

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE – JUNE 2008

Sunday 1 June 2008

How the Holy Spirit has changed lives in history and to this day

Acts 15: He will help you make the right decision

One of the greatest benefits of walking with the Holy Spirit is that I don't have to make decisions alone. I have a Teacher, a Guide and a Counsellor to help me every step of the way. He is more than an advisor. He is a partner in settling every issue. When the church at Jerusalem sent a letter to the Gentile Believers at Antioch they wrote something of profound importance. They said, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (**Ac.15:28**). Allow the Spirit of God to become more than a Companion. Allow Him to participate in your decision-making. Young Christians are the most wonderful to observe as they go to God with every decision, even decisions that seem unimportant to us! Yet part of this innocent and complete dependence upon God and the leading of His Holy Spirit is exactly what we need to remain in our lives, even when we are older in years or more mature Christians. Do you still wait on the Lord before taking action? Not every decision requires a 40-day fast or a whole night of prayer, but all decisions require yielding to the Holy Spirit to keep us from making decisions that might be harmful to ourselves or others. Will you not take a moment to consider the way you make decisions in your own life?

Father of glory, how much I desire to be able to completely surrender every decision in my life to You! That all Your Spirit leads me to do would also seem good and right to me. I pray that You would remind me to pause and wait for Your instruction every time I take decisions, from the simplest to the extremely difficult ones!

Monday 2 June 2008

Internet use in SA on the rise

Internet usage in South Africa is rapidly increasing, according to statistics released by the *Online Publishers Association (OPA)* recently. The latest figures reflect Internet usage for the third quarter (July, August and September) of last year, revealing the number of online users to have increased by about three million. In 2006, 4.8 million unique online users were recorded. Last year saw a growth of nearly 163%, with 7.8 million online users recorded.

(Website: http://www.ioltechnology.co.za/article_page.php?iArticleId=4208486&iSectionId=2884). Give thanks to the Lord for more people who now can afford to benefit from opportunities such as the Internet. Also do not neglect to pray for them to be wise about the websites they surf and not to get involved in or addicted to on-line gambling or pornography.

China

China has the world's largest army; the least debt of any country world-wide; the world's most profitable economy; the largest currency reserves in the world; the most common mother tongue in the world; 1.3 billion people are Chinese—1 out of every 5. Many believe that this is a *kairos* season for China, or a time of opportunity that God has appointed where China's thousands of years of history is meeting its destiny. The growth of the Chinese church since 1977 is so massive that it has absolutely no parallel in history. (Website: <http://www.24-7prayer.com/cm/content/795>, e-mail: rewind@24-7prayer.com). Pray for God-inspired wisdom in the hearts of Christians at this time, also concerning the upcoming *Olympic Games* that will be held in China. Although so many are Christian, millions will still die without Christ.

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Eagles Rising Training Centre

One of the greatest needs for young people in our nation is caring adults whom they can trust, to walk alongside them, who they can talk to and who will help them discover themselves and their world. *Eagles Rising Training Centre* is calling for adults to 'adopt' their students. Any grown-up Christian already has the basic parenting skills needed to help a student develop. (*Eagles Rising Training Centre*. Tel.: 021 856 4486; fax: 021 856 4485. Website: www.eaglesrising.org.za or e-mail: office@eaglesrising.org.za). Give thanks to the Lord for this and other ministries similar to it. Ask for God-sent volunteers to help in this mission of mentoring young people to grow up to their full God-given capacity.

Africa's grannies left to raise a family

Mumo is an 'AIDS granny' in Kibera, one of Africa's biggest slums. Like grandmothers all over Africa, they have been left to fend for orphans after their own children and husbands died. Somehow Mumo shelters four grandchildren, two great-

grandchildren and the child of a dead relative. According to *United Nations (UN)*, at least 12 million children in Africa have lost one or both parents because of AIDS. This is 80% of all AIDS orphans in the developing world.

(Website: http://www.iol.co.za/html/frame_babynet.php?art_id=iol1196334384955A326&newslett=1). Give thanks to the Lord for testimonies like these where someone takes care of orphaned children. Please cry out for the plight of orphaned children. *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble...* (**Jas.1:27**).

Wednesday 4 June 2008

Mercy Ministries South Africa (MMSA)

MMSA, base their mission on **2 Cor.5:17-20** and strive to enhance reconciliation and bring hope for the future. Weekend workshops focus on Biblical reconciliation and restoring relationships. Pray for the workshops, for effective follow-ups, for the presenting team and a true reconciled lifestyle in participants. (*Mercy Ministries South Africa*, P.O. Box 2148; Rensburg, 1439. Cell: 079 516 5428, fax: 086 647 1522. Website: www.mercy.givengain.org or e-mail: mercyminsa@lantic.net).

Africa's economy at 30-year best

According to the *International Monetary Fund (IMF)*, recent economic performance shows that sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing its strongest growth and lowest inflation in over 30 years.

(Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/907390.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for this testimony. Let us continue to pray that the man in the street will also benefit in practical ways from these changes, according to their felt needs.

KIDS 4 PRAY

... on the **F A S T** track...

Fasting is when you choose to give up something you really want, so you can focus on God and pray at the same time. It is not just for adults. Normally when we pray, it is with our spirit and soul (our soul is our mind, will and emotions). When we fast, we pray with our bodies too! So, when we fast, our whole person prays. What would you do if Jesus asked you to put Him above everything else in your life? We have many things in our lives that take up our time and attention – things like friends, MXIT, eating, sleeping, TV, cellular phone games, the Internet, shopping, school, etc. None of these things are wrong, but they keep our minds and bodies busy with things other than God.

On what occasions does one want to pray and fast?

A 'fast' is when you willingly decide to give up things that are important to you to show you are serious about God. Sometimes it is when you need to **repent of sin (1 Sa.7:5-6)**. Sometimes to **pray for protection** or a **crisis (Ez.8:21-23, Est.4:15-16)**, or simply when you want to **hear God's voice** clearly (**Dn.10:1-3; Ac.14:23**). Jesus fasted for 40 days to be able to resist all the temptations of the devil. When we fast it should be for the right reasons (**Mt.6:16-18**). Jesus said when we fast we should not fast to be seen by everyone – almost like fasting in secret. But what if your friend invites you over to watch a movie and you have already decided to give up TV for a while as a way of fasting? Then it is fine to let your friend know that you are fasting. The Bible encourages us to be humble and kind when we fast (**Is.58:2-11**).

