

DAY-TO-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Thursday 1 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 1

Pursuing the kingdom of Christ: *For the transforming power of Christ's kingdom*

Concerning: *Spiritual darkness, church divisions, economic oppression*

- For the hearts of God's people to blaze with love and loyal obedience to Jesus as King and Lord of all.
- For the goodness and glory of Christ's kingly love to be experienced by many throughout whole cities.
- For Christ to bring Believers to dwell in cities where breakthroughs of blessing have not yet occurred. Pray that they would patiently pursue the promised blessing of Christ's kingdom in difficult places.
- That the power of Christ's love will bring lasting transformation throughout entire communities.

...if my people... (2 Chr.7:14).

Prepare to encounter God as His people: Present yourself to God as His servant, purchased by Christ's death. Answer His call to serve Him together with others. Pray for many others to gather before Him as families, as churches and as one people of all nations.

After His suffering, He showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about" (Ac.1:3-4).

Friday 2 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 2

Increase in united prayer: *For sustained movements of united prayer*

Concerning: *Prayerlessness, occult practices, materialism*

- That God will unite us in prayer with "one mind" (**Ac.1:14, 2:46, 4:24**) and empower us to pray passionately together for Christ's glory in the entire world.
- That God will hear and answer the prayers of the poor, the young and the marginalized and will be glorified by their praises.
- That God's Spirit would inspire and empower Believers to pray specific blessings upon their neighbours and friends.
- That people throughout our communities will be moved to call out to God for His help as never before.

...who are called by My name... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to live for His glory: Confess ways in which we may have brought shame to our God. Renounce foolish jealousies and small ambitions. Yearn afresh for His glory to be great in our lands.

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers (Ac.1:14).

Saturday 3 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 3

Being filled with the Holy Spirit: *For God to pour out His Spirit upon all*

Concerning: *Intellectual pride, demonic oppression, spiritual blindness, depression*

- For God to pour out His Spirit upon every person alive on the earth.
- For the church to be filled afresh with God's Spirit, empowered as Christ's witnessing servants in the world.

- For the Spirit of God to reveal Jesus to those in spiritual darkness.
- That the Spirit of God will awaken the nations to hear His voice and to see His works (**Ac.2:33**).
- For many to be stirred by Spirit-given dreams to envision Jesus alive and at work in their lives.

...will humble themselves... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to meet God in brokenness: Invite God to soften our hardened hearts. Admit your brokenness. Adore the excellence of Jesus with fresh awe and wonder. Practise humility by seeking for others to be honoured.

"In the last days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams" (Ac.2:17).

Sunday 4 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 4

Turning to God in repentance: *For many to turn from sin to new life in Christ*

Concerning: *Pornography, addictions, rebellion, immorality*

- For Christ to encounter people with His forgiving love, so that millions will turn from their sin to the joy of following Him.
- That the Word of the cross of Christ would break the grip of the power of sin so that many will find hope for their sins to "be wiped out" (**Ac.3:19**).
- That God would touch people to turn from their wicked ways (**Ac.3:26**), so many an attitude of repentance will sweep through whole communities.
- That times of repentance would bring times of refreshing (**Ac.3:19**) so that men, women and children will experience the presence of God.

...and pray... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to pray beyond ourselves: Pour out your heart before God. Thank Him for what He has already done. Lift up in prayer the burdens of others, allowing your heart to be moved to cry out for the tremendous needs of your community and country.

Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Ac.3:19).

Monday 5 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 5

Pursuing the peace of Christ: *For relationships to be transformed*

Concerning: *Racism, poverty, violence, crime*

- That reconciliation between churches will remove divisions and hostilities, marking relationships among Christians with love, joy, unity and gladness of heart.
- For Christ to move so powerfully and clearly that His people, as well as onlookers in the world, are filled with awe (**Ac.2:43**).
- For God's people to turn away from greed and worldly desires and become more generous than ever.
- For God to intervene in wars, restraining spiritual forces of evil, subduing terrorism and protecting the lives of those afflicted.
- For God to use Christians to help lift people from the oppression of extreme power.

...and seek My face... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to seek God's face: Choose to set the desires of your heart beyond your own needs. Come near to God in order to know Him and to be known by Him. Be still before Him. Speak to Him confidently and listen carefully, as if face to face with Jesus.

All the Believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Ac.2:44-47).

WHAT TO PRAY FOR YOUR CONGREGATION AND THE CHURCH

The apostolic prayers from the Books of Acts to Jude

Practical guidelines

In this study, the prayers of the apostles in the Bible—from the book of Acts through the book of Jude—are used as a basis when praying for your congregation. Slowly read through the prayers, meditate on them, focus on the meaningful words and ideas and ask the Spirit of God how to pray about them. Then read the prayers out loud and pray them out loud, if and when possible. Also pray these prayers as God's promises for the church. Pray them as a confession before God, as a proclamation and as prayers of supplication. Focus in your prayers first of all on your own congregation and then on the church in your country and world-wide. This does not mean that we can or should only pray the apostolic prayers for the church. These prayers give us a sound biblical perspective for praying for the church and helps us to understand God's heart for the church. Christians often have their own ideas on what should happen in a congregation, or how they should pray for the world. Often we pray against all sorts of things. Too few prayers are based on the Word. As we learn to pray from the Bible, our prayer life changes in its dimensions and impact. The prayers of the apostles in the New Testament provide guidelines and Spirit-breathed prayers. When we pray these portions of Scripture:

- We use the Word as basis,
- we learn how the apostles prayed and
- they teach us the responsibility of the church in the world and what our focus should be.

