

DAY TO DAY PRAYER GUIDE: OCTOBER 2008

10/40 Window prayer focus on India

During the month of October we will focus on praying for specific issues and breakthroughs in the nation of India with an estimated population of over 1 billion people. India is one of the countries that fall in the *10/40 Window*. The information we will print here by no means reflects on the vast and full picture of need for prayer in this country, yet it should provide basic guidelines on how to sustain prayer for the country in the long term. Prayer pointers therefore, on some days will be longer, to include the basic pointers on a specific focus area. (Information and statistics were taken from the trustworthy prayer resource by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, *Operation World*, pp. 309-337 and other resources on the Internet). You can also refer to the map portraying the different states of India.

Legend: 📖 = Scripture verse 📊 = Statistics/info 🙏 = Prayer

Wednesday 1 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: General

📖 *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful (1 Cor.1:9).*

📊 India is comprised of 29 Union States and 6 Union Territories. The estimated population for 2024 is 1.33 billion, meaning 420 people living per sq. km. People groups are based on culture and caste rather than language. There are an estimated 6,400 castes. Each functions as a separate group because of the social barriers that separate them. The main caste groupings are: Forward castes 15.4%, the backward castes 56.6%, the scheduled castes or Dalit 18.1%, the Tribal or Adivasi 9.5% and other 0.4% (not considered part of the caste system). About 80% of the population (±800 million) are followers of Hinduism and other religions, 12.5% are followers of Islam and 2.4% are Christian.

🙏 *Faithful God who call people into fellowship with Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, we lift up each of the 29 states and 6 territories of India before Your throne of grace. Make known Your Son to the forward and backward castes, to the Dalit and the Adivasi. Call each one by name, let them hear Your voice. Reveal to them Your love and salvation.*

Thursday 2 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: Answers to prayer

📖 *Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known among the nations what he has done (Ps.105:1).*

📊 Persecution in the 1990s has refined the church, focused its vision and brought a greater unity of purpose than ever before. Praise God for it has pushed the person of Jesus and the existence of the church to centre stage and has also not shown extremist Hinduism in a favourable light. Praise God for the dynamic growth surge of Indian mission agencies and church-based mission initiatives from south and northeast India and elsewhere.

🙏 *We give thanks to You O Lord. Your name is to be praised for what You have done. Thank you for sustaining Your presence in India, for persecution that has refined the church and for the influx of evangelistic efforts into this country. We glorify you for each of the Dalits (Scheduled caste) that has turned to You. Send forth labourers into this harvest until each one is called by Your name.*

Friday 3 October 2008

Substance abuse focus: Alcohol consumption in South Africa

Alcohol is freely available in an estimated 230,000 liquor outlets in South Africa. South Africans consume over 5 billion litres of alcoholic beverages per year, according to a report by the *Medical Research Council (MRC)*, meaning 120 litres per person per year. These statistics are per capita. Keeping in mind that large sections of the population do not drink at all, it is quite alarming. (Website: http://www.health24.com/mind/Sexual_dysfunction/1284-1300,13039.asp). Cry out to God for all fathers and mothers, young people and children who abuse alcohol. Ask God to open their eyes to their folly, to cry out to Him and seek help to turn away from this and other addictive behaviour for good.

Prayer focus on India: Challenges for prayer

- 📖 ... Lord Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men, you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve (**Jer.32:18**).
- 🌐 India has more (and larger) people groups with no Christians, churches or workers than anywhere else in the world. The Indian government needs prayer to maintain religious freedom and not to pass discriminatory 'anti-conversion' laws, legalising and favouring extremist Hindu organisations and restricting foreign funds and buildings for minorities. Hinduism is the world's third largest religious system. Many concepts of Hinduism have become part of 21st century post-modern culture — yoga, gurus, karma, reincarnation and transcendental meditation. Hindutva extremism has increased. The Hindutva ideology of 'India is Hindu only' has been shamelessly used to gain political power.
- 🗣️ *Lord Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds in India! We pray for each one in the government to be radically saved. We cry out for the salvation of every member of every Hindu organisation. We ask that You will open the eyes of even Christians that have unknowingly become involved in Hindu practices in their everyday life. We ask that You will stir up the church world-wide to reach out to unreached people groups in India.*

Saturday 4 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: The church in India

- 📖 ... I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours (**John 17:9**).
- 🌐 The church in India is, at the same time, vital and growing, nominal and in decline. Despite many disputes over personalities, power and property, the hostile national environment spurs on greater unity now. The training of Christian workers is fundamental for the health and growth of the church. Poor discipling and lack of teaching have increased nominalism, syncretism and many returning to Hinduism. There are about 100,000 full-time workers in India and about half are pastoring local churches. There is, on average, one pastor for every six congregations.
- 🗣️ *Father, like Jesus we pray for those who are called by Your name. We ask that You will comfort Indian missionaries in India faced with opposition and persecution. Please send more labourers to work among tribal groups, the downtrodden, marginalised and needy sections of the population. We cry out for better accountability in relationships between local churches and sending agencies. We lift up expatriates serving in India to have favour to work in India as tentmakers. Purify Your bride in India to be pure and holy, separated to obey Your voice and fulfil Your commands without compromise.*

Sunday 5 October 2008

Memorise

*Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness (**Lk.11:34-35**).*

Prayer focus on Bible translation

Step 1: Translation resources and training: Every World Bible Translation Center (WBTC) translation begins with selecting a team of mother-tongue translators who meet WBTC's translation goals and provide this team with the training and translation resources they need to achieve these goals. The most basic resource is the Translator's Source Text (TST). WBTC's TST is specifically designed with the mother-tongue translator in mind. It is a reference tool that allows the translators to see the form of the original Greek or Hebrew text, together with its meaning. The TST also provides the translators with notes within the text itself and additional explanatory comments in footnotes. (Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=Bible_Translation_Process). Pray specifically for translators and the translations they are currently busy with. Ask God to come upon them mightily, so they will have great insight in their work and that they will make rapid progress.

Remember to pray today as God leads you:


1. Today Christians also observe the *International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem* with one purpose: sustained, fervent, informed global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people. (For more information, visit: <http://ew.us.churchinsight.com/group/group.aspx?id=1000002767>).
2. Today Christians observe *International Life Chain Sunday* by taking a public stand for the right to life for pre-born


Monday 6 October 2008


Salvation focus: Pray for the salvation of construction workers

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain (Ps.127:1). Most construction workers work away from home for long periods of time and cannot go to church on a regular basis. Pray for ways to reach them with the gospel. Pray for their salvation, that they will be good husbands and good fathers to their children. Ask that they will not spend their money on liquor or become involved in ungodly relationships where they work. Ask for them to be dedicated to do their work with excellence, building roads, dams, bridges and buildings.

Prayer focus on India: The least evangelised areas of India

 *I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (Jer.32:27).*

 No other part of the world has such a concentration of unevangelised people. First the North India Ganges plains teeming with millions of Hindi-speaking people. Secondly the great cities. The least reached mega people groups of India are the 40 million Brahmin (highest and priestly caste) of whom only 18,000 openly profess Christianity. The forward castes, the backward caste peoples and the numerous tribal peoples are unevangelised or under-evangelised. Students number over 10 million, many of whom use addictive drugs. Young people: 100 million school drop-outs, 50% living on the breadline. Children in crisis: nearly 400 million under 18; 70 million+ are child labourers; 10 million are bonded labourers (a form of slavery to pay off family debts), 13 million are homeless, 2 million are street children without families. There is a deficit of 40 million girls because of female foeticide — over 20,000 ultrasound clinics thrive on this illegal practice (it is illegal in India to determine the gender of an unborn child) and about 575,000 child prostitutes. Many are sold into prostitution.

 *God of all mankind, we desperately call upon Your name for those living on the North India Ganges plains, for those living in the great cities of India, for the high castes, the forward castes and the backward castes' remaining 205+ people groups, which are completely unreached. God, have mercy, pour out Your name, visit them and reveal Yourself to them as the One and Only God. We cry out before Your throne of grace for the middle classes, students, young people and children in crises. Please turn the tide, especially for children. Though we fear so many dying without Christ, we declare that nothing is impossible for You.*

Men-2-Pray: Doing battle on our knees for our children

In her book, *The Power of A Praying Parent*, the author, Stormie O'Martian says, 'The battle for our children's lives is waged on our knees. When we don't pray, it's like sitting on the sidelines watching our children in a war zone getting shot at from every angle. Whenever you pray for your child, do it as if you are interceding for his or her life – because that's exactly what you are doing. There is nothing like a parent, especially a father, praying for and with their children.'

