plan.html#africa>). The issue of health, water and education is foundational at present. Please pray for God to inspire participants to follow His ways on these issues. Addressing this issue as a global issue will also create opportunities for the gospel to spread to otherwise merely unreached peoples, or into countries closed for the gospel.

Wednesday 9 July 2008

Cancer 'pill' could prevent it spreading

Researchers from the *University of Oklahoma* have tested a chemical compound known as *SHetA2*, or *Flex-Hets*, a derivative of Vitamin A that successfully prevents cancer from forming and spreading. The compound was reportedly

effective against 12 types of cancer, including kidney and ovarian cancer, even when caught in later stages. While clinical trials are still needed, the researchers hope to develop a pill that could be taken daily, like a multivitamin, to prevent cancer. (Website: <http://newsok.com/article/3199529>). Give thanks to the Lord for unveiling breakthroughs like these to scientists. Ask for the completion of tests to be successful. Also for the speedy release of this product to care for cancer patients.

G8 Summit 2008: Hokkaido Japan

Today is the last day of the *G8 Summit* in Japan. Please continue to cover them in prayer, asking for God's wisdom in every instance of their discussions, for the issue of world poverty to be addressed, that trust, healing and joy, without control or manipulation will be the intention of every heart. Ask for willingness for leaders to listen to one another, to cooperate and embrace new concepts and ideas that will glorify God. Some more issues on the table will be: Cooperation with emerging countries, the Middle East, social dimensions of globalisation, etc.

(Website: <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008hokkaido/2008plan/2008plan.html#africa>).

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Ethiopia

Ethiopia now takes third place as a country that persecutes Christians. Islamic extremists see Ethiopia as a key to gaining the rest of Africa and have vastly increased their efforts to infiltrate the country. There are at least twenty new *Jihad* training centres in Ethiopia, built to train Muslims to spread a radical Islamic agenda throughout the country. These training centres are reportedly focused on military training and the distribution of weapons, intelligence and propaganda. They are disguised as humanitarian services, Muslim schools and orphanages. As Islamic extremism has grown, violence against Christians has also increased. A premeditated campaign where Muslims approached Christian households to pressure Believers to convert to Islam culminated in 1,500 Christians being forcibly converted to Islam. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org).

Thursday 10 July 2008

Prison Broadcasting Network

Prison Broadcasting Network give praises to God for they recently launched their *Television Division* (an extension to their existing radio station which has been broadcasting to inmates in *Pollsmoor* for the past 8 ½ years). Inmates will now be trained to produce relevant TV programmes that will contribute towards reaching thousands of inmates for Christ through the newly installed prison TV networks. Please pray for breakthroughs amidst opposition, growing and stable partnerships and the Lord's provision for all the work that still needs to be done. (*Prison Broadcasting Network*, P.O. Box 281, Steenberg, Cape Town, 7947. Tel.: 021 701 0163 (*Truth Studios*), cell: 082 488 8345. Website: www.prisonbroadcast.org.za or e-mail: info@prisonbroadcast.org.za).

Tebbu people of China

More than 20,000 Tebbu people live in one of the most dramatically remote regions of China. It is now more than half a century since anything was heard about the Tebbu Christians. There is no evidence to suggest that their faith was passed on to the next generation. About 96% have never heard the gospel and 4% have heard the gospel but have not become Christians. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.296). This means these people are almost 100% unreached. We have to cry out for them, the Lord of the harvest will release and send workers into this harvest field. Ask that their hearts will be prepared and ready to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ and for some Bible portions to be made available in their language.

Friday 11 July 2008

90 Days of Blessing: For the healing of our land

You have made mankind, male and female, to be Your representatives on earth, to fill it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth (**Gn.1:26**). You gave breath to the people on the earth and spirit to those who live on it (**Is.42:5; Gn.2:7**). You have given mankind food to eat - every plant yielding seed and every tree with seed in its fruit and every living thing that moves on the earth, You have given to us as food to eat (**Gn.1:29; 9:3; Dt.12:15**). It is You, Lord God who makes the earth fruitful, who gives plenty of grain and wine. You make our hearts glad with wine, You give us oil to make our faces shine and bread which strengthens our hearts (**Gn.1:11; 27:28; Ps.104:14,15**). You, Lord God, water the earth and prepare rain for it. You give rain in its season, both the early and latter rain (**Ps.65:9; 147:8; Dt.11:14**).

You reign over all the earth (**Ps.97:1**), but have given the earth to mankind as a dwelling place to rule over (**Ps.115:16; Gn.1:26**). But You are aware of everything that happens on this earth (**Zech.4:10; Ps.33:13**), keeping watch on the evil and the good (**Pr.15:3**). No creature is hidden from Your sight but all things are naked and open to Your eyes, and it is to You that we must give account (**Heb.4:13**). As we stand before You now, we confess that we, the people in this community, have failed in our God-given task. Our land has become corrupted and defiled because of our sin and rebellion against You (**Gn.6:11-12; Is.24:4-6**). Please be gracious to us as we, the children of God, turn back to You to plead for Your full redemption (**Rm.8:19-23**) and for the healing of our community and our land (**2 Chron.7:13-15**).