Don't chicken out!

Sometimes when we fast, we are tempted to give up. This even happened to Jesus during his 40-day fast. He was really hungry and Satan came to tempt Him to turn stones into bread (**Mt.4:1-4**). You can also experience temptation during a fast. If you are tempted to break your fast before you planned, consider praying some Scriptures – and don't chicken out because it's becoming tough on you. Remember **Philippians 4:13**: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

During the month of June, there is a special prayer focus on children at risk. There are millions of children who do not have enough food to eat. By fasting, we feel a little of what they experience every day of their lives. When we pray and care for poor people, it is like we are caring for God Himself (**Mt.25:34-40; Ps.72:13**). In His eyes, we truly worship and obey Him when we consider people in need (**Is.58:6-7,10**). One way we can do this is to pray for them from **Lamentations 2:19**: *Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.* Will you not think about praying for children at risk from Monday to Friday? You can decide to fast one day per week by skipping one meal. You can also decide to fast from television for one week. Ask your mother to help you do it the right way.

Prayer pointers: Monday-Friday

1. **Children without food.** Father, I pray that You will draw hungry children to Jesus. That they will come to know Him as the Bread of Life and that whoever comes to Him will never be hungry or thirsty (**Jn.6:36**). Please provide food for them every day.
2. **Children in danger.** Father I pray for children who are sick or who are living in a war zone. Please protect them from diseases and harm to their bodies. Give them shelter and safety in times of war and disaster. Reveal Yourself as their Helper so they will not be afraid (**Heb.13:6**).
3. **Children without parents.** Heavenly Father, please watch over and care for all the children without parents. Give them shelter, food and love. Also help Christians to have a desire to defend weak and fatherless children and give them courage to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (**Pr.31:8, Ps.82:3-4**).
4. **Children on the streets.** Father I pray for children living on the streets in our cities and towns. They are so dirty, Father, and always begging. Forgive me for not having pity on them. Reveal Yourself to them, let them come to You and let no one hinder them, let them enter into Your kingdom (**Lk.18:16**).
5. **Children that are abused.** Father of mercy, I pray for children who are beaten, abused or misused by other people. I cannot imagine what it is really like to be treated so badly. Please will You show them that Your love and faithfulness will never leave them, write it on their hearts (**Pr.3:3**). Let them know for sure they are never alone, no matter how difficult things are.

Thursday 5 June 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).

Trans World Radio (TWR) launches two new projects

Please pray for *Project Hannah* that will be launched this year with the specific focus of reaching women in Africa and helping them realise their worth as human beings in the eyes of God. Furthermore they also have a programme reaching out to the youth and gangsters. Please pray that this programme will also be broadcast on other radio stations and really touch the hearts and lives of young people. Radio transmitters in Benin have been completed and people in Portugal report that they can tune in too! Give thanks to God for doing so much more than we expect or could ever think of or ask for. (*TWR*, Private bag 987, Pretoria, 0001. Tel.: 011 974 2886, fax: 011 974 9960. Website: www.twr.org.za or e-mail: bbooyens@twr.org.za. Listen to *TWR* on Internet or DStv Audio Channel 155).

Friday 6 June 2008

90 Days of Blessing: Bless our community

Father, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we want to pray that You will bless our community. That You will bless them and keep them, that You will make Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them; that You will turn Your face toward them and give them Your peace (**Nm.6:23-27**). We ask this for our neighbours, our colleagues at work, for the police and people in prisons, for the children in schools, the doctors and nurses and patients in hospitals, for fathers and mothers in our community and for the businesses, the teachers in schools and the prisoners, the city council and government officials, the homeless, the jobless, those involved in all kinds of addiction, the destitute, the president of our nation and his advisors, the ministers of government and all their personnel.

Praise be to You the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus (**Eph.1:3**). Like Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, we cry out to You for our community: Oh that You would bless us, that Your hand be upon us and that You will keep us from harm so that we will be free from pain and that we will cause no pain (**1 Chr.4:10**). God of peace, may You sanctify us through and through. May our whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless (**1 Th.5:23-24**). Lord, You are able to keep us from falling and to present all of us before Your glorious presence without fault and with great joy (**Jud.24-25**). Lord Jesus, may Your grace be on our community (**1 Cor.16:24**).

World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk

This year's *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk* takes place on the 7th –8th of June. Individuals and groups are encouraged to organise themselves to pray according to their situation and circumstances. Last year over 4 million people prayed in small and large groups, in churches, homes, open spaces, parks and wherever they found it convenient. Give thanks to the Lord for this initiative and the many answers to prayer He has graciously granted for the sake of children. Consider making a special effort this weekend to pray for children at risk at your church or prayer group. (For more information, website: www.viva.org or e-mail: pray@viva.org).

Saturday 7 June 2008

Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) Southern Africa

Please pray for the 300 leaders who participated in the recent *MANI Southern Africa 2008 Consultation*. They now face the challenge of helping churches work in greater partnership for the Great Commission back in their home countries. Pray for least-evangelised communities to be penetrated with the gospel and for many Africans to be sent out as missionaries. Pray for the Lord's hand upon regional and national facilitators as they link leaders and organisations together in discipling their nations. (Source: Dr. Dean Carlson, e-mail: DeanCarlson@oci.org).

More violence expected in election year

Hindu nationalists are likely to intensify attacks to polarise voters along religious lines with elections due in 10 states this year and a general election scheduled for 2009. This tactic might increase the incidence of anti-Christian violence. (Lars Widerberg, *Intercessors Network*, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se or Intercessors.Network@Telia.com). Continue to pray for the *Persecuted Church* in India this year, asking for them to have supernatural favour with even their enemies. In all circumstances, pray for them not to forsake mercy and truth, but that amidst persecution these words might be written on the tablet of their hearts, and for them to find favour and high esteem in the sight of God and man (**Pr.3:3-4**).