Except for praying for our children, we need to teach them how to pray from **Ephesians 6:11-17 (NKJ)** for their own protection by putting on the armour of God daily. Teach them how to guard their minds with the Word of God! Stir up a love for the Word in their hearts. Be diligent in your prayers. Be consistent in your teaching of the Word and in your personal study and devotion. Most of all, be a godly example for your child to follow as he or she matures in Christ.

Someone recently told me about her 16-year-old daughter asking her for a new Bible, though the old one was not really that old. Puzzled by this, her mother took extra care in finding her daughter a really nice-looking Bible, suitable for her age. A few days after she received her new Bible, the young lady complained to her mother how she realised she knew so little of the Word of God and if a life-time would really be long enough for her to come to know God on a deeper level! God poured out a hunger and thirst after Himself in this young girl's life that will not leave her unchanged!

Here are some ways to pray the Word of God into the lives of your children or grandchildren:

1. **Mind: Read Rom.8:5-8:** Pray that their minds will be controlled by the Holy Spirit so they will live a life pleasing to God and filled with joy and peace.
2. **Will: Read Ps. 26:2-3, 139:2, 23-24:** Pray that they will continually be open and ask the Lord to show them the true


state of their heart and mind so they will walk in truth and purity.

3. **Seeking His face: Read Eccl.7:25:** Pray that they will become hungry and thirsty to understand and search out the wisdom of God. That they will be able to discern the foolishness of a life apart without God.
4. **Trust: Read Isa.26:3-4:** Pray that their minds will be steadfast as they trust in the Lord. Also that they will really learn to trust God completely.
5. **God first: Read Matt.22:37:** Pray that they will love the Lord with all of their heart, soul and mind. That God will be real to them and their greatest hero!
6. **Renewed: Read Rom.12:2:** Pray that they will not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but will be transformed by the renewing of their mind through spending time with the Word.
7. **Christ in them: Read 1 Cor.2:16b, 2 Cor.10:5, Phil.4:8-9:** Pray that they will always have the mind of Christ. That the persuasions of friends and the media will not sway them.
8. **Peace: Read Phil.4:7:** Pray that the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard the hearts and minds of your children in Christ Jesus. That they will be free from fear.
9. **True treasure: Read Col.3:2:** Pray that their minds will be set on things above—not on earthly things. Ask God to help you model a life like this.
10. **Time-out: Read Ps.27:4-8:** Pray that they will hear God's voice and love to read their Bible and spend time alone with God from a very young age. Ask for their friends to notice their love for the Word and to join them and do the same.

Tuesday 7 October 2008


Prayer focus: The 29 states of India

Most of these states are far larger than the majority of the world's nations, yet limited space allows only a brief description of each below. (Resource: Operation World, pp. 309-337).

 *Lord, I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known, in wrath remember mercy (Hab.3:2).*

Prayer focus on India: States 1 & 2: Andhra Pradesh & Arunachal Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is India's fifth largest state in the south-east with an estimated population of 80 million and 500 people groups. Religion: Hindu 89.1%, Muslim 8.9%, Christian 1.9%, other 0.1%. There are 66,000 churches and many denominations, but nominalism has increased and Hindu efforts to 'reconvert' Dalits to Hinduism have been successful — with 30% losses in some areas. Hyderabad is the key centre for Islam in South India. Nearly 40% of the city is Muslim. Very few Christian workers have ever focused on their spiritual need. Arunachal Pradesh has an estimated population of 1 million. Religion: Hindu 37%, ethnic religions 35.6%, Buddhist 13%, Christian 13%, Muslim 1.4%. Arunachal Christians have the vision that every people in the state be reached, namely the Buddhist peoples of the west where few have had the opportunity to hear the gospel. Also the animist peoples of the centre and west (the Miri, Sulung, Tangam, Tagin, Mishmi and Wanchoo) and lastly, the newcomer peoples (the Deori, Chakma and Hajong).

 *Lord, we cry out for each person in Andhra Pradesh who do not know You, to become open and responsive to Christian witness. Let them hear of Your fame everywhere, on the radio, television etc. and stand in awe of Your deeds. Please add to the number of Believers and stir them up to evangelise the forward castes. We lift up the name of Jesus over the Buddhist peoples of Arunachal Pradesh, over the animist peoples and also the newcomer peoples. Remember mercy, pour out Your love, send out workers into this vast field. Prepare their hearts to receive the gospel with no resistance. Prosper the workers in their efforts, adding the names of millions to the Book of Life. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Wednesday 8 October 2008

Internet gambling firms target SA

South Africa is soon to become a target for Internet gambling operators from Europe as the country's gambling laws are made more accommodating. Online or interactive gambling is still illegal in South Africa under the *National Gambling Act*, but this situation is about to change with the imminent passing of the *National Gambling Amendment Bill*. The bill is

presently before the national council of provinces, having already been approved by the national assembly. Under current legislation, online gamblers in South Africa can be fined up to R10 million or be jailed for up to 10 years. (Website: <http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=1646&fArticleId=4361616>). Lift up this situation in prayer to the Lord. Ask God to raise up godly men and women to address this situation with great authority so as to convince the authorities of the devastating results of this legalization of gambling. Ask for the church to take up her position in practical ways, which requires more than just signing petitions and taking part in protest marches.

Prayer focus on India: State 3: Assam

📖 *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord (Acts 9:31).*

📄 Assam has a population of about 26,866,000 and consists of 60+ people groups. Religion: Hindu 65%, Muslim 31%, Christian 3.1%, Buddhist 0.3%, other 0.6%. Assam is the major spiritual challenge in North East India. After two centuries of Christian work, professing Christians are a marginalised and shrinking percentage of the population (6.4% in 1961, 3% in 2000). The less evangelised: The 15 million Assamese are mostly Hindu and there are only around 1,000 active Christians among them. Bengalis are largely Muslim and comprise 80% of all Muslims. Assam tea estate workers number 6 million. Only 3% are Christian. They are open to the gospel, but few are there to share it. Evangelisation of the tribal peoples is incomplete. The Rajbongsi, Deori, Mising, Mikir and Kachari are all less than 5% Christian.

🙏 *Father, You are the One who builds your church. We cry out for the church in Assam, that You will once more strengthen her, encourage the church by Your Holy Spirit and cause it to grow in numbers and live in the fear of the Lord. Without ceasing, we lift up to Your throne of grace the 15 million Hindu Assamese, the Muslim Bengalis, the Rajbongsi, Deori, Mising and the Mikir. Let Your voice be heard, call them by their names and awaken their spirit to seek Your face; soften their hearts to heed the message of the gospel. Send more workers to reside in this province. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and to glorify Your name night and day.*

Thursday 9 October 2008

Salvation focus: Jewish people

The first Yom Kippur took place after Moses returned from his second trip to Mt. Sinai with the replacement set of tablets containing the Ten Commandments and decreed it to remain a day of atonement for all generations (**Lev.16:29-31**). (*Christian Friends of Israel*. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. E-mail: allwiese@lantic.net). Messianic Jews believe that this day portrays the High Priest, Jesus Christ, making atonement for our sins, which allows us to be reconciled to God and enter into the 'holiest of all' (**Heb.9:8-14, 10:19-20**). Christ is essential in this process as our High Priest (**Heb.4:14-15, 5:4-5,10**) and as our eternal sacrifice for sin (**Heb.9:26-28**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/litlibrary/holydays.htm> & http://www.everythingjewish.com/YomK/YK_origins.htm). Ask for this generation of Jewish people to once more come to the revelation of the saving grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ who took all their sins upon Himself.

Prayer focus on India: State 4: Bihar & Jharkhand

📖 *For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? (Ps.18:31).*

📄 Bihar and Jharkhand in the Ganges' alluvial plain has an estimated population of 75,834,000 and 261 people groups from different castes. Religion: Hindu 77%, Muslim 14.5%, ethnic religions 5%, Christian 1% (unofficially 1.5-2%). In 1950 Bihar was India's third richest state; it is now one of its poorest because of its disastrous post-independence history. North Bihar is one of the least evangelised mega-populations in the world. It has been long known as a graveyard of missions. The 14 million forward caste Hindus have had exposure to the gospel, but the message has not been socially acceptable. Only 3,000 call themselves Christian (0.03% of the total). The 33 million of the backward castes are marginally more evangelised, about 0.5% is Christian. About 15 million Muslims are unreached and gradually increasing as a percentage of the population. Of the 14 million Dalit 0.7% is Christian, but of the 30 castes only 3 are more than 1% Christian. Outreach challenges: Of Bihar's 1,853 pin code areas, 81% has no resident Christian workers.