A study of the apostolic prayers reveals some important facets

1. **Apostolic prayers focus on God Himself.** Surprisingly these prayers from the Bible never address Satan and the demonic forces are for all practical purposes ignored. When we pray for the church, it seems that the main thing needed is for them to have a revelation of who God is and what He has in store for them in order to expand His kingdom. Once the church realises her destiny, the kingdom of darkness is at serious risk and a kingdom already overcome! The apostolic prayers are hardly ever negative – these prayers are not prayed against things. That is why the apostolic prayers are positive prayers.
How to pray: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of You our God! How unsearchable Your judgments and Your paths are beyond tracing! "Who has known your mind, Lord? Or who has been your counsellor?" "Who has ever given to You, that You should repay him?" For from You and through You and to You are all things (**Rm.11:33-36**). Father, reveal Yourself to Your church as the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, to You be honour and glory for ever and ever (**1 Tim.1:17**). God, You are the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, You alone are immortal and You live in unapproachable light, no one has seen You or can see You. To You be honour and might forever (**1 Tim.6:15-16**).
2. **Apostolic prayers focus on the fundamental aspects of the faith,** the essence of being a Christian and our testimony in the world. The focus is on the character of God, the knowledge of God and the Spirit-filled life. When these things are evident in a congregation, we will see the power of God.

How to pray: Lord God, we pray that You, who give endurance and encouragement, will grant us a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify You, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to accept one another, just as Christ accepted us, in order to bring praise to You (**Rm.15:5-7**). May You, Lord of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in You, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Rm.15:13**). Praise be to You our God and Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from You. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows into the lives of others (**2 Cor.1:3-5**). We will continue to pray until Christ is formed in the Believers (**Ga.4:19**).

3. **Apostolic prayers mainly focus on praying that God will reveal His glory in the Church**, for wisdom and to be filled with the knowledge of God.

How to pray: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ, for You chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight. In love You predestined us to be adopted as Your sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with Your pleasure and will. We give You all the praise for Your glorious grace, which You have freely given us in Jesus Christ, the One You love. Once more, may Christians realise that in Your Son we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of Your grace that You lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. Let the church understand that You made known to us the mystery of Your will according to Your good pleasure, which You purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, Christ Jesus. Stir up the church once more to boldly proclaim: In Christ we were also chosen, having been predestined according to Your plan as You work out everything in conformity with the purpose of Your will. And we praise You because we were also included in Christ when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. Having believed, we were marked in Christ with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. Therefore we give You praise and glorify Your Name (**Eph.1:3-14**).

4. **Apostolic prayers focus on the love of God and on bearing spiritual fruit**. This has its outflow in our lives through true discipleship, good works, integrity and character. The focus is for the church to be filled with the love of God and that the followers of Jesus will live in this love.

How to pray: Father, we come to You with thanksgiving and supplication and we keep asking that You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to the church that we may know and serve You better. We pray also that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which You have called us, the riches of Your glorious inheritance for the saints and Your incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of Your mighty strength, which You exerted in Christ when You raised him from the dead and seated him at Your right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come (**Eph.1:15-23**). Father, we pray that out of Your glorious riches You may strengthen us with power through Your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. As Your church we cry out to be rooted and established in love and that we may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is and know this love that surpasses knowledge. As Your children, may we be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to You who are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to Your power that is at work within us, to You be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (**Eph.3:14-21**).

5. **Apostolic prayers express the heart of God the Father for His church**. Paul prays and writes as the father of the congregations he planted (**1 Cor.4:15**) and also expresses the heart of God the Father.

How to pray: Father, we pray for all the believers that whenever we open our mouths, words may be given to us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel (**Eph.6:18-20**). And we pray too, that You may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. We pray that we may proclaim it clearly, as we should (**Col.4:3-4**). Father, we pray together with all the saints that we who proclaim the Word will be protected from the unbelievers and that our words will be acceptable to

all who hear them (**Rm.15:30-32**). We pray that those of us who preach the gospel may stand firmly in the will of God, that we will be spiritually mature and obedient (**Col.4:12**). Lord, You did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (**2 Tim.1:7**). Father, we pray that You will pour out Your Spirit of prayer and supplication on us so that we will devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (**Col.4:2**). We pray for a church that will cry out to you night-and-day so that You will not keep putting us off (**Lk.18:7; 1 Th.3:9-13**).

6. **Apostolic prayers focus also on the church and the Believers** – on the empowerment of the church and on the spiritual workers. Pray these prayers for your congregation, the church in your area, country and continent.

How to pray: Lord, because You are near we will not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to You. And may the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus (**Php.4:5-7**). Lord, we ask that You will meet all our needs according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever (**Php.4:19-20**). Lord, You who supply seed to the sower and bread for food, we ask that You will also supply and increase our store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. That we will be made rich in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion and that our generosity will result in thanksgiving to You (**2 Cor.9:10-11**).

(For a more detailed article, visit: <http://www.jwipn.com/pdf/23%20-%20What%20to%20pray%20for%20your%20congregation%20and%20the%20Church.pdf>).

Tuesday 6 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 6

Empowering the coming generation: *For God's purpose for families and children*

Concerning: *Broken homes, sexual perversion, child exploitation, abortion*

- For Christ to strengthen marriages and families.
- For young people to follow Christ early in life, serving Him with a lifetime of extreme, passionate devotion.
- That Christians would boldly show the love of God's family to orphans, widows, the defenceless and the homeless.
- For Christians to extend God's fatherly love to millions of children orphaned by wars and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- For God to empower the coming generation to fulfil His promises throughout the earth.

...and turn from their wicked ways... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to repent: Seek more than mere word confessions. Instead, ask God to give you power to turn from any hint of evil and to abandon any hurtful way. Let God lift your heart with hope that He will bring lasting change throughout your community and relationships.

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call (Ac.2:39).

Wednesday 7 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 7

Resounding the call of God: *For the nations to hear the voice of God*

- Concerning: *Unreached peoples, idolatry, unbelief, illiteracy*
- For the Word of God to be proclaimed to people of every language, tribe and nation (**Ac.1:8, 2:5**).
- For all peoples to hear of the mighty deeds of God in the words of their own languages and the ways of their own cultures (**Ac.2:11**).