Put things into perspective

If you have food in the refrigerator, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have a bank account and money in the bank and in your wallet and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you have never experienced the fear of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world. If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than three billion people in the world. Take time to give thanks to God today for all things, great and small.

Saturday 12 July 2008

Negligent handling of public funds exposed

Recent treasury audit reports in KwaZulu-Natal showed various questionable transactions and financial irregularities. Wilful, negligent handling of public funds, unauthorised and wasteful expenditure were some of the words used by the auditors to describe the extent of problems.

(Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080206ah&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080206061811623C912285&set_id=1). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers that corruption comes to light. Pray that these findings will cause people countrywide to reconsider the way they handle money that is not their own. Continue to pray for corruption to come to light and for many to turn their lives over to Christ as a result.

Harare's runaway inflation

Zimbabwe's economy contracted for the ninth consecutive year last year and inflation accelerated to a record 26,471% in November, the highest in the world. Inflation increased after government ordering retailers to cut prices, worsening shortages. Agriculture grew 1.4% last year, mainly due to higher tobacco and soya output and will probably expand 12.4% this year due to good rains and enhanced mechanisation of the sector. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A696570>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers for agriculture in Zimbabwe. Just as this report shows the tide beginning to turn, let us not tire of praying for the hearts of all the people of Zimbabwe to turn towards the Lord for saving their country from complete destruction.

Sunday 13 July 2008

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

Acts 21: He will tell you about difficult things ahead and strengthen you

When God gave Agabus (a highly recognised and well-known evangelist in his day) word for Paul, he did not shrink from delivering it. He walked up to the apostle, took Paul's belt and bound it around his own hands and feet. Then he said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles'" (**Ac.21:11**). The prophecy gave Paul insight and prepared him for the difficult days ahead. Paul did not shrink from it, but continued on his way to Jerusalem. It took a man who had a strong and established relationship with the Lord to make a declaration like Agabus did. When you have that personal relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to see beyond the temporal and not even death will frighten you. Do you have confidence in your relationship with God the Holy Spirit? Is He so close/real to you that you would be willing to face death like Paul? How much we need men and women in the church today who are so confident in their relationship with the Lord. That person is not just someone else. That person is you and I. Consider before God your confidence in Him and the relationship you have with Him. Are you and I willing to face death, if so led by the Holy Spirit? He makes us willing and able to do His will (**Php.2:12-13**).

Father, we confess our lack of confidence and trust in the ways Your Holy Spirit leads us, and our tendency to watch out for ourselves. Forgive us for not rendering our lives completely into Your hand, even unto death. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me into a level country and into the land of uprightness (Ps.143:10, Amp).

Monday 14 July 2008

SA's position in relation to the rest of the world - our role as stewards

SA is home to the world's largest land mammal (elephant), the smallest mammal (a shrew the size of a human fingertip), 900 bird species (10% of the world's variety on 1% of its land area), and a sixth of all known marine species live in SA waters. (*SA at a Glance*, 2007/8, p.9). God has blessed our country not only with underground resources, but also a rich inheritance of wild life. Give thanks to the Lord for His favour upon our country. Ask that all South Africans will realise their awesome privilege of stewardship, not only of the physical environment, but also our wild life. Pray for those responsible for watching over the protection of our environment and wild life to do so filled with the fear of the Lord.

Restoration of stolen childhood

Around 3,000 children around the world are actively participating in more than 30 armed conflicts. Many of these children are abducted, drugged and forced into being child soldiers and sex-slaves. In northern Uganda it is reported that more than 1.7 million people have been displaced in the conflict. Thank God for ministry work to rehabilitate children at risk. Ask for improved conditions to resettle all internally displaced people in their communities. Pray that child-soldiers who were abducted and used as sex slaves and are currently in rehabilitation, will gain true freedom in Christ and have their childhood restored. (*Children at Risk Prayer News*. Websites: www.viva.org, www.facesofchildren.net or e-mail: pray@viva.org, info@facesofchildren.net).

Tuesday 15 July 2008

SA to get 20% more gas from Maputo

SASOL, along with the governments of SA and Mozambique, is to invest R1.1 billion to build a gas compression station at Komatipoort to increase the supply of gas from Mozambique to SA with 20% by the end of next year. The additional gas will be used in the first phase of an expansion project at SASOL's synfuels plant in Secunda to increase capacity by 20% over the next eight years. According to SASOL, 75% of the eventual additional synfuels capacity would use environmentally more benign natural gas as feedstock and the rest would come from fine-coal reserves. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A699790>). Give thanks to the Lord for this and other similar projects and the job opportunities they create. Pray for God's favour to rest on these projects, for those responsible to act with integrity and to glorify God also in this practical way.