🙏 *God our Rock, we cry out to you to restore peace and stability to the state of Bihar and Jharkhand in India. Please show mercy and pour out salvation on the 14 million forward caste Hindus, the 33 million backward castes, the*

15 million Muslims and the 14 million Dalit. Send more permanent workers into the 1,853 pin code areas of Bihar and Jharkhand in India, give them favour with locals and many opportunities to share Jesus Christ with them with much authority. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.

Friday 10 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: States 5 & 6: Delhi & Goa

📖 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom.15:13).*

🌐 **States 5 & 6: Delhi & Goa**

Delhi is the national capital of India with an estimated population of 11,300,000. Religion: Hindu 84%, Muslim 14.5%, Christian 0.9%. Delhi's challenges are manifest: 500,000 immigrants annually, over half of the population living in slums, massive pollution and related diseases etc. Specific outreach challenges for prayer: The millions of slum-dwellers need far more input in general ministry and discipling programmes. Refugee communities: Tibetans, Iranians, Afghans among whom few churches are being planted. Goa became a state in 1987 and has an estimated population of 1,370,000. Religion: Hindu 64.5%, Christian 31.2%, Muslim 4%, other 0.3%. Hindu beliefs and customs are interwoven with Christianity. Goa is a centre for drug trafficking and child prostitution. Workers able to communicate in Konkani are a great need. The Goanese Konkani NT is being re-translated, the old one being little understood today.

🙏 *God of hope, we cry out to You for every individual living in the states of Delhi and Goa. Fill them with the knowledge of Jesus Christ so they may become Your children. We ask for the church to be filled with all joy and peace as they trust in You, that they may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit and begin to proclaim the gospel in their states. Send forth Your Word to the millions of slum-dwellers and refugee communities in Delhi. Raise up workers who can speak the languages of the different groups in Goa. Strengthen those who are planning or busy with the translation of Christian literature into much needed languages. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Saturday 11 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 7: Gujarat

📖 *... Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ... that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ (2 Cor.1:3-5, NKJ).*

🌐 Gujarat (Gandhi's birthplace) is a coastal state adjoining Pakistan where much devastation was caused by the 2001 earthquake. It has a population of about 50,100,000 and its capital is Ahmedabad. Religion: Hindu 89.5%, Muslim 8.7%, Jain 1.2%, Christian 0.5%. Gujarat is a focal point in India for the persecution of Christians. The Christian church in general is struggling with nominalism and compromise with Hinduism. The unreached: While some tribal peoples are responding to the gospel, much need remains for the Saurashtra, the western peninsula in the Arabian Sea, which has 12 million people but only 0.07% is Christian. Muslims number 4.3 million and are the largest and least reached segment of the population here. Unreached caste groups: The Dalit groups — Bhangi, Nadia and Pasi — are urbanised and becoming responsive with over 3% Christian. The 20 tribal peoples with little outreach — the larger being the Dubla, Dhanka and Rathawa. The Parsees (11,000 of India's 150,000 are in Gujarat); there are only 30 known Believers in the whole world among the 4.5 million Parsees. The Jain religion is an offshoot of Hinduism with a strong emphasis on moral purity and non-violence. Jains are often wealthy and control much trade and industry in the state. Little has ever been done to evangelise them.

🙏 *Father of mercies and God of all comfort, comfort the Believers who have suffered persecution in Gujarat in all their tribulation, that they may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort with which You have comforted them. As the sufferings of Christ abound in them, so may their comfort abound through Christ and become a testimony that will draw all the unreached caste groups, the 20 tribal peoples, the Parsees and the Jains into the Kingdom of God. Show the unsaved true riches in Christ, give them a holy desire for true everlasting life and reveal to them the folly of their idolatry. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and to*

glorify Your name night and day.

Sunday 12 October 2008

Memorise

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing (Zeph.3:17).

Prayer focus on Bible translation (cont. from 5 Oct.)

Step 2: First-draft translation: Working from the translation resources provided, especially the *Translator's Source Text (TST)* and the *Easy-to-Read Version*, a mother-tongue translator produces a first draft translation in the target language. At this point the translation is ready for 'team check', where the translation team meets to listen to each translator read their draft and then provide feedback to ensure that the translation is natural, clear and understandable to their audience. (Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=Bible_Translation_Process). Please intercede for all those involved in this specific part of the translation process. Ask for them to have insight on how to express different verses in a way that will be profitable to the readers and glorify God. Pray for unity and a clear understanding for teams involved in translation in this specific step.

Prayer focus on India: State 8: Haryana

📖 ... that He (Jesus Christ) would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph.3:16-19, NKJ).

🌐 Haryana is between Delhi and Punjab in India's northwest and has a population of 20,000,000 and 310 people groups. Religion: Hindu 89.3%, Sikh 6.2%, Muslim 4.1%, Jain 0.27%, Christian 0.08%. Haryana is one of India's least evangelised states. The church is weak and under pressure from Hindus. The unreached: only 15 of the 92 people groups are known to have any congregations of Believers. Christian Indian agencies are pioneering work among the 8 million Jat, the 3.8 million Dalit and the Sikhs. Pray for a response. Pray also for the unreached Muslims and Jains. No part of the Bible is translated into the local language, Haryanvi.

🙏 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will you through Jesus Christ grant the church in Haryana to be strengthened with might through the Holy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith and that they will become rooted and grounded in love and filled with all the fullness of God. Prosper them with favour and breakthrough in evangelising the Jat, Dalit, Sikhs, Muslims and so many others who do not know You. Raise up teams of translators to begin with Bible translation work in all languages still in need of having Scripture portions. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.

Monday 13 October 2008

Salvation focus: Pray for mine workers

Let love and faithfulness never leave you, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart (Prov.3:3). Most mine workers work far away from home. They often become involved in adulterous relationships and many ungodly things take place in the kampongs. Please pray for the salvation of mine workers and for revival among workers in the mines of South Africa, so their lives will honour God. Ask that they regularly will send money to support their families at home and live pure lives. Pray that they will not give in to temptation, maintain contact with their wife and children and not neglect their responsibility as husbands and fathers.

Prayer focus on India: State 9: Himachal Pradesh

📖 For you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth, you are exalted far above all gods (Ps.97:9, NKJ).

🌐 Himachal Pradesh is the mountainous Himalayan state bordering on Kashmir and Tibet with a population of 6,147,000 and its capital is Shimla. Religion: Hindu 95.9%, Muslim 1.7%, Buddhist 1.2%, Sikh 1.1%, Christian 0.09%. Himachal Pradesh has long been India's least evangelised state. It is the 'Land of the gods' and a centre for Hindu pilgrimages. Every mountain is named after a god and there is much devotion to idols. There has been

significant growth in the church. The challenges of the unreached: Every people group is, at best, marginally evangelised. Of the 92 people groups, only 15 have congregations of Believers. The Kullu valley: There are now several congregations and the Kullu Pahari NT is being translated. Unevangelised districts: Kinnaur has only a few churches. Lahul and Spiti district is culturally largely Tibetan. About 5,000 Tibetan refugees have settled in Dharamsala, the Dalai Lama's headquarters. Of 430 pin code areas, almost 90% has no resident Christian workers.

☞ *Most High God over all the earth, we declare that you are exalted far above all gods that are worshipped in Himachal Pradesh. We ask and trust for Your supernatural intervention in the life of the Dalai Lama, that he will come to a clear understanding of Your sovereignty and soon lay his life down at Your feet. Please send forth workers to reside in each of the 430 pin code areas, among the 5,000 Tibetan refugees and the Kullu valley. Please increase unity, faith and vision among leaders and churches. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Tuesday 14 October 2008

Israel focus: Feast of Tabernacles (Succot) - 14-21 Oct

This festival commemorates the wanderings of the Jews in the wilderness after their Exodus from the hands of the Egyptians, when they had to dwell in makeshift booths or huts (**Lev.23-24**). There are three main names for this festival: *Chag HaSuccot - the festival of booths, Chag Ha'Osif - the festival of ingathering and Zeman Simchosaynu - the season of our rejoicing.* (Website: http://www.totallyjewish.com/tradition/festival_guide/?content_id=510). Messianic Jews understand that the *Feast of Tabernacles* teaches that when Jesus Christ returns, a new society will be established with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Rev.19:11-16, 20:4, Lev.23:39-43, Matt.17:1-4, Heb.11:8-9**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/litlibrary/holydays.htm>). Pray for Jewish people to have a revelation from the Torah (the five books of Moses) of Jesus Christ as the Messiah of whom these Scriptures foretell, that they will turn their lives into His hand. Also pray for thousands of Christians from many nations going up to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast, that their testimony will touch the hearts of the Jewish people. (Christian Friends of Israel. Tel./fax: 012 361 1437. E-mail: allwiese@lantic.net).