- For Christ to be followed by every people, especially among the thousands of unreached people groups who still lack vital, growing, multiplying churches.
- For the Bible to be translated for the thousands of people groups without even one verse in their language.
- That God would call many to Himself (**Ac.2:39**) who call on Him to be saved (**Ac.2:21**).

...then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin... (2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to confess: Open your life to Christ. Admit your sin before God. Confess your wrongdoing to those you may have harmed. Ask God to free you and others from the guilt burden of sin and the bondage of sin's power.

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call (Ac.2:39).

Thursday 8 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 8

Suffering courageously for the glory of Jesus: *For the faithful courage of His people*

Concerning: *Persecution, injustice, terrorism*

- That those who face opposition because they serve Christ will respond with the gentle, courageous character of Jesus (**Ac.4:13**).
- For Christians who suffer for Christ's name to be strong in joy and faith.
- For God to glorify Himself by His great deeds in places where He is rejected (**Ac.4:21**).
- For our leaders and governments to be blessed.
- That government leaders who oppose Christ (**Ac.4:25-27**) will be blessed with wisdom so as not to be found guilty of fighting against God (**Ac.5:39**).

...and will heal their land...(2 Chr.7:14).

Preparing to be transformed: Expect God to bring great changes throughout your community and country, some coming slowly and others suddenly. Renew your hope for the earth to be restored, sick societies lifted and relationships healed.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (Ac.5:41).

Israel celebrates its independence

The modern state of Israel is 60 years old today since it became a Jewish state in 1948 after 2,000 years. (See **Ez.37:21, 22a, 25** and **Gn.13:15; Gn.17:8**). Pray today for the peace of Jerusalem, that the Lord will bless and keep them, that He will make His face to shine upon them and be gracious to them. That He will lift up His countenance upon them and give them peace (**Nm.6:24-26**). (Website: <http://en.wikipedia.org/>. *Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437 or e-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Friday 9 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 9

Bringing the healing of Christ: *For Christ to bring substantial healing*

Concerning: *Lack of health care, the AIDS epidemic, witchcraft, pollution*

- That communities will see the hand of Christ extended, bringing miraculous healing among the sick (**Ac.5:14-16**).
- That the Name of Jesus will be declared with signs and wonders in the presence of many (**Ac.3:16**).
- For Christians to act with wisdom, compassion and persistence to eradicate diseases. For the end of HIV/AIDS in our generation.
- For Christians to engage in providing basic health care to the needy. Thousands of children world-wide die daily

from preventable diseases.

- For God's people to work wisely, trusting God to work powerfully, in order to bring healing to the land.

...Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive... (2 Chr.7:15).

Preparing to meet God's gaze: Turn your heart toward God in expectancy. Allow your heart to be moved in awe that He will listen to your every word and gaze upon us all with life-giving love.

Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the Name of Your holy Servant Jesus (Ac.4:30).

Saturday 10 May 2008

10 Days of night-and-day prayer: Day 10

Extending the blessing of Christ: *For promised blessing among all peoples*

Concerning: *Hunger, warfare, gangs, corruption*

- For Christians to live in expectancy that the ancient promise of blessing would soon be fulfilled, bringing transformation to their communities and countries.
- For churches to work together as one family in Jesus' name, co-working with God to change lives, cities and nations.
- For the righteousness and justice of God to affect the ways of commerce and politics, cleansing whole societies from the curse of corruption.
- For the joy of Christ's kingdom to erupt in celebrations of grateful praise amidst every people group on earth.

...I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that My Name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will always be there (2 Chr.7:16).

Preparing to consecrate ourselves as His dwelling: Welcome His Spirit to fill you and your family and friends. Invite Christ to make His dwelling among His people, so that His heart will overflow our hearts with His magnificent love, in order to bring His glory to all the earth.

And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed" (Ac.3:25).

Sunday 11 May 2008

Pentecost Sunday: Global Day of Prayer

Let us come to God today with great expectation. **Acts 4:31** says that after they prayed, God shook the place and the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. This happened after **Acts 2**, when the Spirit of God was poured out upon the church. Over the centuries, time and again, God has poured out His Spirit in thousands of places around the world. Let us then cry out today that God would once more visit Christians in the tens of thousands of places in countries where they will gather today. Let us pray with faith and a new boldness (**Ac.1:8**) for signs and miracles and for healings and powerful deeds to accompany the manifestations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (**Ac.4:32; Heb.2:4**).

A Prayer for the World: A special prayer which will be read in unison at every *Global Day of Prayer* gathering has been prepared and translated into many languages. Many of these translations are available at www.globaldayofprayer.com or www.transformationafrica.com

Practical tips for spending today in prayer:

- **Pray with your local congregation on Pentecost morning:** Devote portions of your Pentecost Sunday morning service to united prayer. Announce the fact that millions across the world are gathering to pray for

the glory of Christ and the transformation of all nations. Read aloud the *Prayer for the World* as a congregation. Share testimonies of how people have been praying during the ten days. Consider combining services with other nearby churches.

- **Gather in homes or assemble in public venues:** On the afternoon and evening of Pentecost, all over the world, Christians are planning to gather in their homes, assemble in stadiums, public auditoriums and open squares. Some meetings will be small. Others will be large, but each one will be praying with the same heart and vision of repentance and hope. As at the first Pentecost—when the blessing of Christ was manifest on the streets and open public settings—we'll worship God openly in the name of Christ and pray for the healing and blessing of the nations. As much as possible, we are seeking to gather in places beyond the walls of our church buildings.
- **Help organise a gathering in your city/town.** Confer with your pastor and other trusted local leaders. At www.globaldayofprayer.com find simple and tested help to organise gatherings of any size.
- **Plan ahead for 2009 and 2010:** For updated information, visit www.globaldayofprayer.com for announcements about the *Global Day of Prayer* events planned for Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2009 and 23 May 2010.