Ministry behind bars

For 18 days in October 2007, an evangelist in India had an opportunity to be with 2,000 prison inmates. He had a chance to preach and talk to them and pray with them. The inmates soaked up the messages from the Bible that he shared. Before he was released from jail, the prisoners said, "Please come back each week to preach and teach the gospel to us. We will get permission from the jail authorities." He is still able to go to the jail and minister! Please pray that the ministry in the prison will continue to flourish. Also, pray for the extremists, that their hearts will be softened and that they will be open to the gospel through Believers' witnessing. (Website: <http://www.gfa.org/ministry-behind-bars>).

Wednesday 16 July 2008

Breakthrough for migraines?

A pioneering South African expert in the treatment and prevention of headaches and migraines has fine-tuned a simple surgical intervention that improved patients' quality of life by a staggering average of 250%! In what could be a major breakthrough to end chronic headaches and migraines that affect millions of people's lives around the world, the procedure cauterises superficial scalp vessels that have long been empirically identified as a root cause of migraine pain.

(Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080205ah&click_id=31&art_id=vn20080205112857907C325894&set_id=1). Give thanks to the Lord for favouring our scientists and doctors with knowledge on how to improve the physical well-being of those who suffer from headaches! Pray for the completion of this research, give thanks for the funding already provided and ask for many people to glorify God for showing His amazing love in very practical ways like this!

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia now takes fourth place as a country that persecutes Christians. Saudi Arabia is listed as a "country of particular concern" by the US State Department. Saudi Arabia became involved in exporting the Wahabbi brand of Islam around the world via the building and funding of mosques, clerics, madrassas (Islamic boarding schools) and Islamic fundamentalist movements. This has led to the world's Muslims becoming increasingly radicalised. Saudi school children are taught to fear and hate infidels (non-Muslims), especially Christians and Jews. Christians are suffering increased persecution as the Saudi society becomes more intolerant. While the Saudis no longer execute Christian converts, they still heavily persecute Christians in their homeland. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org). Give thanks to the Lord that Christian converts are no longer executed. Continue to pray for young Muslim children, that God will open their eyes to see Jesus as their Saviour, so millions will choose to follow Him.

Thursday 17 July 2008

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)/ Hyperactivity

Restlessness in babies, lack of concentration and aggression in older children as well as exhaustion, guilt and severe allergies in older people are some symptoms that may point to *ADHD*. Diet has more to do with both the problem and solving it than most people realise, the two main factors being the absence of *Essential Fatty Acids* in the diet and the consumption of artificial colourants and flavourings. Three balanced meals and snacks in between assist "active concentration" and optimal behaviour. Less sugar and 6-9 portions of fresh fruit and vegetables should be eaten daily. (Website: http://wellness.oppiweb.com/children_needs.html). Pray for people and parents with children suffering from *ADHD*. Ask for them to have insight into that which is of importance in their individual and unique situation. Also pray that parents will take greater care to watch over what their children eat and consequently instill in them a proper and healthy diet as a way of life.

Tibetan Nghari

Despite having an approximate population of only 50,000, the Nghari Tibetan language is spoken over a vast area of western Tibet. Western Tibet is a holy site for the followers of the four religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Bon. The first recorded Tibetan church was built by Jesuit missionaries in Lhasa in 1726. Today there are no known Christians among the Nghari Tibetans. Only 5% have heard the gospel but have not become Christians. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.327). Lift up in prayer the Nghari people of western Tibet, asking God for a breakthrough for the gospel and the translation of Scripture portions in their native language. Also ask for missionaries to dedicate their lives to minister to the Nghari.

Friday 18 July 2008

90 Days of Blessing: Repentance for bloodguilt

Lord God, You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness. You forgive iniquity, transgression and sin (**Ex.34:6-7**).

Be merciful to us for there are dark places on earth, inhabited by wickedness and the whole earth is corrupted and defiled by sin (**Ps.74:20; Gn.6:11,12; Is.24:12**). The land is bringing forth thorns and thistles and is even vomiting out the people (**Gn.3:17,18; Lev.18:25-28**). Our lands are filled with crimes of blood, our towns and cities are full of violence and iniquity and we and previous generations have treated life with little respect (**Ez.7:23; Hab.2:12**). Because of the bloodguilt caused by murders, wars and abortions, many people have become wanderers and refugees (**Gn.4:11,12**). The ground is cursed and does not yield its strength when we work it; the heavens have become like brass and the earth like iron (**Gn.4:12; Dt.28:23; Ps.107:34**). You hate hands that shed blood and do not answer the prayer of those who have bloodguilt on their hands (**Pr.6:17; Is.1:15; 59:2**). You said that the life of a person is in the blood and that their blood is crying to you for revenge (**Gn.4:10; Lev.17:11**).