Sunday 8 June 2008

How the Holy Spirit has changed lives in history and to this day

Acts 16: He changes your plans

After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ... And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them" (Ac.16:6-10). Imagine the Holy Spirit forbidding you to preach the gospel to people who do not know God! This must have taken a lot of courage from Paul to obey God's voice in this situation. Yet, the plan God had been greater than their understanding. He was about to answer the prayer of a man in Macedonia, but they only found that out the next day. Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit leading you to do something out of the ordinary? Were you brave enough to lean on His understanding, despite what you saw and knew in the natural world? Consider spending time alone with God today. Ask Him that you may hear His voice in simple and practical ways, especially if it is not what you are expecting to hear. When we allow God to direct our ways, we will be on the right path. The Holy Spirit never makes a mistake. Let us trust Him to lead us in perfection.

Father of glory, forgive us for clinging to our ways. We confess that Your ways are higher than our ways. We choose to set our hearts to listen to and follow Your ways. Teach us to follow the inclination of Your Holy Spirit in our everyday life, especially in the choices we make.

Monday 9 June 2008

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

As a developing country South Africa is a global leader in several ways and also the gateway to Africa. In 2007, South Africa was rated among the top ten in the world in the category of investor protection and good fiscal governance. It is rated by the World Bank among the top 30 countries for the ease with which business is done. It is also seen as one of the least costly places to set up a business. (*SA at a Glance*, 2007/8, p.6). Give thanks to the Lord, for His favour still rests very much on our country. Let us continue to pray and call out for these conditions to grow positively. Also pray without ceasing that every person in government will turn to serve God wholeheartedly and give Him the glory for prosperity in South Africa.

Shavuot (Pentecost)

Jewish people celebrate Shavuot (Pentecost), which usually takes place seven weeks after Passover and commemorates Moses being given the Ten Commandments by God, following the Exodus from Egypt. The festival lasts for two days. Some ultra-orthodox Jews often stay up all night on the first night to study the Bible. (Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. Website: http://www.somethingjewish.co.uk/jewish_festivals/index.htm or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net or). Let us never become tired of praying for the salvation of the Jewish people. Ask God in particular over the next two days to bring to life the Word as they are studying it, revealing to them Jesus Christ as the Saviour of whom was prophesied.

Tuesday 10 June 2008

Quest to legalise prostitution

Previous remarks by government officials to legalise prostitution for the *2010 Soccer World Cup* caused much reaction. Prostitution remains human trafficking. Research indicates that a prostitute that has several clients per day, experiences the same mental trauma as a woman that is raped, each time she is with a different client. (Website: www.dfl.org.za). Earnestly cry out to God about this issue, asking for this situation to be turned around. Also pray for those selling themselves in prostitution just to survive or care for their families, to have opportunities to change their lifestyle and to personally meet the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Can crops be climate-proofed?

Climate change threatens food crops across the world. Rising temperatures make rice spikelets — the slender branches containing rice flowers — sterile and grain yields will fail. Asia and sub-Saharan Africa will be amongst the most severely affected by climate change. About 90% of the world's rice is grown and consumed in Asia (where 70% of the world's poor live) and sub-Saharan Africa is the world's fastest growing rice consumer. The most vulnerable agricultural systems are the rain-fed uplands and lowlands that form almost 80% of total rice land in Africa.

(Website:

<http://www.scidev.net/gateways/index.cfm?fuseaction=readitem&rgwid=4&item=Features&itemid=671&language=1>).

Continue to pray faithfully about these situations. Never in history had God had a problem providing for those who called on His Name. Let us ask for His favour upon scientists so they might learn how to solve this situation. Also continue praying for people to realise their responsibility towards stewarding the environment.

Wednesday 11 June 2008

Government on skeleton staff

According to annual reports and parliamentary portfolio committee documents there is a vacancy rate of 10.4% or 40,594 posts in all 29 government departments. *Safety and Security*, *Correctional Services* and *Defence* skewed the figures. The more skill needed for a position, the more government struggles to fill it and retain people in those positions. The most vacancies, for both skilled and less skilled posts, were in the departments of *Sport and Recreation* (45.9%), *Transport* (40.8%) and *Communication* (37.7%). (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/846942.htm>). Every day as we read these facts or hear about the situation on the news we are to call out to God to turn the tide also in such very practical areas of life. Let us continue to ask for a breakthrough in the filling of posts, both those that require much and lesser skills. Ask that those who fill these vacancies will be men and women after God's own heart, walking and working in righteousness and integrity.

Valentine's Day campus massacre

A former student massacred five people and injured 16 in a university lecture hall before turning a gun on himself on February 14th, the fifth US school shooting that week. An eyewitness said that he stood there for a second, looked around and then just started shooting, his face blank. It comes 10 months after 32 students and faculty members were shot down by a mentally disturbed student at Virginia Tech University in the deadliest massacre ever at a US school. (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/worldnews/905783.htm>). The people committing these senseless shootings are often completely void of emotions. These incidents are also on the increase in the US. Let us cry out for the young people in America, that they will truly meet God, and for these atrocities to come to an end.

Thursday 12 June 2008

Water resources at risk

The *National Nuclear Regulator* has confirmed evidence of contaminated crops and water and has acted to protect people and livestock. About 43% of dams managed by the *Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)* have safety problems

and require urgent repair. An estimated R180-billion is necessary to replace old water service infrastructure countrywide, including the major metro areas. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/853980.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord that warnings about contaminated water were in time and that people and livestock could be protected. Continue to pray for each and every water resource in South Africa, as well as dams, pipes, pumps and treatment facilities. Ask for wisdom for scientists to have supernatural insight on how to address this problem countrywide in an effective and inexpensive way. Also pray for people to be good stewards of this important resource.

Rakhine people of Myanmar

The majority of Rakhine (1.9 million), live in the state of Myanmar that bears their name – Rakhine State – which until recently was also known as Arakan State. Missionaries already translated portions of the Bible into Rakhine in 1914, but these are no longer in use. Less than 1% of the Rakhine believe in Christ. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.230). This means that 99% of these people have not made a choice to follow Christ. Please pray for more Bible portions to be translated into their language soon and for God to prepare the hearts of these people to embrace the message of Jesus Christ.