Prayer focus on India: State 10: Jammu & Kashmir

📖 *Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, cause Your face to shine and we shall be saved! (Ps.80:19, NKJ).*

🏠 Jammu & Kashmir have a population of 9,400,000 and 240 people groups. Religion: Muslim 64.2%, Hindu 32.2%, Sikh 2.2%, Buddhist 1.2%, Christian 0.16%. Kashmir has become an international tragedy. Pakistan has fought four wars over this divided state. The result has been polarisation, Islamic militancy, 30,000 deaths and 800,000 refugees. Outreach has always been limited and few Christian workers have been indigenous to the state. The majority of the workers are in Jammu and not in the dangerous, war-torn Muslim-majority Kashmir. Unreached peoples: Kashmiri Muslims who have become more militant for their faith. Tibetan Buddhists have been only marginally evangelised. The *JESUS Film* is now being used in the area. The high-caste Brahmin Pandits of Kashmir were one million in 1900, but since the 1940s Muslim hostility, terror and violence have reduced them to 50,000 today and only 3,000 in their Kashmir Valley home area. Christian radio broadcasts five times a week in Kashmiri.

☞ *Lord God of hosts, we ask that you will cause Your face to shine over the people living in Jammu & Kashmir and save them. Restore them from the devastation they suffer. Send forth workers into the dangerous and difficult-to-reach areas. Soften the hearts of the militant Kashmiri Muslims. Open the hearts of Tibetan Buddhists to embrace Jesus as they watch the *JESUS Film* and draw the high-caste Brahmin Pandits closer to You through Your Son Jesus Christ. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Economic focus: Soccer World Cup

The South African economy could see a turnover in excess of R40-billion during the *Soccer World Cup* finals, which kick off at the new *Soccer City* in Johannesburg in June 2010. (Website: <http://business.iafrica.com/news/966768.htm>). Please pray for every project in preparation for this event. Ask that people will guard their hearts against greed, be righteous in their business deals and faithful in completing their projects within budget, also meeting their deadlines. Pray for South Africa to really benefit from this event, that we will suffer no economic losses or fall prey to problems (like

transmitting illnesses etc.) as people from across the world will visit our country.

Prayer focus on India: State 11: Karnataka

📖 *He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord and teach out of Your law (Ps.94:10-12).*

📖 Karnataka is a south-western coastal state with a population of 53,500,000, 224 people groups and Bangalore as its capital. Religion: Hindu 85.4%, Muslim 11.6%, Christian 2.1%, Jain 0.8%. Karnataka is South India's most spiritually impoverished state. The Christian communities are inward-looking and culturally isolated. Bangalore is India's 'Silicon City' and also the Indian headquarters for many Christian churches. The less evangelised: almost all of Karnataka's peoples are unreached. The Lingayats, predominantly in the north, are staunchly Hindu with very few Believers. The Adi Karnataka is the original inhabitants of this state. The Devadasis are girls forced into temple prostitution. There are 50,000+ in this state. The Banjara have begun to respond to the gospel. Of Karnataka's 2,479 pin code areas, about 80% has no resident Christian workers.

🙏 *Lord, You know the thoughts of man, that they are futile. We cry out to you to instruct, correct and teach the people of Karnataka the knowledge of the Most High. We lift up before Your throne of grace the Lingayats, the Adi Karnataka, the Devadasis and the Banjara. Reveal to them Your everlasting love through Jesus Christ. Deliver them from darkness and slavery into light and freedom in Christ. Open the eyes of the Christians to look beyond themselves and give them a desire to begin outreaches and also gain favour with locals to share the gospel with them. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Thursday 16 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 12: Kerala

📖 *Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is The Kingdom, you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you, you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all (1 Chron.29:11-12).*

📖 Kerala is India's most south-westerly state with a population of 33,000,000, 194 people groups and it is also India's most prosperous and densely populated state. Religion: Hindu 57.7%, Muslim 23%, Christian 19.3%. The Syrian Christians have high social status but have become little more than a caste within Hindu society and few have broken free to become vital witnesses to those of other cultures. Unreached peoples: Of the 35 small tribal groups only three or four have significant Christian groups and ten others a handful of Believers. Most are Hindus, animists or demon worshippers. The Malabar Muslims, or Mappila, are prolific in the north of Kerala and number 7 million. Of the higher castes and 41 Dalit groups of Hindus, there have been people movements to Christianity. Christian work is unevenly distributed. Christian media have done much to generate missions interest and also TV and radio programmes presented to the wider population, have generated a wide response.

🙏 *Lord, the greatness and power, glory, majesty and splendour belong to You. Yours is The Kingdom, You are exalted as head over all, also over Kerala, over the 35 tribal groups, the Malabar Muslims, the higher castes, the Dalits and every unbeliever. Reveal to them the strength and power in your hands that you give to all who exalt You. Turn their eyes upon Jesus, let them look straight into His wonderful face and the things they count valuable become unimportant in the light of His glory and grace. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Friday 17 October 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. Continue to pray for the printing and posting process of the *Jericho Walls Daily Prayer Guide*. Also ask God to open new doors for ministry, release resources for the printing and translation of prayer material and to have favour in the Body of Christ to mobilise them to pray. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.:

Prayer focus on India: State 13 and 14: Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh

- 📖 *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy (Prov.31:8-9).*
- 📖 The two states are handled together as a single unit here. Both are very poor and underdeveloped with a population of 62.3 million (Madhya Pradesh) and 17.6 million (Chattisgarh). Religion: Hindu 92.4% (most of the Dalit groups and tribes are actually animists), Muslim 5.2%, Jain 0.85%, Christian 0.70%, Sikh 0.27%, Buddhist 0.14%. These two states were of the last to open up for missions, responding sluggishly to the gospel until recently. It is strongly Hindu with stern laws limiting conversions to Christianity. The challenge of the unreached: The tribal peoples are a majority in the southern four districts. Most practise a Hindu-influenced animism. Witchcraft, Saktism (worship of female energy) and Saivism (worship of Shiva) abound. The 10.5 million Gond is the largest tribe in India. Only 2% is Christian. Bhopal, the state capital of Madhya Pradesh and industrial centre was the scene of the world's worst ever industrial disaster — in 1984 a chemical plant exploded and killed 20,000 and maimed or afflicted a further 500,000 people. The grim after-effects are still evident. Nearly 23% is Muslim, but there is no significant ministry among them.
- 🗣️ *Righteous Judge, we cry out to You on behalf of the poor and needy living in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh who cannot speak for themselves as they do not know You. We lift up to You in prayer the tribal peoples, those who are involved in animism, witchcraft, saktism and saivism. Reveal to them true riches in Jesus Christ and answer those who are hungry and thirsty after true spiritual life with the victory of salvation in the face of the gods that demand their worship. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Saturday 18 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 15: Maharashtra

- 📖 *... and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned (Jer.18:8).*
- 📖 Maharashtra is India's most urbanised and industrialised state with a population of 95,000,000, 339 people groups and Mumbai (Bombay) as capital. Religion: Hindu 80.4%, Muslim 10%, Buddhist 6.2%, Jain 1.6%, Christian 1.2%. Mumbai has great influence and is home to the film making industry ('Bollywood'). It also has a reputation for crime, Asia's largest slum (Dharavi, with one million people living on 170 hectares), 100,000 street children, child prostitution and AIDS. It has the second highest Christian population (5%) of the mega-cities of India, but Christians are nominal and about 40% do not go to church. Unreached areas and peoples: Many Hindu caste groups, Muslims and the Mahar (many of whom became Buddhist in the 20th Century) have little opportunity to hear the gospel. There are very few Christians among them. Tribal groups such as the Gond, Bhil, Korku and Kolam and many other smaller groups, have begun to respond to the gospel but progress has been slow. In the 1990's, however, the increase in effort and response was significant. The 1.5 million Jains and 150,000 Parsees in their wealthy, cocooned religious communities remain unevangelised.
- 🗣️ *Father of mercy, we cry out to you on behalf of Maharashtra in India. Please listen to the cries of Believers in this province calling on You to pour out salvation on Bollywood, on the Dharavi, the street children and prostitutes, on the Hindu caste groups, the Mahar, the tribal groups and the Jains and Parsees. Reveal to them Jesus Christ, the One and only true God. Help them to humble themselves, to pray, to repent of their sins and turn from their wicked ways. Hear O God from heaven, forgive their sins and turn the tide of crime and spiritual poverty in their land. Open the floodgates of heaven, pour forth grace and mercy, righteousness and truth, peace and reconciliation with Yourself. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Sunday 19 October 2008

Memorise

It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation (Dan.4:2-3).