Lord, our Redeemer, please forgive us for all the bloodshed in our nation and in this community; remove the curse of bloodguilt from our land, wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin (**Joel.3:21; Ps.51:2,14**). You make wars cease when You judge and rebuke nations (**Ps.46:9; Mic.4:3**). Be merciful and establish Your kingdom in our community and our land so that the Prince of Peace will rule and reign in our midst (**Is.9:6,7; Zech.9:10; Rm.14:17**).

Spiritual needs in Thailand

Thailand is at heart a religious country with Buddhism as the faith of more than 90% of the population. Interwoven into Buddhism is a system of merit making and the appeasing of spirits, commonly seen everywhere from household spirit

shrines to amulets worn for protection. The Bible has been translated into Thai, yet after four centuries of Christian presence, only 1.6% of the population is Christian. To many, becoming Christian is considered a rejection of their nationality, their family and their friends. Christianity is also held to be a foreigners' religion, which doesn't provide anything better than what they already have. Continue to trust with us that as co-workers with God, we will seek to present the gospel in Thai-friendly ways and that many will make commitments to follow Christ as Saviour. (Joseph and Edwina Charles, P.O. Box 15, Sisatchanalai, Sukhothai 64130 Thailand. E-mail: jecharles2003@yahoo.com).

Saturday 19 July 2008

South African dams not safety compliant

According to the *Department of Water Affairs and Forestry*, over half of South Africa's public dams, including the biggest – the 5.3 billion m³ *Gariep Dam* – do not fully comply with modern-day safety standards. In October 2007, 160 of the 294 government dams did not comply with current dam safety standards. The majority of the dams are more than 50 years old. (Website: http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=331651&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news__national/). Water is a scarce resource in Southern Africa. Please pray about this situation, that the necessary measures will soon be considered and implemented as to the maintenance and upgrading of all South African dams. Ask for those in responsible positions to act quickly and faithfully in addressing the complete picture, also constructing new dams to provide for the increasing water demand of the population.

Egypt recognises Christian converts

Twelve Egyptian converts to Christianity have had their conversions officially recognised by an Egyptian court! The 12, who were born Coptic Christians, converted to Islam and then converted back to their original faith. The recognition of their new faith by the highest civil court in Egypt overturns an April 2007 ruling by a lower court forbidding them to convert to Christianity on the grounds that it would be apostasy. The ruling is seen as a small victory for human rights advocates in Egypt. (Website: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1202625820984&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FshowFull>). Praise the Lord for this breakthrough! Ask for other Muslim countries soon to follow suit. Usually when Muslims convert to Christianity they are outlawed and their lives are of no value.

Sunday 20 July 2008

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

Acts 22: He will reveal to you Jesus Christ

...'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting' (**Ac.22:7-8**). Paul would never forget this moment. Like so many of us today, Paul was sincere in his quest – in his case to persecute Christians – but sincerely wrong. Although Paul took his opposition of Christ to the extreme, he was not unlike many of us in the days before we met the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had seen the resurrected Christ and that convinced him of the truth of the gospel. From a changed recognition came a changed commission: *The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will and see the Just One and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard* (**Ac.22:14-15**). What extreme grace when God decides to turn our misplaced sincerity into fulfilling His purpose, His way! Each of us has in one way or another opposed the truth of God while being very sincere. When Jesus reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit, our views change and we never ever doubt the truth again. Have you opposed God's work in some way? Consider your life. Spend time on the Word of God. This Word is a double-edged sword, cutting and even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow and discerning our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (**Heb.4:12-13**).

Father, we realise today, like Paul, there are times when we resist the work of Your kingdom, whether in ourselves or in the lives of others or Your church. Please show us where we resist Your work. With Your Word, also expose to us the wrong thoughts and intents of our hearts, so we may correct these things to glorify Your Name.

Monday 21 July 2008

South Africans are flocking home?

Indications from emigration lawyers and moving companies are that hundreds of people are leaving the country due to pessimism stemming from crime, the economy and the political situation. However, in January alone, an increase of 20% was experienced in enquiries from citizens abroad wanting to return home. Instead of waiting for things to get better in the

country, those returning home are doing so because they want to help make things better. (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/sa/900037.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering our prayers of previous months. Ask for those returning to have good opportunities to live out their thanksgiving to the Lord and a willingness to help change things. Ask that many hearts will turn towards the Lord in trusting Him to turn the tide of negativity in our country.