Friday 13 June 2008

90 Days of Blessing: We lift up Your Name

Our Father in heaven, You are the High and Lofty One, the Most High God, Who inhabits eternity and Your Name is holy. (**Is.57:15**). Let Your Name be kept holy and treated with reverence in our community (**Mt.6:9**). You have commanded us not to take Your Name in vain, nor to profane or blaspheme Your Name (**Ex.20:7; Lev.19:12; 24:16**). Yet Your Name has been profaned among the nations and many people have forgotten Your Name and have stretched out their hands to other gods (**Ez.36:23; Ps.44:20**). We confess that we have transgressed your command. As we now pray and confess Your Name and turn from our sin, please hear and restore us (**2 Chr.7:14**). May Your Name be sanctified so that all nations, even Your adversaries, shall know that You are Lord, and fear Your Name (**Ez.36:21,23; Is.64:2; Ps.102:15**).

O Lord God, other masters besides You have dominion over us and our community, but now we call upon Your Name. (**Is.26:13**). The desire of my soul is for the remembrance of Your Name in our community. (**Is.26:8**). Let us remember Your Name in the night, O Lord and meditate on it (**Ps.119:55; Mal.3:16**). Unite our hearts to fear Your Name so that we will depart from iniquity and hold fast to Your Name and not deny You (**Ps.86:11; 2 Tim.2:19; Re.2:13; 3:8**). Your Name is wonderful, like ointment poured forth, a strong tower and a safe place for us to dwell (**Jdg.13:18; SS.1:3; Pr.18:10; Ps.61:3**).

Ethné unreached peoples project: Least reached peoples of Western Europe

During the 16th Century, the Reformation revitalised the church to become a force for world evangelisation and the last 250 years the gospel advanced world-wide, but conversely, has declined in Europe today. About 227 least-reached people groups live here. Now is the time for bringing the gospel to those searching for answers in Western Europe from tiny Gibraltar with 74% of its population least-reached, to France, Western Europe's greatest challenge in terms of the gospel, with a population of over 7 million least-reached people in 41 different people groups. Pray that those who have heard the Word and have strayed will come back to the Lord and come to know Him fully. Also for wisdom and clarity for those who are sharing the gospel among the Fulani and others of these groups. (Website: <http://www.Ethne.net/Helps/Regions> or www.joshuaproject.net/Ethne_globalregion.php or e-mail: Ethne06@Ethne.net).

Saturday 14 June 2008

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

SA was the first country in the world to voluntarily abandon its nuclear weapon capability. This capability is now helping to develop nuclear domestic power through a *pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR)*. This in itself has put SA among the leaders in the search for the elusive "hydrogen economy" to replace oil and polluting fossil fuels. (*SA at a Glance*, 2007/8, p.8). Give thanks to the Lord for the areas in which He causes us to prosper in terms of development. Pray for those responsible for the development of this and other related technology, to have Godly wisdom and insight in their work. Also ask the Lord for South Africa to gain much favour internationally for inventing other related energy technologies locally.

Pray for the Maldives

2005 - The *Year of Prayer for the Maldives* resulted in spiritual openness and a spreading of the vision for these Arabian Sea islands, where any religion but that of Islam is strictly prohibited. The gospel of Luke and the book of Acts have now been published in the Dhivehi (Maldivian) language. Other resources are the *JESUS Film*, a 40-minute CD for seafarers and a booklet especially designed to minister to those who are ill or in hospital. Discipleship materials are now being developed to aid new Believers. To keep the momentum going for spiritual breakthroughs, 2008 has been declared another *Year of Prayer for the Maldives*. About 34-40% of the 300,000 Maldivian population is under 15 years of age and the country has the world's highest divorce rate. (Source: Confidential). Give thanks to God for Bible portions and the *JESUS Film* that is now available. Pray for the completion of discipleship materials and that many will partake in this year's project to pray for the Maldives.

Sunday 15 June 2008

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

Acts 17: He brings revival to you and others

At Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were involved in a near-riot, but it really was not their fault. The Jews were so jealous of the crowds who were listening to Paul explaining Scripture that they rounded up some unsavoury characters at the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city (**Ac.17:1-6**). However, the disciples' reputation preceded them and news of their activities spread quickly. Almost everywhere they went they saw revival. People were turning to Christ, healings were taking place and the Spirit of God was at work. Would it not be wonderful in our day if the working of God's Spirit would be so evident in our lives that revival would break out everywhere we go! O that we would cry out to God to once more baptise this generation with His Holy Spirit and with fire, so the gospel can spread more quickly than our work could ever make it advance! Truly it would then be a work of God and man would give Him the glory. Do you desire for God's presence in your life to turn everyone who comes into contact with you, heart and soul, to God? It is possible, yet we have to press on and ask for God's intervention in our lives first, before we can minister to others!

Father, we confess our unbelief and that we are lukewarm. We desire so much to live lives that would turn the hearts of all sorts of people back to You! Please baptise us with Your Holy Spirit and with fire, so we might be purified ourselves and so draw others into Your presence too.

Monday 16 June 2008

Youth Day

In June 1976 students in Soweto rioted in protests, sparking eight months of violent uprisings across the country. *Youth Day* has since been declared a national holiday by the government in honour of all the young people who lost their lives. (Website: <http://africanhistory.about.com/library/bl/blsaholidays.htm>). Please pray for thousands of young people that will take part in celebrations today. Ask that many will realise their only hope in this life is the Lord Jesus Christ and that the many other ways and means will never satisfy. Pray for their safety as they travel.

Swedes ban porn from prison cells

Authorities in Sweden decided to ban pornography from prisons. The ban will give officials at correctional facilities the power to prohibit certain pornography and other reading materials that are deemed "unbeneficial" for the prisoner. The Swedish Parliament decided that despite their liberal views, they had to stop the harm caused by pornography.

(Website: <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=65869>). Give thanks to God for answering prayers across the world concerning pornography. Ask for many other countries to also explore and consider similar steps to ban pornography.