Monday 12 May 2008

Global Day of Prayer: Thanksgiving for God's goodness

Give thanks to the Lord for drawing together millions of Christians across the world yesterday to pray for their countries, the church and the unsaved. Honour His Name for touching the lives of millions and for having compassion on them. Give thanks for every prayer He has answered. Together with every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and in the sea, let us cry out to God saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (**Re.5:13**).

90 Days of Blessing: 12 May to 9 August 2008

Becoming the Blessing of Christ

Those who pray together can become those who serve together, bringing practical, transformational blessing to their communities. To help you dream and plan how you might become part of the answer to your prayers, visit *90 Days of Blessing* at www.globaldayofprayer.com. A *Global Day of Prayer* is planned each year up to 2010. For updated information, visit www.globaldayofprayer.com for announcements about the *Global Day of Prayer* events planned for Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2009 and 23 May 2010.

Three excellent resources are available at www.globaldayofprayer.com to help you keep growing and uniting in prayer during the next ninety days:

- **The 90-Day Prayer Guide:** A daily guide to pray toward transformational blessing.
- **Seek His Face:** Learn to devote yourself to God daily with an hour of prayer.
- **24/7 Prayer Watch:** Many are launching 24/7 prayer in many styles and ways.

You can also subscribe to the weekly **Global Prayer Alert** providing updated and relevant prayer information to be used, copied and distributed in prayer groups, your prayer or church bulletin, youth groups etc. simply by sending an e-mail to: watch@jwipn.com, stating whether you want it in Afrikaans or English.

Comoros Islands

The Comoros Islands go through cycles of persecution. At times persecution is quiet, but then starts up again. Please pray for wisdom for the 'workers' who are under observation because they teach the Word of God. Pray that they will not be deported, but have favour to continue their work. Please ask for the local leaders to grow spiritually by faithfully studying the Word themselves. Pray especially for funding for the project of *Light for the Nations*, for the container full of Bibles and teaching material to be printed soon. (*Light for the Nations*. E-mail: rentia@lfn.org.za).

Tuesday 13 May 2008

Eagles Rising Training Centre

God has been faithful! He has provided employment or study opportunities for more than 50 young people who were part of the full-time bridging programme at *Eagles Rising Training Centre* over the last three years. All these youngsters come from backgrounds of severe poverty, but have bridged the gap to a life of faith, hope, love and employment. Please thank God for making a way in the wilderness and doing something new in the lives of these youths. (*Eagles Rising Training Centre*. Tel.: 021 856 4486; fax: 021 856 4485. Website: www.eaglesrising.org.za or e-mail: office@eaglesrising.org.za).

Algeria

The situation has worsened for Christians to more than simply a matter of meeting places getting closed down and Believers losing their jobs. Fundamentalists have decided not to wait for the government to take action, but have taken steps themselves. There was an attempt to bomb a meeting place (the attempt failed) and an attempt to publicly cut the throat of the leader of the flock (in order to teach everyone a lesson). That attempt also failed because the police arrived in time. (Source: Confidential). Let us unceasingly cry out to God for the persecuted Church and specifically in Algeria. Ask for many to escape persecution and to continue their work boldly and be a testimony for Christ.

Wednesday 14 May 2008

SA trade to speed up

Trade restrictions are stifling SA's global business competitiveness. Labour rules are a constraint on business, with SA ranking 93rd in that category, followed by enforcement of commercial contracts, where it was placed 85th. SA's exports are failing to keep pace with imports, sharply widening the deficit on the country's current account — its broadest measure of trade in goods and services — in a trend which makes SA vulnerable to capital flows. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A605308>). Give thanks to the Lord that these issues are on the table for correction. Please intercede for those who have to see to the implementing of changes that would turn these predicted tides. Also pray for future planning to avoid other problems related to these.

Cyber criminals reigning through 'botnet'

Hackers and cyber criminals are not just interested in stealing people's personal information, but also to control their computers through viruses that gain remote access and control of personal computers and then make a large number of PCs work together to form a 'botnet'. By gaining control over a large number of individual PCs, without the users' knowledge, they save money and mask their identities. Cyber criminals use the botnets to distribute spy ware, spread viruses, attack networks and phishing attacks that are designed to get victims to give up their credit cards, banking and other personal information. (*The Security Post*, January 2008. Website: <http://home3.ca.com/Support/>). Ask for more creative ways to expose these people. Also pray for them, that the Spirit of the Lord will touch their hearts and turn them to correct their ways and use their skills in more uplifting and life-changing ways.

PRAYERWALKS INSIDE THE CHURCH

Most often prayerwalks (to pray whilst walking/moving around) occur outside the walls of the church. Although many people pray on a Sunday preceding their morning and evening services, the idea of prayerwalking on the church premises is an excellent one. In this way we can pray God's blessing and protection over our church members, leaders and activities as well as physical property of the church. This way we can even teach children from a very young age, in a very simple and practical way to pray responsibly for that which is happening in the church. In the New Testament, Paul often refers to faithfully praying for new and mature Believers, giving thanks for offerings taken up, help sent for mission work, praying for the sick and much more. The following are really

simple ideas on how to purposefully pray on-site, within sight inside the church and other ministry buildings where you as a congregation, ministry or prayer/Bible study group meet.