German-speaking evangelicals in Europe are praying

In January this year about 350,000 Christians gathered for prayer meetings in Germany, 5,000 in Austria and 50,000 in Switzerland. High on the agenda are outreach programmes in Austria and Switzerland this summer, with the *European Soccer Cup* in mind. Local churches were urged to integrate churches of ethnic minorities and immigrants into their ministry. Pray for the Church across Europe as it looks ahead at opportunities to share the gospel. (*The Prayer Alert Team*, e-mail: andy@prayer-alert.ccsend.com). Also give thanks to the Lord for this and other initiatives in Europe to stir up the church for her calling in Christ (**Eph.1:17**).

MEN-IN-THE-GAP

It is very interesting to see how many new prayer initiatives have evolved in the country over the past few months. In Pretoria a group of six men started praying together in January 2007. Now, once a week, 200-250 men attend this meeting and it is starting to spread to other towns. In Centurion a large group of Believers across denominations and a number of organisations came together at the beginning of January to pray for the country. It was a very special occasion. There are many more examples of people that gather to pray with all kinds of prayers (**Eph.6:18**).

As an outflow of these initiatives, the need was expressed to continue encouraging men to gather on a regular basis to pray about issues of concern, not only personal, but also as priests of their families, people of influence in the workplace and in obedience to God who calls us to stand in the gap for our nation (**Ez.22:30**). From this month onwards we will try to at least set down some ideas to put you on course so that you may lay hold of God through His Holy Spirit in prayer and intercession for different issues.

Will you not consider praying about some of these issues some time during the day on a regular basis, e.g. every Thursday? Remember it is not necessary to gather only on the days as set out here. What is more important than anything is that men across our country will begin to take up their position in prayer and do so on a regular basis. Try to fast for one day a week or skip one meal a day for three days a week, as the Lord leads you. Set yourself before God in this way to show that you are serious to see His kingdom come on earth.

Global Bridegroom Fast (Mt.9:15)

Millions of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims are praying and fasting with intensity unknown to the Western church. Jesus desires the church globally to rise up, lovesick in her bridal identity. He desires for His bride to be abandoned in purity, fasting wholeheartedly, praying and worshipping to more effectively preach the gospel, heal the sick and serve the poor. *The Bridegroom Fast* takes place annually, for forty days and is set out as follows: The first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each month – that is three days a month, and then seven days in December.

What are we praying for?

1. Fullness of the Holy Spirit and unity in the church (**Jn.17:2-23**).
2. Spiritual breakthroughs in the church world-wide with unprecedented unity, purity and power (**1 Chr.14:11b**).
3. The Great Harvest (**Mt.24:14**). Ask for over one billion souls to be converted by the power of God.
4. Revival amongst the youth (**Mal.4:6**). Ask for a world-wide revival, especially among the poor.
5. Revival to Israel (**Rm.9-11**). Ask for the fulfilment of all the prophetic promises to Israel and the Houses of Prayer in Israel (**Is.62:6-7**).
6. The release of "grace for fasting" with worship and prayer, to establish 24-hour-a-day houses of prayer in the cities of the earth (including Israel) (**Lk.18:7-8**).
7. Wealth of the nations (**Hag.2:7-9**). Release of finances for the Harvest, the prayer movement and the poor.
8. The wall of fire (**Zech.2:5**). Divine protection of all that is birthed through prayer: "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you" (**Is.60:2**).

9. The *Persecuted Church* (**Eph.3:10**). Ask for favour for the church to remain faithful, grow in truth and take up their position in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed them in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Him (**Eph.1:3**).
10. Give thanks to the Lord, call on His Name; make known among the nations what He has done (**1 Chr.16:8**). Continue to give thanks to God who is faithful in answering prayers.

Tuesday 22 July 2008

Property market in townships

New research on township estate agents shows that the township house market differs completely from the traditional house market. Advertisements are done by hand, there are no show houses due to security reasons and evaluations are done for free in order to get business. Despite these difficulties, activity (the number of loans registered at the deeds office) in Soweto increased with 20% from the last quarter of 2006 to that of 2007 at just one particular bank in South Africa.

(Website: <http://www.dieburger.com/Stories/Features/17.0.80897259.aspx>). This increase means more of the lower income people have more money in order to be able to buy property. Furthermore it encourages better stewardship as homeowners will care better for something they own. Give thanks to the Lord for these positive trends among lower income people of our country. Ask that a greater respect for each other's property will also come in the hearts of our people.

Ethn  unreached peoples project: Least reached peoples of the Americas/Caribbean

Canada has the largest percentage population that is least-reached with 4.6% in 16 groups (nearly 1.5 million people). The United States has the largest population of least-reached people at over 3.5 million in 24 people groups. Mexico has almost 0.5 million in 18 people groups. God is not overwhelmed by these realities, so let us cry out to Him for whom nothing is impossible. Ask for the church in North America and the Caribbean to lay hold of God for the salvation of these people groups in their midst. Pray for many people to dedicate their lives to whatever is needed to reach the least reached peoples of our time in this generation.