Tuesday 17 June 2008

Education in crisis mode

A *Finweek* report revealed that the education system was sorely lacking resources to adequately equip young people for future growth. The bottom line was the failure of the education system to face up to the challenges of global competition in the 21st century. In addition to the education crisis, South Africa is losing skilled professionals to other countries who focus their recruiting on South Africa. The loss of one skilled professional in SA costs up to 10 unskilled jobs.

(Website: http://www.fin24.co.za/articles/default/display_article.aspx?ArticleId=1518-25_2264008). Continue to pray about this situation. Ask for wisdom for those responsible for education in South Africa. Also pray that teachers will equip themselves better and find opportunities to apply their skills within our education system.

Child development projects in India

In Cuttack, in the State of Orissa, the *India Evangelistic Association (IEA)* caters for about four hundred children at risk. Here educational, nutritional and other welfare needs of these children are met, including healthcare. Thank God for those who have been able to find shelter and help in this *IEA*-run project. Pray for the millions of other homeless children in India and across the world who have no shelter, nor anyone to cater for their needs. Ask for God's provision for their ongoing needs. Pray also for the welfare of children in another orphanage project based in Guntur, especially that the home will be able to replace two teachers who have suddenly left. (*Children at Risk Prayer News*. Websites: www.viva.org, www.facesofchildren.net or e-mail: pray@viva.org, info@facesofchildren.net).

Wednesday 18 June 2008

Limpopo coal bed discovered

An open pit table coal resource of 1.04 billion tons was recently discovered in the Limpopo Province. The coal is bituminous (certain type of coal) and is suitable for generating electricity. The project's potential to produce thermal coal for electricity generation comes at a time when South Africa needs to rapidly increase its generating capacity. In addition, the basin offers the opportunity to produce a range of products, from thermal to hard coking coal for the export markets. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/857820.htm>). This is a direct answer to prayer! Give thanks to God who is good to us. Continue to pray that other resources will be discovered that would also have an environment-friendly effect.

Changes for the Better

The situation of Christians improved to different extents in Morocco, Indonesia and Nepal in 2006. There were fewer interrogations of Christians in Morocco. According to our local contacts, the government's attitude is more open towards Believers than in the past. However, Christians still face several restrictions in practising their faith. In strong Islamic areas in Indonesia, Christians face more pressure than in any other regions. The total score for Indonesia improved over recent years, however, as only one person was murdered and we know of no new prisoners. The new regime in Nepal changed the constitution and Nepal is no longer a Hindu kingdom. Over the past year the church has been growing fast and we received no reports of attacks in any form against Believers and churches. (Website: <http://opendoorsuk.org.uk/wwwl.php>). Give thanks to the Lord for breakthroughs like these!

Thursday 19 June 2008

Radioactive substances found in veggies

Radioactive levels three times higher than permitted have been found in vegetables grown in wetlands in the Wonderfonteinspruit area between Randfontein and Potchefstroom. When higher than permitted radioactive substances in food get into the bloodstream, it can lead to fatal kidney failure and various forms of cancer.

(Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=nw20080202125837282C107632&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080203ah). Give thanks to the Lord for these findings, since now they can be acted upon. Pray for wisdom for those responsible on how to effectively and speedily address this problem.

Shixing people of China

This group is one of the most remote and isolated people groups in the world. All Shixing are Tibetan Buddhists. The Muli region in south-west Sichuan Province is one of the most gospel-neglected places on earth. No missionaries are known to have worked there in the past. There has never been a known Believer or Christian fellowship among this group. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.248). Cry out to the Lord for a speedy breakthrough for the gospel among the Shixing people. Ask for willing people to answer to God's call to initiate efforts of reaching these people with the gospel.

Friday 20 June 2008

90 Days of Blessing: For God's grace and mercy

Father of mercy, please give attention to our prayers and our plea for mercy for our community (**1 Ki.8:28**). As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to You, Lord our God, till You show us your mercy (**Ps.123:2**). We approach Your throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace and help in our time of need (**Heb.4:16; Ps.5:7; 6:9; 28:2**). Do not withhold Your tender mercies from us, O Lord; let Your loving-kindness and truth continually preserve us (**Ps.40:11**). For as the heavens are high above the

earth, so great is Your mercy toward those who fear You. You are good; Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and extends from generation to generation to those who fear You (**Ps.103:11,17; 106:1; Lk.1:50**).

You are compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet You do not leave the guilty unpunished and by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation. You are good to all and Your tender mercies are over all Your works (**Ex.34:6-7; Ps.145:9**). Because of Your mercies we are not consumed; Your compassions fail not. Though You cause grief, yet You show compassion according to the multitude of Your mercies (**La.3:22,32**). In Your sovereignty You declared: "I will have mercy on which I will have mercy and I will have compassion on which I will have compassion" (**Ex.33:19; Rm.9:16,18**).

The Voice of the Martyrs 2008 National Persecution Conference

VOM's National Persecution Conference will be held at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, June 20-22 and June 27-29, 2008. Pray for those involved in the planning of the conference and also the conference itself. Ask for God to show Himself in a directive way to the attendees of this conference on how to address persecution world-wide and also how to minister hope and encouragement to those who are persecuted. (*The Voice of the Martyrs*, website: www.persecution.com or e-mail: thevoice@persecution.com).

Saturday 21 June 2008

Eskom's power generation gap keeps SA down

According to economists, the local economy would now struggle to achieve annual growth of 2.5%, compared with previous forecasts of 5% a year for the rest of the decade, due to the current power shortage. According to current statistics, electricity will have to be rationed for the next four to five years at least, because the first major new coal-fired power station, Medupi, is scheduled to come on stream only in mid-2012. (Website: <http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=4236040>). Give thanks to the Lord for those upgrades and new building projects already on the way to address this problem. Ask for favour for these projects to run smoothly and be completed in time. Also pray that all these forecasts will turn out much more positive because of God's intervention as His people cry out for His help.