Prayer focus on Bible translation (cont. from 12 Oct.)

Step 3: Back-translation, evaluation and editing: After a first-draft translation is judged to be of acceptable quality, another person fluent in that language translates it into English. Using this back-translation, a qualified translation consultant compares the meaning of the target language translation against the original Hebrew or Greek text. The resulting questions and notes begin a long and tedious process of correction and improvement that usually involves other translation consultants, the original translator and the project editor. (Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=Bible_Translation_Process). Ask the Lord to provide workers to play their part in this specific step of the translation process. Ask that all possible mistakes or misinterpretation in the translation will be identified and corrected. Pray for unity among team members as they reason together to finish this step in the translation.

Prayer focus on India: State 16: Manipur

📖 *O great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men, you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve (Jer.32:18-19).*

🗺 Manipur is on the eastern border with Myanmar with a population of 2,526,000. Religion: Hindu 57.7%, Christian 34.1%, Muslim 7.3%, other 0.9%. Nearly all the Naga, Kuki-Chin and Mizo became Christians in the 20th Century. Sadly, during the 1990's civil wars broke out. Denominational and ethnic conflicts severely hamper outreach by Christians to Muslims and Hindus. The challenges: The Meitei has been Hindu for three centuries. (They invented the game of polo!). Growth in Christian numbers has slowed down because of rising hostilities. The Bible and the *JESUS Film* are available for them. Muslims and other immigrant groups are largely unreached. Drug addiction and AIDS have become a major issue — of 60,000 drug addicts, 40,000 are HIV+. There are hundreds of Manipur missionaries serving cross-culturally today.

🙏 *Great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, we declare that great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds over Manipur. You reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve. Yet, today we cry out for mercy and loving-kindness to prevail when you watch the ways of the church in Manipur, when you look at the Naga, Kuki-Chin, Mize, the Muslims and the Meitei. Stir up Believers to reach out to others, increase their numbers, strengthen them and empower them through Your Holy Spirit. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Monday 20 October 2008

Salvation focus: Managing directors of companies

Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God, all things are possible with God.' (Mk.10:27). There are numerous men and women serving as managing directors of companies. They literally influence the lives of hundreds and thousands of people over whom they are appointed. Many live under enormous pressure and it can easily happen that they might give in to bribes, unethical practices, competitiveness, fraud, ungodly relationships, neglecting their families (due to work pressure) or extra-marital affairs and to misuse their position and power. Pray for their salvation, that they will be strengthened in the inner man not to fall into these temptations, but will have a positive influence in society.

Prayer focus on India: State 17: Meghalaya

📖 *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).*

🗺 Meghalaya is a mountainous state on Bangladesh's northern border, has a population of 2,175,000 and 78 people groups. It has the world's highest rainfall — 12 metres annually! Religion: Christian 64.6%, Hindu 14.7%, Muslim 4%, Animist/Other 16.7%. Meghalaya has become a Christian state. There are now 40 denominations. Many missionaries have been recruited. The challenges for the church: The youth are drifting away from the church — there is much drug abuse and many youth drop-outs. Some smaller tribes, the Hajong, Rabha Koch and Mikir are still entrenched in animistic ways. The Hindu and Muslim minorities are little touched by the gospel and their numbers are increasing by immigration from Bangladesh and other states. Shillong has the highest concentration of

non-Christians with half the population Hindu, Muslim, animist, etc. Yet there are over 150 congregations and fellowships in the city.

☞ *God of light, we call upon Your name for the plight of the church in Meghalaya, that they will declare the message they have heard to the remainder of Hindus, Muslims and those from other religions. May the knowledge of the glory of the Lord cover the mountains and the valleys of Meghalaya and reach into the hearts of every living person. Stir up the youth to re-commit themselves to the living God, proclaiming His glory with boldness. Open the hearts and ears of those who are resistant to the gospel and give them wisdom and understanding of who You are. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Youth-2-Pray: Open the 10/40 Window?

There are 65 countries that stretch from North Africa, across the Middle East, Central Asia, China and India up to Japan known as the *10/40 Window*. About 80% of all the poorest people live here, 90% of all the people not yet reached with the gospel live there and all the main non-Christian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam) of the world are found here. In these 65 nations there are very few missionaries and they are working in very difficult circumstances and suffer much persecution. In some places there is only one missionary to bring the gospel to 200,000 people. Think about it: having a 'church' with 200,000 members, but they do not know Jesus; some hate you as missionary and do not want to hear about Jesus and the majority of these people have not even heard the name of Jesus once in their lives! There are millions of children who live in the *10/40 Window* and like their parents, most of them don't know Jesus. Many missionaries are needed in the *10/40 Window* to tell people about Jesus. One of the most important things you can do is to **intercede** for the people who live there.

Let's open the window...

How? We have to open the window by persevering prayer and intercession.

What are we asking from God? We need to send more missionaries, Bibles, Christian books, tapes, the *JESUS Film*, produce more radio programs and pray that Jesus will reveal Himself through dreams and visions to these people. Perhaps God is calling you to go to the *10/40 Window* as a missionary! Pray that everyone living there will want to know more about Jesus, have hearts ready to accept Him and find other Christians to help them grow in their relationship with God.

Why? Most of these people are without Jesus, without hope, they will not go to heaven. Millions of poor people live in horrible and inhuman situations and know much suffering. And their religion doesn't bring them any real hope either.

For whom? Pray for the people in the *10/40 Window*, their leaders and especially the women and children who suffer much. Pray for the Christians in the *Window* who are kicked out of their families or lose their friends and jobs because they believe in Jesus. Some of their lives are in danger. The governments don't give freedom and they make life very difficult for Christians. Pray for the local churches which in most cases, survive amidst very difficult circumstances.

Who else? Pray for the missionaries. That they will remain safe and healthy, have no problems with the government, have good relationships with the people and get opportunities to share the message of Jesus.

Tuesday 21 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 18: Mizoram

📖 *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied (Acts 9:31).*

🌐 Mizoram is almost an enclave between Bangladesh and Myanmar with a population of 860,000 and 54 people groups. Religion: Christian 85%, Buddhist 8%, Hindu 7%. Mizoram is one of the most active Christian states. Awakenings and revivals in recent years caused the church to explode and transformed society. It is now the most literate and well-educated state in India. Mizo missionaries in India and beyond, number over 2,000 — one of the highest missionary statistics in the world. The challenges that Christians have to tackle are the divisions within denominations and also inter-ethnic tensions. Serious societal problems: increased corruption, youth delinquency, abuse of drugs and alcohol. The largely Buddhist Chakma and Reang tribal refugees from Tripura need to be evangelised.

☞ *Lord, we glorify Your name for those in Mizoram whom You have multiplied because they walk in the fear of the Lord*

and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We ask for every Christian Believer from every ethnic group, to understand the fear of the Lord, to walk in unity and to tackle the remaining issues of this province with great determination. Strengthen them to turn the tide of increased corruption and substance abuse in Your name through fasting and prayer. Give them favour to preach the gospel among the Buddhist Chakma and Reang tribal refugees from Tripura, turning the hearts of many to Jesus Christ. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.

Wednesday 22 October 2008

Employment focus: Matrics are finishing school

Currently more than half of the learners in South Africa who matriculate do not find jobs after leaving school. The economy has expanded since 2001 but the education and training picture is not looking too bright at all. (Website: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=105&art_id=vn20080411054635496C379310). South Africa is also in desperate need of graduates specialising in certain areas of expertise. Please pray about this situation, that many will find the means to continue tertiary studies. Ask God to inspire youngsters who cry out to Him with innovative ideas on starting small, low-risk, high-income businesses that will also create jobs over time. Especially pray that matrics will not give up hope or take desperate measures and that there will not be even one suicide this year, but that they will put their trust in the Lord.