You can designate stations within the church building, each representing a specific prayer focus. These might include health, protection from attacks of the Evil One, provision for needs, wisdom and discernment, outreach to those who do not know the Lord etc. Give some time, e.g. 10 minutes to spend having tea or fellowship, 15 minutes explaining what to pray for at each station and dividing the group into twos or threes, each praying at a different station. Then, for example, plan five minutes of prayer at each station. This means one to two hours of prayer at a time depending on the number of people. To encourage a broad range of prayer experiences, you may suggest different prayer methods for each station:

1. **Pastor's office:** *Written prayers.* People can write their prayers down and give them to the pastor after completing the prayerwalk to encourage him and his family. Encourage people to be positive and uplifting in their notes.
2. **In the church/at the seats:** *Memorised prayer.* Here it is important to pray for the requests of people attending services, for those who attend meetings and then to close by praying the Lord's Prayer together.
3. **Podium/pulpit in front of church:** *Declaration.* Pray out loud, making declarations of the Holy Spirit's power and anointing upon those who will minister at various meetings during the week. Ask for many souls to be touched to renew their relationship with God and others to be saved.
4. **Boardroom:** *Praying Scripture.* Take verses from the Bible as the Holy Spirit leads and turn them into prayers.
5. **Classrooms:** *Listening prayer.* Pray quietly for every person that will receive teaching in the church whether at Sunday school or courses presented during the course of the week. If there is a list of activities available that take place in the classrooms, pray God's blessing over them.
6. **Mother & baby room:** *Watching prayer.* Bring before the Lord every child and those watching over them in prayer. Pray for felt needs and protection.
7. **Children's church/meeting place:** *Responsive prayer.* Pray for the requests listed for this area and then each person in the prayer group takes a verse and they pray Psalm 136 responsively until the chapter is completed.
8. **Youth room/meeting place:** *Group prayer.* People can choose one person to start praying and then the next one to follow suit, giving everyone short prayers to pray, going around the circle a few times.
9. **Prayer request box:** *Intercessory prayer.* Each person is to take an equal number of prayer requests posted through the week and pray for at least one right there right then. Commit to pray at home through other requests at least once that week.
10. **Mercy ministry corner:** *Promises.* Praying for people in church to become more aware of providing for the needs of the poor in a practical way and to faithfully continue to do so. Plead God's promises over those in need from **Lk.11:8-13, Pr.28:27 & Ps.34:10.**
11. **Offering baskets/taking up of the offering:** *Thanksgiving.* It is suggested that everyone who joined in the prayer meeting should meet at the next two stations and all together and out loud, pray prayers of thanksgiving to God for His goodness, care and provision for the congregation and for all those who have something to give. Also to pray for those who do not have anything to give, for God's blessing so that they will also be able to do so.
12. **Main entrance:** *Proclaiming God's Names and Psalm reading.* As a group, conclude the prayer session here by reading out loud **Psalm 24** and then proclaiming God's Name to be glorified and lifted up in this congregation by every one entering through each of the doors and gates into the premises and buildings.

Thursday 15 May 2008

Drugs in South Africa

In 2005 an estimated two tons of amphetamines entered South Africa. These were used by 1.2 million people. About 100,000 people used a ton of ecstasy. The abuse of nyaope (a mixture of heroin and dagga) is on the

increase. Mandrax use is increasing in Durban while the use of CAT is on the increase in Gauteng. A study showed that in Cape Town tik was used by nearly 42% of all patients. Prescription medication was the primary drug of choice for between 2-6% of all patients admitted for drug rehabilitation treatment. Medicines most abused were pain relievers, tranquillisers, cough mixtures and slimming tablets. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20070821061625100C120472&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080123ah). Continue to pray for the confiscation of drugs before entering the country. Make sure you are not dependent on medicine yourself and pray for deliverance for people who are.

Gongduk of Bhutan

Approximately 1,000 Gongduk people live in a few extremely isolated villages in Bhutan's Mongar District. Bhutan was completely closed off to outside influence for centuries until 1960, when the king allowed more freedom. The main religion is Tibetan Buddhism mixed with animistic spirit worship. Throughout two thousand years of Christianity, the good news that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world has never once entered the remote enclave inhabited by the Gongduk. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p67). Pray for the gospel to soon reach the Gongduk people in Bhutan and for favour with the people to be open and receptive to embrace Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Friday 16 May 2008

Pneumatix

Pneumatix will be on tour in May and August this year ministering the gospel to young people. Please pray for these weeks that God will prepare the ground and also for the extremely busy period of preparation for the tour. (*Pneumatix*, tel.: 021 858 1877 ext 2, fax: 021 858 1268, cell: 082 374 2690. Website: www.pneumatix.co.za or e-mail: info@pneumatix.co.za).

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

The 30 countries in North America and the Caribbean include three of the largest countries of the world: Canada, USA and Greenland. It is probably the region with the least religious discrimination and it has been the largest sending base in the world for missionaries, but that is rapidly changing. Eighty-three least-reached people groups remain here. Ask that the people living in these areas would once more realise their spiritual position and continue to become involved and to also help and equip missionaries indigenous to other countries to work in the harvest field of their own nations. (Website: <http://www.ethne.net/Helps/Regions> or www.joshuaproject.net/ethne_globalregion.php or e-mail: ethne06@ethne.net).

Saturday 17 May 2008

Hope for Africa

Pray for the work of *Hope for Africa* to launch and support movements of the local church in Africa, to help equip the church to reach communities by ministering to them in all spheres of society. This is a challenging vision! Ask for them for favour and for faithful volunteers to further the project in practical ways for each community where they are involved. (Hein van Wyk, tel.: 012 665 0343, cell: 082 349 8465. Website: www.samaritan-strategy-africa.org or e-mail: hein@ehcaa.co.za).

Hate campaign underway in India

President of the *All India Christian Council*, Joseph D'Souza says the Christmas-related violence in Orissa, India, has stopped, but now nationalist Hindus are angry. A hate-literature campaign against Christians was started because a 100,000 of the 600,000 people in the Khandwal area have come to Christ. There is a distinct transformation both socially and spiritually and it is visible to all. It is a threat to Hindus, because these visible symbols will only draw more people away, to the Christian faith. (Website: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/10830>). Give thanks to the Lord for answers to prayers like these! Let us now

continue to pray for new Believers to grow and not flee their areas because of persecution. Cry out for mercy and for this small beginning to grow and win many more souls for the kingdom.