(Website: <http://www.Ethne.net/Helps/Regions> or www.joshuaproject.net/Ethne_globalregion.php or e-mail: Ethne06@Ethne.net).

Wednesday 23 July 2008

Missionaries suffering violence

The 65-year-old wife of a missionary in Mokopane was murdered in her home earlier this year. It is a complete mystery why this happened as she was a very loving person in the community and had no enemies at all. (Website: http://www.news24.com/Beeld/Suid-Afrika/0,,3-975_2268061,00.html). Let us remember and pray today for this family and many others who have lost a loved one in acts of violence. Also remember to pray for missionaries working in our own country, diligently serving those without Christ and discipling new Believers. Pray today for God to provide in the practical needs of missionaries from South Africa working in the harvest fields of South Africa. Ask for their protection, for favour in their area of ministry and to have much freedom to proclaim the gospel.

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Somalia

Somalia now takes fifth place as a country that persecutes Christians. Somalia is considered 99.5% Muslim and is the worst persecutor of Christians in all of Africa. To openly declare your faith in Christ in this nation is a death sentence for a professing Believer. With no strong central government to bring stability, warlords established their own authority in the capital of Mogadishu, fighting each other for greater control and influence. In June 2006 the *Union of Islamic Courts (UIC)*, a militant Islamic movement, took control of Mogadishu. They announced a decree of death to anyone who did not submit to the command of praying to Allah five times a day. Recent events showed that the *UIC* appears to have disintegrated in the face of a new assault. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org). Please pray for the protection of Christians in Somalia and that they remain faithful amidst persecution. Pray for the leaders of the *UIC* and other factions, that they might have the opportunity to turn their hearts towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday 24 July 2008

International Sports Leadership School (ISLS)

The *International Sports Leadership School (ISLS)* takes place 25 July-17 October in Stellenbosch. Leaders from different countries who share the gospel through sport are being trained in understanding Scripture, evangelism, discipleship and

sports ministry. Please pray for each leader's intimate relationship with the Lord, unity in the team and their handling of cultural differences and development as sport ministry leaders (*International Sports Leadership School*. Tel.: 021 886 7335, e-mail: isls@adept.co.za).

Shanyan people of north-west China

More than 20,000 people living in the extremely remote Shanyan District of Baiyu County in China's north-western Sichuan Province, belong to the little-known Shanyan Tibetan ethnic group. The Shanyan Tibetans are completely unreached by the gospel. They pose one of the greatest challenges of any Buddhist group in the world today. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.337). With God nothing is impossible. Will you not make time over the next seven days to pray daily for breakthroughs for the gospel among these people and for Scripture translation?

Friday 25 July 2008

90 Days of Blessing: Repentance for idolatry

Lord of hosts, You are God, You alone. You have made heaven and earth (**Is.37:16**). There is no other god besides You, a just God and a Saviour (**Is.45:21**). But mankind, although they knew You, did not honour You nor give You thanks but we became futile in our thinking and our foolish hearts were darkened. We and past generations exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped created things rather than the Creator (**Rm.1:21,25**). All peoples have stretched out their hands to foreign gods (**Ps.44:20**). Through our idolatry, covetousness and self-worship, we have defiled the land (**Col.3:5; Ps.106:38; Ez.22:4; 36:18**). You have said that we are not to make an idol for ourselves; neither a carved image, nor set up a sacred monument or pillar or engraved stone for ourselves to bow to, for You are God (**Lev.26:1**).

Now o Lord, we are reaping the fruit of our sins. Droughts plague us, famine ravages the peoples, wars rage between nations and ecological disasters devastate our land because we have acted faithlessly toward You and gone far from You (**Ez.14:12-21; Jer.2:5**). Lord, we are ashamed of our ways, our iniquities have risen higher than our heads and our guilt has reached the heavens (**Ezr.9:6,7**). Both we and our fathers have sinned, we have committed iniquity and wickedness, please be merciful and forgive us our sin (**Ps.106:6**). Please cleanse us from all our filthiness and all our idols (**Ez.36:25,26**). Remove the names of the other gods from our mouths, raise up a pure and spotless church that will show Your manifest wisdom to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places (**Hos.2:17; Eph.3:10**).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is mentioned about 800 times in the Bible as the city of the Great King, the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God, God will establish it forever etc. (**Ps.48**). One of our responsibilities as Christians is to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (**Ps.122:6-9**). Lord, You are great, most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. God is in her citadels; He has shown Himself to be her fortress. When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror (**Ps.48:1-5**). Lord, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the nations to tremble at Your presence amidst Your people. Turn also their hearts back to You, their King, forever. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. E-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Saturday 26 July 2008

Precept Ministries SA

Precept Ministries is a ministry that has been raised up by God to equip people in the study of His Word. Right now they trust the Lord to bless troubled African nations with inductive Bible study resources. Give thanks to the Lord for this amazing initiative that literally brings God's Word to life in the hearts of people in a very simple way. Please pray that God would continue to open doors that would make this mission possible and bear much fruit. (*Precept Ministries S.A.*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836, e-mail: info@precept.org.za).