Prayer focus on India: State 19: Nagaland

📖 *And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?' (Lk.24:32).*

📖 Nagaland is a mountainous state bordering on Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar with a population of 1,550,000 and 50 people groups. Religion: Christian 87.5% (60%+ Baptist), Hindu 10.1%, Muslim 1.7%. The effectiveness of Christian witness is compromised by inter-ethnic feuding, a long Naga independence guerrilla war, insidious effects of corruption, denominational fragmentation and growing nominalism. Few Christian areas in the world have such a high density of theological colleges, yet few Nagas in training ever consider a missionary career. The *Bible Society* distributes over 100 million portions of Scripture or Bibles world-wide annually. Bible translation remains a major challenge. Over 100 languages spoken by more than 10,000 in the world are without Scriptures. *The JESUS Film* is available in 55 languages, 100,000 view it daily as 500 film teams move around India. These teams need wisdom and protection in today's India. *The massive growth of the use of satellite TV and Internet evangelism* is becoming important as India rapidly 'wires-up'.

🙏 *Lord God, we cry out that You will set the hearts of Christians in Nagaland on fire for Your Word and purposes. Remove from them all compromise, conflict, misunderstanding and self-righteousness. We cry out for You to spur on the completion of the JESUS Film in many more languages and for every remaining language to obtain Scripture portions in their own languages very soon. Make a way where there is no way, raise up people, provide resources and may Your kingdom advance from this province with much strength. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Thursday 23 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 20: Orissa

📖 *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? ... (Rom.10:13-15).*

📖 Orissa is an eastern coastal state prone to cyclones. It now has a population of 37,500,000 and 279 people groups. Religion: Hindu 94.7% (many animistic tribal peoples included), Christian 2.1%, Muslim 1.8%, other 1.4%. Persecution of Christians increased and Orissa now shares with Gujarat the worst record for Hindu extremist violence. Many churches have been destroyed and Christian workers attacked, some molested and killed. Tribal peoples of Orissa are the most responsive to the gospel: the Oraon (40% Christian), Kharia (37%), Munda (40%), Savara (17%) Kisan (9%), Khond (9%) and Kol (5%) have significant numbers of Christians. The unfinished challenge: The forward (high) castes, such as the Brahmin and Korono, have never been confronted with the claims of Christ. The six eastern and 13 western districts are less than 1% Christian. The tribal groups: the Bhathudi,

Bhuiya, Bhumiji, Gond, Kolho, Paraja, Santal, Siyal and Koya. Of the 62 groups, 20 are less than 0.1% Christian and 42 are less than 1% Christian. A good new Oriya Bible was published in 1998. Illiteracy is high — 51% of the population, but 70% of the Dalit and tribes and 89% of women cannot read.

☛ *Lord of the harvest, we lift up Orissa before You. Please send people into the mountains and valleys of this state to preach the gospel. Open the ears of the tribal groups: Bhathudi, Bhuiya, Bhumiji, Gond, Kolho, Paraja, Santal, Siyal and Koya, the forward castes: the Brahmin and Korono. Cause them to listen and heed the Word of the Lord. Please send labourers to translate and record Scripture portions especially the languages spoken by illiterate people. Cause thousands to tune in to Christian radio and television broadcasts and turn their hearts to accept and follow Jesus Christ. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

THE LONGED FOR REVIVAL HAS ALREADY BEGUN

By Floyd McClung

We are living in the time of the greatest revival in the history of the church. It has already started. We realise there are many, many people praying for revival and that there are also many unfulfilled dreams in the hearts of God's children for revival, but if we fail to give thanks and acknowledge what God has already done and is busy doing in answer to our prayers, we will be amiss. We must be careful to define 'revival' in a way that it will fit only a very specific and narrow definition – something we normally determine ourselves according to our own standards.

Why do I believe the great revival we have prayed for and longed for has already started?

1. More people have *come to Jesus* in the last fifty years than the rest of Christian history *combined*. Over 50,000 people come to faith in Jesus every day in China, India and Africa. And the numbers are increasing yearly, faster than the population growth. I know when we pray for revival we're asking God to revive the church and for Believers to repent of sin and apathy and for society to be transformed. But is there any greater miracle than someone coming to faith in Christ? Is there any more profound act of repentance or transformation than for one person to be redeemed by God's love and assured they will spend eternity in the Father's presence? That is the greatest form of revival and it is happening on an epic scale across the globe. Let us give thanks! People working amongst the Dalit (the outcasts) in India say that literally 'massive' numbers of people are coming to Christ every week. The number of Christians in India doubled in the last 15 years (and that after more than 2 centuries of intensive mission work and efforts by the Indian church itself).
2. In many parts of the world we see revivals (in the way they were seen during the first and second *Great Awakening* in the 1740's and the 1850's, the revival in Wales in 1904, etc.): China, Fiji, India, places in Africa, Latin America. There was an ebb and flow of revivals over the last two decades, but they are happening nevertheless in many countries.
3. *Church planting movements* have begun in many nations that have swept millions of people into the Kingdom of God. Hundreds of thousands of small churches led by ordinary people have been started all over the world. That is revival.
4. I believe the revival has already started because most of the *unreached people groups* in the world have been penetrated with the Good News of Jesus, many of them over the last 2-3 decades.
5. I believe revival has begun because millions, not just thousands or hundreds of thousands, but millions of *Muslims* have come to faith in Christ in the last 25 years. Reliable statistics state that more Muslims came to Christ in the last 10 years than in the previous 1,300 years.
6. I believe the revival has broken out in our world because the Berlin wall fell and the communist world was rocked by God's sovereignty; He removed kings and raised up kings in a matter of days. Not years or centuries, but days. Many *oppressive governments* lost their grip and have been busy losing their grip on people over the last 15 years. This opened these nations up for the preaching of the gospel – i.e. Cambodia, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Romania, Central Asia, China and Nepal.
7. I believe revival has started because the church is more conscious than ever of the *need to serve the poor and bring justice to the oppressed*.
8. I believe revival has started because we are not just preaching the gospel of personal salvation, but we are teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

9. I believe revival has broken out because *business people* are advancing the Kingdom of God in their businesses and in the nations of the earth and because women are being recognised as equals in God's kingdom in greater and greater numbers.
10. I believe revival has started because in many nations Christians in *the market place* are rising up as 'market place ministers', understanding their role as witnesses of the salvation of Christ and caring for the needs of people in the market place.
11. I believe the revival has already begun because millions and millions of people are praying and the momentum is increasing. In the 70's, there was a call in the United States and many other nations for people to fast for 40 days for revival. Tens of thousands of people responded and fasted for 40 days. Many fasted for the first time in their lives. This spread over the whole world. In the decade of the 90's thousands of 40-day periods of prayer and fasting took place all over the world. In the 90's there was a call to pray for the *10/40 Window* – and look what has happened in the *10/40 Window*! Up to 40 million Christians prayed in 1997 during one of these *Praying Through the Window* initiatives. In the 90's there was also a call to fast and pray during the month of *Ramadan* for Muslims and millions of followers of Jesus responded and have kept responding every year.
12. Prayer movements and national prayer networks have begun all over the world. Houses of prayer, 24/7 prayer, boiler rooms of prayer, prayer teams travelling the globe, prayer for the *10/40 Window*, the *Global Day of Prayer*, stadiums of people praying and prayer walking. People are praying like never before in history. In at least 160 nations of the world at least one or more 24/7 prayer watches are functioning. Many new and creative prayer initiatives are being started every year. There is an amazing prayer awakening among young people and also children.

Prayer is a cry from the heart of God's people who are desperate for more of God and it is the Holy Spirit stirring the hearts of people to expect the Father to move His hand in history. God does not call us to pray to frustrate us or defeat us. We have prayed and God has answered. Let us not ignore what God has done or be ungrateful. Let us give thanks for answers to prayer, for the revival that has begun and let us continue – with thanksgiving – to express the deep yearnings of our hearts for God to do more, much more.