Comoros Islands

Early February 2008 the annual visa applications were kept back because the authorities on the islands discovered that the 'workers' taught the people the Word of God. Thank you for your constant prayers for the Comoros Islands. The visas were all granted a while later. Pray for wisdom and perseverance for the workers and for the young church. Please also pray constantly for the influx of Christian material. We need new ideas and strategies on a daily basis. (Source: Confidential).

Prayer focus on the world's ten worst persecutors of Christians

International statistics show that an estimated 150,000 Christians are martyred every year. More than 200 million Christians are restricted in living out their Christianity. There is a growing onslaught on Christianity world-wide. More and more countries are accepting legislation that creates great difficulty for Christians to live out their faith and restrains them from gathering freely.

On a Wednesday, from June – August 2008, we will have a special prayer focus on ten countries in the world where Christians suffer the most persecution. We provide some basic information on each country as well as how to pray for these countries. We would like to encourage you to also consider praying during these months in your Bible study or prayer groups about the situation in these countries, as well as for the *Persecuted Church*. Also consider doing more research yourself and speak to other Christians to create a greater awareness of the fact that right now, Christians are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a lot of information available from different excellent sources. For this article, we chose to use the information supplied by a ministry called *International Christian Concern*.

In their study to rank these persecuted countries, persecution was divided into two categories: societal/religious (SOC) or governmental (GOV). Societal/religious persecution comes from groups that are not necessarily sanctioned by the government. However, their ability to operate within a country is often due to the fact that the government itself does not have a strong desire to promote religious freedom for minorities. This is a significant problem especially in Iraq, Ethiopia and Pakistan. The remainder of the countries have government policies that are specifically designed to root out Christianity.

Countries were ranked based on the source of persecution in the country, the level of violence the perpetrators were willing to stoop to, and the scope of the problem. It is very important to note that a lack of published cases of persecution does not necessarily indicate a more relaxed condition for Christians. Christians are often unwilling to report persecution against them for fear of attracting worse persecution or alerting the government to the fact that they are Christians. (Source: *International Christian Concern (ICC)*. Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org).

Sunday 22 June 2008

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

Acts 18: He compels us to preach the gospel to Jew and Gentile more accurately

... Paul was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ ... Apollos ... mighty in the Scriptures spoke accurately the things of the Lord. ... he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ. (Ac.18:5-28). Paul was bound by the Spirit to preach the gospel to the Jews. So was the young man Apollos. Aquila and Priscilla listened to him and then corrected him, as he did not know the whole gospel yet. After this, there was no stopping this young man to convert his own people to Christ. Even today, especially as young people, though accurate in what we teach, we sometimes need the correction of spiritual mothers and fathers to become even more excellent in proclaiming the Kingdom of God. As a younger person, are you willing to listen to the counsel of those more mature in God (not necessarily older) than yourself? This will be to our benefit, to stand on the shoulders of those who carry us in their wisdom and prayers. Do you have someone in your life whom you allow to speak into your life both encouragement and correction? God, through His Holy Spirit works like this even today.

Father, as maturing Believers, we confess our hardness of heart towards more mature Christian mothers and fathers, thinking their counsel would restrict us. Forgive us for fearing man and not trusting the Spirit of God's counsel also through them. Please will You send spiritual mentors our way who will correct us in love, causing us to soar in the things of the Spirit, proclaiming the gospel Your way.

Celebrating Father's day

The lack of human love, care and the power of example brought about by absent fathers can create social, emotional, physical and spiritual long-term needs for many children and young people. The absence of fathers in the lives of their children in our society today is a real issue and spoken of also in Bible times (**Mal.4:4-6**). Give thanks to the Lord for those fathers who are allowing their children to express their love and who also show them their love (**Eph.6:4**). Pray for fathers to make time for their families and to be good role models. Ask for resources and guidance for single parents raising children without fathers; for the church to accept her responsibility to care for widows, orphans and the fatherless. Consider encouraging a father you know.

Monday 23 June 2008

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 Services (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: www.crimeline.co.za). People can send an SMS to 32211 or visit 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.

Bible translation is accelerating!

Nine years ago Bible translation was moving at a pace that would reach the remaining Bible-less people groups by the year 2150. In the past nine years the pace has accelerated and work could be in progress in all remaining groups by 2038. Each year the statistics help reveal how God is making the impossible possible. Behind the numbers, lives and communities are being transformed by His power and His Word. An increase from an average of 25 new language projects a year in the 1990s, has increased to an average of 74 per year since 2000. Estimates of the number of language groups without any Bible translation have dropped from 3000 to just over 2000! Let us celebrate what God has already done, let us also search our hearts and seek His will for how each of us, and all of God's people can more fully participate in reaching the world with

the Word. (Wycliffe Bible Translators International. Website: <http://www.wycliffe.net/contact/tabid/483/Default.aspx> or e-mail: info_wbti@wycliffe.net).

Tuesday 24 June 2008

Government budget R400 million for fight against tuberculosis (TB)

Government budgeted more than R400 million for the fight against *TB* over the next five years. The aim is to raise the current healing percentage from 7-10% in this period, involving the training of more than 3,000 health workers this year alone. Last year the Western Cape had 1,200 occurrences of *multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)*, KwaZulu-Natal had 425, Gauteng 412 and 331 in the Free State. There were 561 occurrences of *extreme drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)*, the most dangerous occurrence of *TB*, where people are quarantined for months while being treated. (Website: http://www.news24.com/Beeld/Suid-Afrika/0,3-975_2272444,00.html). Give thanks to the Lord for this project over the next five years. Please pray that it will have the desired effect and for the tide of all the different forms of tuberculosis to be completely turned in our country, thus glorifying God as a God who answers prayer.

End Water Poverty event welcomes the UN International Year of Sanitation

Today five times more children die every day from bad sanitation than from HIV/AIDS. About 5,000 children are dying every day from the diarrhoeal diseases caused by inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. *End Water Poverty* is asking for a global action plan for sanitation and water with political endorsement at the highest level that recognises the integral role of sanitation in achieving the economic, health and education *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*.

(Website: http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news__events/55.asp). The book of Leviticus shows us that dealing with water and sanitation issues is very much a Biblical issue. Let us pray for those taking up this responsibility, that they will turn their hearts towards the ways of God in these matters and that the lives of millions of children will be saved as a result.