Far East Broadcasting Corporation's (FEBC) Family FM wins hearts in Cambodia

FEBC's Cambodian Christian Radio station, *Family FM* broadcasts the gospel daily to 6.5 million souls in the capital Phnom Penh in Cambodia. Praise the Lord for the thousands of people whose lives were touched by the events following a soccer tournament arranged by *Family FM* in the capital's stadium. Praise God for the many souls reached and pray for many more to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus as they continue to listen to the daily broadcasts. (*FEBC Radio SA*, P.O. Box 26270,

Sunday 27 July 2008

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

Acts 23: He will create opportunities for you to testify

The city of Jerusalem was in such an uproar about Paul that the commander of the prison thought the mobs would take him away by force. In the midst of that crisis, Scripture says, *the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome" (Ac.23:11)*. Because of God's power in his life, Paul was brought before Caesar and testified of Jesus Christ. God supernaturally opened doors for him and brought him into a greater dimension of influence before men of power and authority, to the glory of God. Many people today question the fact that God really still speaks to people. The answer is an unqualified "yes"! Because God's Word tells us so. God does not speak to all people in an audible voice like in this case, but He definitely speaks to people today. Do you believe God can speak to you? Do you believe He wants to speak to you? Someone once said to me, God wants to speak to you and me more than we want to hear Him. The God of the universe wants to speak to you and me personally and most definitely in the midst of a crisis. Set your heart towards God today, ask Him to speak to you in such a way that you will know for sure – this is Him speaking. And receive His words in your life with joy (**Mt.13:20**).

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess our unbelief that You no longer take personal interest in us when we experience crisis. We choose to set our hearts and minds towards You and trust You to speak to us in and through Your Word. Increase our faith and teach us to trust You more and more.

Monday 28 July 2008

Petra College

Petra College is committed to children's ministry, believing part of the answer to the crisis in societies around the world lies in bringing the Word of God to children from an early age onward. Children under the age of 15 form approximately 34% of South Africa's population and as much as 50% of the population of some African countries. (*Petra College*, Private bag X9906, White River, 1240. Tel.: 013 751 1166/7 or 013 751 1575, fax: 013 750 0906. Website: www.petra.givengain.org or e-mail: info@petra.co.za). Give thanks to the Lord for ministries like these. Pray for them to have the necessary resources (funds and personnel) to faithfully continue to address this issue world-wide. Ask for favourable response from children, their parents and community leaders, especially in remote areas.

Bhutan: JESUS Film touches remote villages

The small and little-known Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan is in the Himalayas. Most of the more than 40 tribes and ethnic groups of Bhutan are largely unevangelised. Reaching some tribes in remote areas of Bhutan require a trek of two weeks or more. Recently, however, the *JESUS Film* has been used by intrepid Christians to present the gospel to people in Bhutan. A village witchdoctor in one community and 10 of his family members decided to forsake their idols and follow Jesus. The conversion of this highly respected and influential man had wide-ranging effects and many people from surrounding villages have also decided to follow Jesus. (News Bytes, e-mail: newsbytes@yahoogroups.com). Praise the Lord for this breakthrough among Buddhist people! Pray for the growth of small church fellowships that have emerged in places where until recently nobody had ever heard the gospel, and for them to have a hunger after the Word of God.

Tuesday 29 July 2008

Attempt to recruit teachers

The government has set aside R500 million to attract and reward qualified teachers for working at schools where few want to go: remote, poor and harsh rural and urban areas. Schools with a chronic shortage of educators in areas such as mathematics, science, information and communication technology and some languages could also benefit. This plan of five years ago is now being put into operation and could benefit up to 46,700 teaching posts. Implementation will depend on the nine provincial departments of education.

(Website: http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=331294&area=/insight/insight__national/). Give thanks to the Lord for answers to prayer for education opportunities for poorer communities. Pray for this project, that it will really be successful in its implementation and have the desired results. Ask for Christian teachers to take up this selfless and sacrificial task as part of their call to bring the gospel to remote areas in our country.