Sunday 18 May 2008

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

Acts 13: He will confirm your calling

Our calling is not an occupation chosen by trial and error or a decision that is self-motivated. The Bible is filled with such testimonies. In **Acts 13:2**, during a service at the church at Antioch, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them". The church fasted, prayed and laid their hands on them before sending the evangelists off. Too often today people move or act on what they heard God telling them, without also properly submitting their decisions to their spiritual authority or mentors. Directional guidance such as one's calling is quite different (not more important – all decisions are important in our Christian life) than hearing from God, for example whether to take a course or not. There is only one way to know God's direction and leadership for your life. Continue to seek the Holy Spirit until He makes your calling sure – and remember, the Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures and through godly people, as well as directly. Rather take some time to fast and pray and hear God's voice like it was done in **Acts 13**. So many businesses were started, missions were undertaken and decisions were made without waiting on God to also hear from Him the right timing and about people to join in the vision. This has caused much pain for many sincere Christian Believers. Do not be afraid that you are being disobedient if you are not sure exactly what God is saying to you. That is a trap for many sincere Believers. God might not always give you all the details, but He will not have you doubt if it is His will for you. He is light and in Him there is no darkness.

Father, forgive me for blaming You when things work out differently to what I perceived You had told me. Forgive me for not always waiting on You long enough to also tell me the time and season for what You want me to do. I open my heart to You and ask that through Your Holy Spirit, You would teach me to not only hear Your voice but to wait on You to confirm Your calling on my life.

Monday 19 May 2008

Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network* across the country. Ask for their safety, strength and health. Also pray for God to provide in their practical and physical needs. Give thanks for breakthrough that is coming slowly for taking prayer into prisons, especially in Johannesburg, George and Pretoria. The posting of the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide* is improving, but we are not ignorant of the continual spiritual fight against efforts to set God's people praying. Continue to pray with us that this process will be running smoothly this month, as the next issue of *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide* will be posted during the next 10 days. Ask that every booklet will reach its destination in time and no envelope or package will get lost. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: www.jwipn.com or e-mail: info@jwipn.com).

Still no effective vaccine for malaria

Malaria is caused by infection with a microbe called a protozoan, which is transferred to people though the bite of *Anopheles* mosquitoes. There are four species of protozoan parasites of which *P. falciparum* is highly dangerous. People who are often infected by it — such as those living in rural Africa — develop a partial immunity to the disease. A malaria vaccine would provide a much-needed way of alleviating the toll of this disease on the world. But one does not yet exist and there is no scientific consensus on the best lines of research to pursue. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/dossiers/index.cfm?fuseaction=printarticle&dossier=23&policy=83>). Continue to pray for God's wisdom and insight to dawn on scientists as to an effective, affordable vaccine that can stop this tide in the next five years. Ask also that many scientists will admit to the likelihood of finding an effective vaccine in the form of a God-given miracle.

Tuesday 20 May 2008

Cape's tik epidemic fuels rush for test kit

Cape Town's tik epidemic has fuelled a market in self-testing drug kits, but experts have asked parents not to neglect seeking professional help in counselling their drug-addicted children. Although the kits are accurate they will only confirm drug use and not the psychological impact which could make users emotional or suicidal. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=13&art_id=vn20080109112039468C722242). Give thanks to the Lord for more and more parents realising the importance of their influence and responsibility in the lives of their children. Pray for them for wisdom on how to help their children and handle the reality of them being addicted to drugs, also where to seek for counselling and professional help.

France

France is currently one of the most non-evangelised missionary fields in the world and literally a spiritual desert. Out of a population of 60 million, 0.66% is Christian. Out of 36,664 communities 34,500 people have received no gospel witness. There are 11 Muslims for every Christian. There are more Buddhists than Christians. There are more astrologers, fortune-tellers and occultist physicians than church leaders and medical doctors. About 4 million of the population are alcoholics. At least 40,000 young persons try to commit suicide annually and are totally suspicious of the gospel and Christians. Yet the doors are still open to work there and people still become converted. (*Aksie 1:8*, P.O. Box 15769, Sinoville, 0129. Tel.: 012 808 0457, fax: 012 808 0966. Website: <http://www.aksie18.co.za> or e-mail: aksie18@mweb.co.za). Pray for the people living in France to become open to receive the gospel. Pray for those who do follow Christ to have a deepening in their relationship with God and become more aware and reach out and touch the lives of those around them living without God.

Wednesday 21 May 2008

Cell and house group meetings

Every week, mostly on a Wednesday, Christians gather in informal groups called cell groups or/and house churches to fellowship and pray together. Lift up these meetings to the Lord in prayer that a greater focus on active prayer for the issues of the day will come. Ask that God will minister to people through His Holy Spirit to also reveal to them His ways as being better than our ways so that more will trust in Him despite the reality of circumstances. Pray for a renewed zeal among Christians to reach out to others with the gospel.

Hopegivers International to take in sex workers' children in India

A US-based Christian charity is planning to take in 300 children of prostitutes in south India. Some of the commercial sex workers asked the organisation to take their children to be raised in *Hopegivers*-sponsored *Hope Homes* in India. The homes are orphanages that provide food, clothing, shelter and education for needy, orphaned or abandoned children. (Website: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/hopegivers.international.to.take.in.300.sex.workers.children.in.india/16231.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for this and other similar initiatives in answer to many prayers. Pray that their long-term goal to start a community centre with a school and an orphanage for the children would soon take effect, so parents of these children can also have opportunities to support themselves.