TEENS 2 PRAY 4 Issues

Teens-2-Pray: Difficult parents and frustrated teens

We honestly believe that obeying God is a good thing. He is the highest authority, is He not? It is just wise to consider and do what He wants. That is called submitting to the authority of God. The difficult truth though, is that God really wants us to submit to all authorities. **Romans 13:1-2** explains that anyone who is in authority is only there because God allows them to have these positions. God can use good and bad people to carry out what He wants to do. He is in complete control and when we obey and submit to what He asks, we will be in His perfect will.

Walk the talk

Now for the difficult part. So fasten your seatbelts. Why do we feel our parents are difficult? Is it because they want us to do the wrong things? Or could it be that what they ask us is the right thing to do, but we really do not feel like doing what they want right at that moment, or at all, ever, for that matter? It is possible that God wants us to take a fresh look at the way we treat our parents. It is not by mistake that you and I are specifically their children. He chose each person before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love (**Eph.1:4**). He also predestined who would be your parents, in what country you would be born, where you would live, every detail, and that even before the beginning of the world! How about that! This also means that these facts are not really going to change in this life, whether in your opinion, you have good or bad parents. It is always easy to criticize what others do. Let us face 'ourselves' for a moment. Do you know that it is possible to obey your parents by your behaviour, by what is seen on the outside, but not really have your heart submitted to them on the inside? This also goes for behaviour towards teachers and other people that are over us in positions of authority.

Let's say your mother asks you to go and do your homework right away, but in your mind you are thinking: "No way. Why now? Why can't I do it after my favourite television programme?" Disrespectful thoughts are the sign of a rebellious heart. Now, what to do with this frustration?

1. **Face it.** It's not always your parents, sometimes it's you. Be brave and admit that you are also wrong at times.
2. **Try to go somewhere to be alone.** Don't take it out on your parent, teacher or any other figure in authority. As soon as you become aware of these emotions in your heart, try to be alone with Jesus as soon as possible, so you can sort it out.

3. **Confess it.** Just be honest with God about your attitude. It may feel awkward at first, but the relief from tension and anger when these emotions are released will really be worth your while – just to be the real you with God.
4. **Ask for forgiveness.** Just do it. It's the right thing to do. Jesus died for you and He will forgive you.
5. **Pray for breakthrough.** Ask the Father, in the Name of Jesus, that through the working of His Holy Spirit, He will help you to be more respectful next time.
6. **Make a list.** Not finished yet! Take a little more time and ask the Lord to help you think of anyone else in a position of **authority** that you had a similar reaction to.
7. **Finish it off, once and for all.** Pray about each situation He brings to your mind. Ask for His forgiveness and also ask Him to help you honour His Name by living a holy life.
8. **What to pray?** Here's a sample prayer to help: *Father, forgive me for my sin of rebellion toward (name of person). I pray for (him/her), that You will bless (him/her) and I thank You for (him/her), because this pleases You (1 Tim.2:1-4). Help me to honour and submit to this person according to Your Word. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.*
9. **One last thing.** If possible, consider speaking to some of the people on your list. Ask them to forgive you. Tell them that you have asked God to help you to **submit** to their **authority** and respect them.
10. **Give thanks.** Give thanks to the Lord for every time that He helps you to respect or honour someone in a position of authority. Also consider telling your parents (or someone you regard as a parent figure in your life) that you appreciate them and the way they care for you. If they are open to it, ask if you can say a prayer for them, right there and then, thanking God for their lives.
11. **Do something to pray for the leaders of the nation.** In America, every year, young people gather for a few days, a few weeks, some for over a year – to stand in silent prayer in front of the Supreme Court in their country. What are they praying for? Mainly that Americans would give their hearts to Jesus Christ and in turn, that more righteous leaders would arise. One young lady said, "We have already seen two righteous judges put into the Court and that's the first time it's happened in 11 years! So prayer, even in its 'weakest form', silently in front of the Supreme Court, does work." (Website: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/308964.aspx>). Won't you consider sparing the time next month, and together with a couple of friends, also pray for the government of our country as the Holy Spirit leads you? You can read the following Scripture from different Bibles, meditate on it and then start praying for people in government by name.
12. **Applying Word power: 1 Tim.2:1-6:** *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.*

Wednesday 25 June 2008

Praying for government

Politics has reached a dangerous point in South Africa. Many people on the ground are disappointed in the fact that the promises that were made to them have not been met by now. This shows clearly in the current state of political parties and their leaders. Yet, being swayed from one leader to another, from one party to another etc., cannot ever meet all the shortcomings that exist. Let us pray then, with our hearts set towards the Lord that He would turn the hearts of people towards Him for deliverance and not to put their trust in leaders, political parties, movements etc. who also need God to make them prosper. Ask for God to open the eyes of millions of South Africans to realise their true hope is in Christ.

Focus on the top 10 countries persecuting Christians: North Korea

North Korea heads the list as the worst violator of religious rights for Christians. More Christians were arrested in 2006 than in 2005. There are still many people in labour camps and everyday life in North Korea is inhuman. Between 50,000 and 70,000 Christians are currently suffering in prison camps. Many of them are tortured. Many try to flee to China. After crossing the border, several people have been converted after coming into contact with Christians. The newborn Christians are very brave and return to North Korea to tell others about Jesus. (Website: www.persecution.org or e-mail: icc@persecution.org). Give thanks to the Lord for testimonies like these. Please continue to pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Thursday 26 June 2008

Biblical Worldview Summit

Please also pray for our *Biblical Worldview Summit* training course in Cape Town 27 June - 4 July 2008. Ask for many to register and for every participant's mind to be renewed according to God's Word. (*Africa Christian Action*, P.O. Box 23632,

Claremont, 7735. Tel.: 021 689 4481, fax: 021 685 5884. Website: www.christianaction.org.za or e-mail: info@christianaction.org.za).