Friday 24 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 21: Punjab

- 📖 *'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'* For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him (**Rom.10:11-12**).
- 🌐 Punjab is in North-western India and a very productive agricultural region. It has a population of 24,100,000 and 96 people groups. Religion: Sikh 63.6%, Hindu 34%, Christian 1.1%, Muslim 1%. The Punjab is the home state of the Sikhs. The Sikh religion with its unique doctrines and culture has spread to many parts of India and beyond. There are 25 million Sikhs in the world. Little specific Christian study of and dialogue with Sikhs have ever really been undertaken. The vision of the church in this state is to see strong churches in each of Punjab's 12 districts — the weakest being Sangrur, Bathinda, Rupnagar and Faridkot. Ask for Christian workers based in every one of the 491 pin code areas and for every people group to have a church. The Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Hospital has a world-wide reputation for Christian care and witness.
- 🙏 *Lord of all, we call upon You to save the Sikhs and every person unreached with the gospel. O that you would pour out salvation and show forth righteousness and justice so they will come to know true love and obtain everlasting life. Strengthen the church to accomplish her task, send forth workers, draw together Believers in local churches and show Your power and glory through many signs and miracles in this state. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Saturday 25 October 2008

25-30 October: World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) General Assembly

Over 500 leaders will call upon and hear from the Lord during this time, trusting God for strategies to address 21st century realities: Mobilising the church to be a catalyst of transformation in the world and also global poverty in all its aspects, the *Persecuted Church* religious freedom and advocacy. (Website: <http://ga08.org/>). Pray for everyone attending this meeting, to have renewed insight regarding God's heart for reaching the nations, addressing issues of

importance, but most of all, each reflecting on their personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer focus on India: State 22: Rajasthan

📖 *And so I will show my greatness and my holiness and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord (Ezra 38:23).*

🌐 Rajasthan is an arid state abutting on Pakistan with a population of 53,300,000 and 226 people groups. Religion: Hindu 89%, Muslim 7.5%, Jain 1.8%, Sikh 1.5%, Christian 0.12%. Christians are a tiny minority within minority Dalit and tribal groups. Unreached peoples: The Bhil, Mina, Garasia and others are Hindu/animist and are only now beginning to respond to the gospel. The Meo are Muslim, no Christians are known. Higher caste Hindus, especially the Rajputs, the Jats and Marwari, have shown no response to the gospel. Jaipur, the capital, with two million people has around 10,000 Christians, many being from south India and many rather nominal.

🙏 *Lord God Almighty, please show your greatness and your holiness and make yourself known in the sight of the unreached peoples of Rajasthan, until they know that You are the Lord! We call out for the Dalit and tribal groups, for the Bhil, Mina, Garasia and others. Save the Meo, the higher caste Hindus, especially the Rajputs, Jats and Marwari who show no response to Your love. Give them a heart of flesh, open their understanding and pour out salvation on them. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Sunday 26 October 2008

Memorise

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart' (Jer.29:11-13).

Prayer focus on Bible translation (cont from 19 Oct.)

Step 4: Testing: As soon as certain portions of the text are completed, a limited number of copies are printed and tested for readability and for linguistic and cultural suitability among native speakers with a broad range of educational and social backgrounds, as well as experience of Biblical text. (Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=Bible_Translation_Process). Give thanks to God for every translation process that has already reached this step. Pray for the teams who have diligently worked on these translations to have a time of rest and to be refreshed. Also pray that further excellence can be added to the work as comments of native speakers are received, that all will be taken into consideration to glorify God. Ask for this step of the process not to linger too long.

Prayer focus on India: State 23: Sikkim

📖 *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him (God the Lord), be the glory forever! (Rom.11:36).*

🌐 Sikkim is the Himalayan state between Nepal and Bhutan, with a population of 510,000. Religion: Hindu 67%, Buddhist 27%, Christian 5%, Muslim 0.9%. Despite past limitations and times of persecution, Christians have grown among the Lepcha and Nepalis. Since 1994 Sikkim has had fewer restrictions on religious freedom than ever before. New vision for the evangelisation of Sikkim in the northern part of Sikkim, which is largely Buddhist, is resulting in increased outreach and the training of new workers. There is a desperate need for outreach to the neighbouring, but closed, Bhutan and Tibet. The Lepcha and Bhotia are the indigenous peoples of Sikkim and are largely Buddhist. The Lepcha continue to be responsive to the gospel and the *JESUS Film* was released in Lepcha in 1999.

🙏 *God our Lord, from you, through you and to you are all things. Thank you for the fewer restrictions on religious freedom in Sikkim. Glory to You for stirring up the church to reach out with the gospel. Please send forth strong workers into neighbouring Bhutan and Tibet and soften the hearts of the Lepcha and Bhotia. Cause thousands to see the *JESUS Film* and to be convinced of the truth of everlasting life. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Monday 27 October 2008

Salvation focus: Sellers of newspapers

May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you (Ps.33:22). There are thousands of young children and also older people selling newspapers everyday and everywhere in our country, also on Sundays. They do not earn much and often battle to survive. Pray for their salvation, that they will taste the joy of salvation and the peace of God. Pray that God will truly become a hope and a future to them, so that they, through their words and deeds, will become God's evangelists alongside our roads. Nothing is impossible for God!

Prayer focus on India: State 24: Tamil Nadu

📖 *Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession (Ps.2:8).*

🌐 Tamil Nadu is India's most south-easterly state and close to Sri Lanka with a population of 65,300,000 and more than 400 people groups. Religion: Hindu 88.6%, Christian 5.7%, Muslim 5.5%, other 0.2%. Christians have significantly grown in numbers over the past 20 years. Yet, continued ethnic communalism and caste identity hinder Christian maturity and unity. The less evangelised: Few of the major people groups have more than a few hundred known Believers — especially the Brahmin, Viswakarma, Ahir and Kaikolan. The Tamil-speaking Muslims, the Labbai, have a handful of Christians and only a few Christian workers. The tribals: There are only 300 Christians among the Tamil-speaking Malayali. Of the 3,311 pin code areas, 57% has no resident Christian workers.

🙏 *Father God, we intercede with Your Son for the nation of India and the peoples of Tamil Nadu. We ask for the maturity of the church; set her on fire for Your purpose, set her praying and fasting. Release a harvest among the Brahmin, Viswakarma, Ahir and Kaikolan. Open the eyes of the Labbai and the tribal groups. Send forth workers to reside in the 3,311 pin code areas and give them favour to share the gospel and lead many to follow Jesus Christ. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Tuesday 28 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 25: Tripura

📖 *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt.6:21-21).*

🌐 Tripura is almost an enclave within eastern Bangladesh with a population of 3,590,000. Religion: Hindu 85.3% — (including Tripuri animists) regarded as 'Hindu' - Muslim 7.1% (Bengali), Buddhist 4.6% (Chakma), Christian 3% (tribal peoples). The indigenous peoples are now a minority in their own state because of Bengali immigration the past 40 years. Christians have been persecuted both by animists and by extremist Hindu groups. The less evangelised will remain so without a multiplication of workers from within and outside Tripura. The Bengali majority of two million is unresponsive due to the tribal peoples turning to Christ. The Buddhist Chakma is slowly responding to the gospel. The Tripura has become more open. Most are animists, but coercion and bribery have been used to convert some of them to Hinduism.

🙏 *Worthy God, we lift up the people of Tripura to You in prayer. Please send forth Your word to reach the Bengali, the Buddhist Chakma and the remaining tribal peoples. Soften their hearts, show them that they are Your treasured possession. Teach them to store up treasures in heaven and set their hearts on You. Strengthen the church to become bold and strong, to minister with power and for signs and miracles to follow their ministry so that many will respond and follow Jesus Christ. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and glorify Your name night and day.*

Wednesday 29 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 26 and 27: Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal

📖 *'... and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations and I will fill this temple with glory ' says the Lord of hosts (Hag.2:7, NKJ).*

🌐 Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal are in India's strategic heartland in the Ganges Valley, with a population of 167,271,000 and 225 people groups. Religion: Hindu 81.7%, Muslim 17.3%, Sikh 0.4%, Christian 0.14%, Jain 0.13%. Uttar Pradesh is the home of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Millions of pilgrims visit Varanasi, the holy city of Hinduism on the Ganges River, but few find the Living Water that only Jesus can give. The Christian church has long been a

stagnant minority community of 230,000. The unreached: The Brahmin, Ahir, Rajput and other castes despise Christianity because of its links with the Dalit (higher castes resent strongly mixing with 'lower' castes). Muslims are a large minority of 29 million. The Garhwalis (1,800,000) are largely unresponsive.

☞ *Jesus Christ, Prince of peace, Desire of the nations, reveal yourself to the millions of pilgrims visiting Varanasi, prosper Your church, stir up the hearts of Believers to fast and pray for breakthroughs for the gospel in this city. Turn the tide of death and bring new life, send forth living water. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and to glorify Your name night and day.*

Thursday 30 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 28: West Bengal

📖 *Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him (Ps.4:3).*

📊 West Bengal borders on Bangladesh with a population of 81,700,000 and 203 people groups. Religion: Hindu 75.1%, Muslim 23.4%, Christian 0.6%. The Bengalis are the largest unreached ethnic group in the world. Christians are few. Kolkata is dedicated to Kali, the Hindu goddess of destruction. It has the lowest urban standard of living in the world with vast slums and a million or more people living on the streets. The least evangelised: All the caste groups and most of the tribes are still effectively without a significant, vital church-planting movement.