Thursday 22 May 2008

The answer is inside their lunch boxes

Research shows that more than 22% of primary school girls and 17% of primary school boys, as well as 30% of adolescent girls and nearly 10% of teenage boys in South Africa are overweight. Only 58% of young people eat fruit and vegetables four or more times a week while more than 25% regularly consume fizzy drinks and sweets. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20080108022157166C323559). Pray for parents to become more aware of the eating patterns of their children, both those who overeat or lack necessary nutrition. Also that those children will be obedient to the guidance of their parents and learn to be good stewards of their bodies.

Guiqiong

A 1983 study listed 7,000 Guiqiong people in China. The Guiqiong, who are nominally Tibetan Buddhists, have no understanding of the gospel or the name of Jesus Christ. They have been cut off from the message of eternal life for centuries. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p69). Ask the Lord to touch the hearts of many Christians with love and compassion for this people group. Pray for them to gather and hear from the Lord how to reach the Guiqiong people in China over the next 10 years.

Friday 23 May 2008

SA troops to stay longer in Burundi

The mandate of approximately 1,000 South African soldiers deployed in Burundi is to be extended, as efforts are gaining momentum to get the Palipehutu-FNL group, the last remaining rebel group, to re-join the peace process. A ceasefire agreement was signed with the government in September 2006, but its implementation was halted when the FNL pulled out of talks in July last year. The *SA National Defence Force (SANDF)* first deployed troops to Burundi in November 2001. (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/sa/444635.htm>). Pray for SA troops in Burundi, that they will in these times have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Also pray for the Christians among them, to buy out the time left to minister Christ to others in Burundi, especially on government level.

Kampala Children's Centre (KCC)

During 2007, *Kampala Children's Centre (KCC)* completed their first 'campus' of five houses for orphaned and abandoned children. Currently, 57 children aged between 2 and 15 live at the centre and are cared for by house-parents and 30 others are part of their local community support programme. Another four houses and two smaller houses for young babies, are being built. A kindergarten and school are also planned. Thank God for *KCC's* work to provide shelter, security and family for children at risk in Uganda. Please pray that all of *KCC's* plans will progress well in the coming year and that they will be able to support even more children as their buildings are completed. Pray for the necessary provision for the school and farm projects as they develop. (*Children at Risk Prayer News*. Websites: www.viva.org, www.facesofchildren.net or e-mail: pray@viva.org, info@facesofchildren.net).

Saturday 24 May 2008

Greener on the other side

SA business can expect stricter regulation and green taxes as government increases efforts to curb the emission of greenhouse gases. Businesses can assume that government will increasingly assess, monitor and regulate greenhouse gas emissions according to the environmental affairs & tourism minister. There will in future also be a much stricter regulatory framework and a hefty price on carbon. (Website: <http://secure.financialmail.co.za/07/1130/features/ffeat.htm>). Someone recently said that if we do not take up our responsibility to steward the environment as Christian businessmen, government will have to. Let us pray for businesses, especially Christian businesspeople to also take the lead on this level in society as part of their testimony and responsibility.

Colombia

About 15,600 Guambiano people live in the Central Andes Range. Programming is done in the Guambiano language and includes the audio Guambiano New Testament, Bible teaching, sermons and music. Two young non-Christian Guambiano men said to a member of the translation team, "All the Guambianos listen to the station because it is in our language." Pray that as many hear God's Word, the Holy Spirit will lead them into saving faith in Jesus. (*Wycliffe International*. Tel.: 972 708 7575. Website: <http://www.wycliffe.net/home/tabid/347/Default.aspx>, e-mail: info_wbti@wycliffe.net or jan_crowell@wycliffe.net).

Sunday 25 May 2008

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

Acts 14: He will give you clear understanding on how He works

As Paul and Barnabas ministered from city to city, there was power in their preaching and authority and confirmation to their words and deeds. In Lystra, a man crippled from birth heard them speak. His faith came alive and Paul perceived that he had faith to be healed and said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on you feet." The crippled man began to walk. Paul must have been watching the man while he was preaching, but waited on the Holy Spirit for the right timing before speaking to the man. We have few mentors today in guiding us in the very practical ways of obeying God through His Holy Spirit. Much of what is presented to us is not always pure and often focuses more on man than God Himself. Yet, do not let this discourage you. The Holy Spirit is so very able to guide and lead us in all things. You only have to ask Him. Also ask God to have trustworthy mentors cross your path from whom you can learn. There are many of them who have learned the ways of God and they are often right under our noses, but they are often difficult to recognise because of the very fact that they are so inconspicuous.

Father, our hearts are hungry and thirsty to learn and really know Your ways. Speak to us like You spoke to Paul in this passage. That we would come to know the times and seasons to pray for BOTH something simple and significant so Your Name may be glorified!

Monday 26 May 2008

Robbery in South Africa

According to the police, house robbery, business robbery and truck hijacking increased between April and September 2007. The police reported that murder, rape, attempted murder, assault with intention to do grievous bodily harm, common assault, aggravated robbery and common robbery decreased over the six months. (Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=nw20071206114107727C267255&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20080109ah). Give thanks to the Lord for answering so many prayers on crime in our country. Let us never become discouraged, but continue to pray for God to turn the tide in South Africa and for all those criminals to meet Him face to face and become testimonies of how God changed their lives.

G20 frets over energy

Leaders of the world's 20 largest economies, the G20, represent nearly 90% of the world economy and two thirds of its population and trade. They stress the need for new energy supplies as global economic growth continues to stumble over high oil prices. There is substantial room for the development of new markets in additional commodities. There was discussion on choices in bio-fuels, a better energy mix etc. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/679294.htm>). Pray for these leaders, that they will have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Also for wisdom to develop new markets in additional commodities that will truly benefit especially the poor and needy.