Sogwo Arig of Western China

Approximately 40,000 members of the Sogwo Arig tribe live in a remote part of western China. All Sogwo Arig are followers of either Tibetan Buddhism or Bon. Hidden away in communities almost inaccessible to the outside world, the Sogwo Arig is virtually untouched by Christianity. Intrepid evangelists will need to overcome severe weather, rugged terrain, linguistic and cultural barriers and fierce packs of dogs which the Sogwo Arig have trained to attack strangers. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, p.261). Pray for God to raise up men and women who will be strong in overcoming the weather, language and cultural barriers in reaching these people with the gospel. Also ask for the Sogwo Arig to be open when these missionaries arrive and to receive and listen to them.

Friday 27 June 2008

90 Days of Blessing: For Your grace and mercy

Merciful God, heal our community, even though we have sinned against You and according to Your great compassion, blot out our transgressions in this community (**Ps.41:4; 51:1**). When we conceal our sins, we will not prosper; therefore we confess and renounce them so that we may find mercy with You (**Pr.28:13**). Do not hold against us the sins of our fathers; may Your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need (**Ps.79:8**).

Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives transgressions and does not stay angry forever but delights in showing mercy? (**Mic.7:18**). Have mercy on the people in our community as You had mercy on Israel. Do not put an end to us or abandon us, for You are a gracious and merciful God. Let those who did not receive mercy, receive Your mercy now, so that they will glorify You (**Neh.9:31; 1 Pe.2:10; Rm.15:9**).

You showed us what is good for us and what You require from us: To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (**Mic.6:8**). Strengthen us to do Your will; help us to follow Your example to administer true justice and to show mercy and compassion to one another. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy (**Zech.7:9; Mt.5:7; Rm.12:18**). Let us not neglect justice, mercy and faithfulness (**Mt.23:23**). With the Church through the ages we cry: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us (**Mt.9:27; Lk.18:38; Mt.15:22**). Multiply Your mercy, peace and love unto us (**Jude2**).

27 June – 15 November 2008: Promise Keepers tackles moral relativism, busyness, sexual freedom

Promise Keepers (PK), the international ministry to men, will hold its high energy men's conferences in seven cities in 2008, marking 18 years of life-transforming events in sports arenas across the United States. The theme for the gatherings is "*Manhood '08: Let the Truth Be Told.*" The concept of manhood itself is under assault in our culture. Fewer and fewer children are being raised under the influence of their fathers and without a constructive masculine role model. Sexuality is totally distorted. We need help with our identity and priorities and *Promise Keepers* events help men address these issues like no other experience. (Website: <http://christiannewswire.com/news/111665480.html>). Pray for many men, young and old, to attend these conferences. Ask for their manhood, fatherhood and childhood views to be corrected and realigned with God's Word.

Saturday 28 June 2008

Land reform failure rate may be 50%

There is a significant degree of failure, as high as 50%, in achieving the sustainable agricultural development of rural communities benefiting from land reform policies. Over the past 12 years, more than 4 million hectares of land have been delivered to millions of beneficiaries in respect of 79,000 land claims. This is intended to open access to land for the poor, create new farmers and new black entrepreneurs etc. This would increase agricultural production by 10%-15% and agricultural trade and export by 10%-15%. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A709171>). Let us pray about this situation, asking God to give wisdom to those in responsible positions and willingness to those who have to learn how to promote and rebuild agricultural co-operatives that form the basic pillar of agriculture in South Africa.

India TV showing of 'GodMan' stirs unprecedented response

Amidst raging persecution against Christians in India in December, The *GodMan*, a 3-D animated film on the life of Christ was shown on national television across the nation. The results are staggering and they have already received more than 500,000 letters from estimated 3 million-plus viewers, many of them wanting to receive Christ. The response is attributed to the pre-training of 203,632 national Believers. Ministry teams want to reach over 70 million youth world-wide with the *Book of Hope* (Bibles) and The *GodMan* film, and trust God to create more versions and languages of the film this year. (*Mission Network News*, 21/01/08, e-mail: newsbytes@yahooogroups.com).

Sunday 29 June 2008

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

Acts 19: He will expel evil spirits

... Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ... Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know and Paul I know; but who are you?" (**Ac.19:13-15**). What a terrifying experience it must have been for those who thought they knew Christ! Even today this is a terrifying truth of the church. We proclaim the things of God that we have heard from other great preachers and speakers. Yet, when it comes to putting these things into practice, there can only be results if we ourselves have encountered God in the ways we hear others speak of. There is no shortcut to the kingdom of God. Not everyone who says 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of the Father in heaven (**Mt.7:22-23**). Consider your life and your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Do you really know Him? Is He really real to you in a very practical way? Do you know Him by His Name? Loving, worshipping and honouring His Name is how we come to know Him. Make sure today that you really know God and set your heart right before Him.

Father of glory, we desperately cry out to You. Forgive us our lukewarm pursuit of a personal relationship with You! Forgive us for making excuses and relying on the revelation of others for our spiritual survival. Teach us to seek Your face every day, all the days of our lives. We invite You into our lives to put our hearts on fire and cause us to know You personally and intimately.

Monday 30 June 2008

South African Schools the most dangerous in the world

Progress in International Reading Literacy study had ranked SA last in terms of school safety. In that study South African school pupils were asked whether they felt safe when they were at school and if they had experienced incidents of stealing, bullying and injury to themselves or to others in their class within the last four weeks. Only 23% of South African pupils said they felt safe at school. On average South Africa's schools ranked more than 20 percentage points below the world-wide average of 47% of pupils saying they felt a high degree of safety in the classroom.

(Website

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20080205114424597C466622&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20080206ah). Pray for school children to realise that also in these circumstances God is their only hope. Ask that children will spontaneously start prayer groups in schools, crying out to God for the salvation of their peers and teachers. Pray for many hearts to turn to God because of the current situation.

Pokomchi New Testament: Guatemala

Members of the *Pokomchi translation team* report that the Pokomchi New Testament is in its final phase before printing. After 24 years of hard work, mid-2008 is the target date for typesetting. Pray for God's continued protection and wisdom, good health for the team, safety when travelling, and perseverance. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org). Give thanks to the Lord for this team working so faithfully on this project.

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: bikercc@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).