New schools opening in India

A total of 67 *Dalit Education Centres* were opened since last year. The long-range goal of *Operation Mobilization India (OMI)* is to start 100 schools as part of the *All India Christian Council's* goal of a minimum of 1,000 schools nationwide. New teachers are equipped with the specialised skills required to work among the Dalit community. (Global Prayer Update, 01/12/07. *Operation Mobilization*, website: www.omusa.org or e-mail: globalprayerupdate@yahoo.com). Let us continue to pray for God to meet operational expenses of each school until each student is fully sponsored. Pray for the new teachers to acquire the specialised skills needed to work among the Dalits and for their lives to be a witness for His glory. Also ask for the Lord to raise up Christian leaders from among the Dalit students who will be able to effectively minister the gospel in their culture in coming years.

Wednesday 30 July 2008

Parliament agrees to relax abortion law

The parliament approved legal changes to make abortions easier to obtain, despite criticism from opponents who said the law was already too lax. The changes will provide for 24-hour abortion facilities, do away with pre-approval procedures and permit all nurses, not only midwives, to terminate pregnancies. Women as young as 12 can have an abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and in some cases up to 20 weeks.

(Website: <http://www.thestar.co.za/?fSectionId=&fArticleId=nw20080207164429860C596583>). Let us – without fear – persevere in prayer about issues like this, standing in the gap for our country before the throne of God (**Ez.22:30**), asking for His righteousness and justice to be established in the decision-making processes of our country (**Ps.89:14**).

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: Iran

Iran now takes sixth place as a country that persecutes Christians. During the last 500 years, Christians have been despised and oppressed. Today Christians still face unrelenting pressure from the *Ministry of Islamic Guidance*. However, twenty-five years of anti-Western, anti-Christian propaganda has not stopped many Muslims from seeking alternatives to Islam. Iranians are more open to the gospel than ever before. While there were probably only 500 Muslim background believers (MBB) prior to the revolution, that number is now between 4,000 and 20,000. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org). Give thanks to the Lord for the changes that have already come in answer to the prayers of many Christians for many years. Continue to pray for Christians living in fear for their lives in Iran to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus and to have much favour in winning over others for His kingdom.

Thursday 31 July 2008

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

Preparations for the *Soccer World Cup* in 2010 are already underway with commissioning of state-of-the art stadiums and better transport systems. Construction has begun on a small, hugely expensive, rapid-rail system in Gauteng. Deadlines are tight but achievable. The projects give impetus to infrastructure development and job creation. The 2010 event is a huge challenge for a small national economy. (*SA at a Glance* 2007/8, p.13-14). Give thanks to the Lord for job opportunities for many. Please diligently pray for deadlines to be met and for construction on all projects to take place without any losses. Also ask for God's favour and protection on our economy, that none of the possible risks involved will materialise.

Wutun

Tibetan Buddhism is the only religion among the estimated 2,000 Wutun people. They are fanatical believers. Their whole ethnic identity is bound up in their faith. The Wutun have an almost complete lack of knowledge of the existence of Christianity. There are no believers in any other religions among the Wutun except for Buddhism. In the own words of one of them: "When I was a small boy, I heard something about this Jesus religion, but I did not understand it. We are not interested in any new religions because we know that we have the best and only true religion in the world." (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.347). Let us cry out to the Lord in prayer for these completely unreached people. Ask for His supernatural intervention in the hearts and minds of this people group. That God, through His Holy Spirit will make a way for the message of Jesus Christ among them.

Friday 1 August 2008

90 Days of Blessing: Repentance for injustice and broken covenants

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ascribe greatness to You. You are the Rock; Your work is perfect; all Your ways are just. You are a God of truth and without injustice (**Dt.32:3,4**). Righteousness and justice are the foundation of

Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face (**Ps.89:14,15**). You administer justice for the fatherless and the widow; You love the stranger and give him food and clothing (**Dt.10:18**). You have shown us what is good and require of us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (**Mic.6:8**).

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

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

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

Saturday 2 August 2008

Pray 40 Africa

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

Year of the Bible: Hungary

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

Sunday 3 August 2008

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

Acts 24: He establishes your eternal hope in God

I have hope in God, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offence toward God and men (Ac.24:15-16). Some people argue saying, what if there is no God and life after death? Then you have wasted all your life without enjoying it to the full. But how about giving the following question a thought: What if there is a God and a life after death? The resurrection of the dead is often preached in our churches. However, do you and I really believe it ourselves in our heart of hearts? Is it a reality to you as a follower of Jesus? Sometimes it is important to pause and think for a moment about death. Also about life after death. If we do not believe in living forever, our lives have no real purpose or meaning except living life until it ends. This last thought is offensive to the human mind. It clearly supposes that we are not really in control of either life or death, whether we believe in life after

death or not! For Paul this very knowledge of life after death was his hope. We need men and women who would live fervently for the purposes of God's kingdom because they are sure there is life after death; people who realise that their every action contributes to the record/account of their lives and their eternal reward.

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

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

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

Monday 4 August 2008

Valcare Trust

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

Children's ministry in the Philippines

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