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Cry out for the children

One child disappears every six hours in South Africa. The head of *Missing Children SA*, said he had received 24 cases of missing children over the festive season. Two of them have been found dead, while 14 have been successfully returned to their families. Eight are still unaccounted for. Statistics point to 80% of missing children being runaways, with 15% getting lost. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=79&art_id=vn20080105091855888C509627&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080105ah). Give thanks to the Lord for every child that has been returned to their families! Let us continue to cry out for the plight of children, for better circumstances at home so they will not want to run away. Furthermore, that parents will become more aware and look out for and after their children, so that they will not so easily go missing.

Hdzanggur

Approximately 5,000 people comprise the Hdzanggur ethnic group in China. This little-known people inhabit a remote part of south-east Qinghai Province, north-east of Dawu on the banks of the Yellow River. The Hdzanggur are fervent Tibetan Buddhists. The gospel of Jesus Christ has never penetrated this geographically, politically and spiritually isolated part of the world. There has never been a known Hdzanggur Believer. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p97). Let us earnestly pray that this situation will be changed within the next two years. Cry out to God to grant grace to missionaries to enter this remote area and from the beginning, have much favour with inhabitants to hear and really embrace the gospel.

Wednesday 28 May 2008

French bid for SA reactors

A consortium led by a French nuclear giant is preparing to bid for two third-generation atomic reactors to be built in South Africa. South Africa wants to build new nuclear reactors to meet growing demand for electricity and has also asked another company to make a bid. The French is building two second-generation nuclear reactions near the Koeberg power station near Cape Town. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/814686.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for plans to overcome the growing demand for electricity. Please pray for wisdom for those involved in these plans, to also consider all the possible consequences and risks involved.

Ole people of Bhutan

A remote area of central Bhutan is home to a small ethnic group called Ole. They inhabit the south-eastern part of Bhutan's Wangdue Phodrang District. Today they all profess to be Buddhists, but in reality they have merely added this religion to their centuries-old shamanistic rituals and beliefs. Christianity has yet to make any impact upon this small and fascinating people group. (*Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway, p214). This means there are no Christians in this ethnic group. Cry out to the Lord for breakthroughs in this group soon according to His promise that people of every tribe, tongue and nation will worship Him in the end!

Thursday 29 May 2008

Church Planting Alliance

Please pray for *Vision Renewal* coaches to be equipped and mobilised to assist churches to improve their welfare and multiply other congregations. *OC Africa* in partnership with the *Church Planting Alliance* (CPA) is facilitating ongoing *Vision Renewal* coaching training. Please pray for effective training and coaching to strengthen the Body of Christ. (Karl R. Teichert (Southern Africa Director), Private bag X09, Suite 168, Weltevreden Park, 1715. Tel.: 011 794 8001/4, fax: 011 794 8002, cell: 072 477 2950. Website: www.ocafrica.net or e-mail: teichert@attglobal.net or skype: kteichert).

Breakthrough needed in tuberculosis (TB)

When the *World Health Organization* announced in 1993 that tuberculosis (TB) should be treated as a global emergency, the international community's response was slow and uncoordinated. Although initial progress has since been made in controlling the disease, the emergence of a deadly HIV–TB co-infection epidemic and extensively drug-resistant strains of TB means that a more serious and aggressive strategy is essential to fight the world's second biggest infectious disease. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/ms/tuberculosis/index.cfm?pageid=727>). Please pray for God's grace towards scientists to see a breakthrough in this field soon. Also pray for them for insight into the relatedness between TB and HIV/AIDS and how to effectively treat this condition.

Friday 30 May 2008

Basic needs costs on the rise

Consumer groups and unions are calling for government intervention in the spiralling costs of basic foods, fuel and electricity and have warned that the increases are plunging households further into poverty. Meat prices have

been rising steadily since late 2007. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080110041250598C483787&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080110ah). Continue to pray for people to have wisdom on how to spend their money and not always expect government to help them out all the time. Also pray that government will take up their responsibility in this regard without delay. Ask for more pastors and preachers to speak boldly about being good stewards of our goods and also on budgeting God's way.

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

Students, immigrant communities and indigenous peoples remain a challenge for the gospel in this, the world's wealthiest continent and the economic engine on which the world's economy depends for growth. Less than 15% of international students in the United States today are touched by any Christian ministry. Pray for God to supernaturally cause the hearts of the older generation to understand and appreciate the gifts of the younger generation. Also pray for young people to value and esteem their elders. (Website: <http://www.ethne.net/Helps/Regions> or www.joshuaproject.net/ethne_globalregion.php, e-mail: ethne06@ethne.net).

Saturday 31 May 2008

Lack of nurses with ICU skills

Hospitals are grappling with an acute shortage of nurses with the skills to work in intensive care units (ICUs), posing risks to patients and contributing towards the escalation of health-care costs, according to a national audit reported in a *SA Medical Journal*. (Website: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/dailymailer.aspx?ID=BD4A680836>). People often wonder how and what to pray for. To be really practical about the felt needs of every day, one simply prays from the newspaper! Let us boldly come before His throne of grace and ask today for more young people to set themselves towards a career in nursing or specialising in ICU. In so doing, also pray that many would see this as an opportunity to minister Christ to others in need.

Literacy in West Asia

Recently a member of a translation team visited a local literacy project and introduced to them some printed materials the team had produced. The project members were very eager to get copies of story booklets and reading primers in their own dialect. Ask the Lord to bless the efforts of the project members as they use these materials to teach others to read. Pray that many in this region will successfully learn to read and thus be ready to read Scripture as it becomes available. (*Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin*, e-mail: Personnel_Southafrica@wycliffe.org).

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 needs 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 simple 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; 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 are 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 to walk alongside them whom they can trust, talk to and 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 this one. 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 she shelters four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and the child of a dead relative, who all sleep on mattresses and two beds. There is no toilet or running water. According to *United Nation's (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. There is also a positive outlook for 2008 with gross domestic product (GDP), growth expected to accelerate and inflation to decline further. (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.

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 to help 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).