☞ *Holy God, we cry out to you for the Hindu and Muslim people of West Bengal. Please let them have opportunities to hear Your voice, to respond to the gospel and live godly lives. Establish Your church among new Believers. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and to glorify Your name night and day.*

Friday 31 October 2008

Prayer focus on India: State 29: The six union territories

📖 *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near (Phil.4:5).*

📊 Specific mention is made here of two of the more unique Union Territories. The other four are similar to the state of which they are enclaves: Chandigarh (capital of Punjab and Haryana 800,000), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Gujarat 170,000), Daman and Diu (Gujarat 123,000) and Pondicherry (Tamil Nadu 990,000). The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprise 350,000 inhabitants on 38 islands in the Bay of Bengal. Over 25% of the population of mainland immigrants and indigenous Nicobari (45,000) are Christian. There are four isolated Negrito peoples that are unreached (only 500 people, but all mission work is forbidden among them). Also the Hindu (64%) and Muslim (8.6%) Bengali, Hindi, Malayali, Telugu and Tamil immigrants, as well as Oraon, Munda and Khama from Bihar need to be reached. Lakshadweep: Twelve coral atolls and 36 islands in the Arabian Sea with 62,000 people. Over 95% of the population is fervently Muslim, the rest are Hindu (4%) and Christian (0.7%) immigrants from the mainland. No long-term ministry to these Malayali-speaking Muslims has ever been permitted or attempted. Indians in other countries number 22 million.

☞ *God you are near to all to answer them when they cry out to You. We pray that the gentleness of Believers will be evident to all who do not know You, drawing them to begin searching out the living God. Send forth your Word, pour out salvation over the six union territories and skip not one. Let everyone who has an ear hear and those who have an eye see that You are near to them. Also call back those who became Believers in other countries to return and take up the role of evangelism among their own people. Raise up a 24-7 prayer watch in this province to intercede for breakthroughs and to glorify Your name night and day.*

Saturday 1 November 2008

Missions focus: Pray for SA missionaries in Thailand

They write: We were encouraged that God is busy building His church in Thailand. It is also the time that many young men enter the priesthood with the aim of finding enlightenment as they are taught in Buddhism teachings. God remains faithful and regularly provides opportunities to share with Thais who are open to listen and consider Biblical truths. Trust with us that many will put their faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour. (Joseph and Edwina Charles, P.O. Box 15, Sisatchanalai 64130, Sukhothai, Thailand. E-mail: jecharles2003@yahoo.com). Give thanks to the Lord for this testimony. Continue to pray for their work, their family and health. Also pray for young men to find Jesus in their search for spirituality.

Prayer focus on the *Persecuted Church*

For the next thirty days we will focus on 30 of the 50 countries where Christians are persecuted. For more information, you can also visit: <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/country-profiles.asp>

1st on World Persecution List: North Korea

Overview: Everyday life remains harsh for millions. For the fifth year in a row, this is the world's most difficult country in which to be a Christian. More were arrested in 2006 than in 2005. Now up to 500,000 Christians are suffering in prison camps, many are tortured and some face death. Some take enormous risks to flee to China. If successful, they may be returned by China to face prison camps and worse in their own country.

Prayer: Pray that Christians living in North Korea would stand firm during this relentless persecution. Ask God to reveal Himself in miraculous ways to Kim Jong-il and the North Korean government. Pray that those who have been arrested, tortured and put in labour camps will know God's presence, His love, peace and intervention.

Sunday 2 November 2008

Memorise

I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart (Jer.24:7).

Bible translation focus (cont. from 26 Oct.)

Step 5: Publication: After field testing and revision, the text undergoes careful proofreading and editing to prepare it for typesetting, printing and mass distribution.

(Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=Bible_Translation_Process). After such a long time of translation, this is the final challenge. Pray for teams to remain focused and diligent in completing the task. Pray that each and every mistake and correction will be seen and tended to. Ask for God's presence to guard the proofreading, editing, typesetting, printing and effective distribution of each and every Bible completed in each language. Please pray that not one Bible will go to waste or be destroyed, but accomplish the purposes of God in the people He prepared it for.

2nd on World Persecution List: Saudi Arabia

Overview: Under the kingdom's strict interpretation of Islamic law, 'apostasy' (leaving Islam) is punishable by death. Public non-Muslim worship is prohibited. Nearly all the Christians who live in Saudi Arabia are expatriate workers. In 2006 four East African Christians were arrested when meeting for worship. Accused of 'preaching to Muslims, planting churches and gathering ladies and gentlemen together for prayer', they were held for over a month in poor conditions and then deported.

Prayer: Pray for Saudi Arabian converts to Christianity to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. Praise God that Christian communications – radio, satellite, television and Internet – now make it possible for Muslims to hear the gospel.

Monday 3 November 2008

Salvation focus: Attorneys and advocates

Teach me your way, O Lord and I will walk in your truth, give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name (Ps.86:11).

These people exercise enormous influence in the restoration of righteousness and justice. They are often tempted not to do what is right for the sake of ego, money or prestige. Pray for many advocates and attorneys that do not know the Lord to wholeheartedly come to the Lord and that they will pursue the truth and righteousness above their own desires. Ask that they will love righteousness and truth (**Eph.5:8-9**).

3rd on World Persecution List: Iran

Overview: President Ahmadinejad's regime and the possibility of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons are attracting global attention. Shariah law is implemented and although Christians belong to a recognised religious minority guaranteed religious freedom, they have reported imprisonment, harassment and discrimination because of their faith. Some Muslim converts to Christianity have been arrested and held in custody for several weeks, then forced to pay large sums for bail.

Prayer: Praise God for Hamid Pourmand's release in July 2006, after he had served 22 months in jail, having been falsely accused of keeping his faith secret. Pray for Christian groups targeted last year for spreading their faith among Shiite Muslims. Pray for Muslim-background Believers who face the death penalty for becoming Christians.

Women-2-Pray: In the eye of the storm with God

May my cry come before you, o Lord; give me understanding according to your word (Ps.119:169).

Years ago, one of our student friends got married before all of us. After some time we had a small reunion and shared snippets about our lives. We wanted to know everything about married life and she told us many things. The one thing she told us that I remember best of all was: *God showed me that when my husband comes home, I should be a harbour in the storm for him, rather than a storm in the harbour!*

As women we are often under a lot of pressure and much is expected of us. We are the first ones to rise and often the last ones to retire. Today God is asking you and me the same question: Is your life creating a storm or are you like a haven? You do not need to be married to desire or cultivate this quality in your life. The following thoughts will hopefully inspire you to realise the importance of 'time-out with God' in the life of a woman. Time-out with God causes us to breathe again, to think straight and most importantly, to hear God's voice clearly on the very issues that often drive us to become a storm, even sometimes a destructive tornado! The only safe way to weather the storm, is to find the eye of the storm and in our case, this means time-out with God, entering into His presence.

Change the way you view time:

1. **Quiet time:** It is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Start by setting 30 minutes aside at least once every two days. Have a notebook at hand and just begin to write down the things on your mind. After writing them all down, start praying about them. The more often you can take this time out, the more peace will come to your heart and mind as you pour out your heart to God. I find writing my prayers down helps me contemplate God's opinion and I receive clear guidance on the issues I bring before Him. Something else might work better for you, but at least try it for 2-3 months.
2. **Fasting:** From food if that is how the Holy Spirit directs you. BUT - more than anything though – stop running around! Change your habits, if necessary. Take a deliberate decision to walk and not run, to finish your tea before doing the next thing, in essence, SLOW DOWN! I know we can do three things at once, but try doing one at a time for at least one day a week! Even when we just slow down in our physical actions, more peace comes into our hearts. Doing a little bit of planning of our daily activities will also not hurt.
3. **Bless someone:** It does not need to be an elaborate action. When you pass by your husband, kids, a friend, or a colleague at work, just quickly place your hand on their head or shoulder and say, *Bless you*. Thus you bring them to a standstill for a moment, they think about God, wondering why you did something like that. Except for that, it is a good habit and it makes you an obedient servant of the Lord Jesus! (**Num.6:24-27**). Ask God to show you how you can do acts of kindness without it taking up a lot of time or effort. You can also bless people silently when you pass their offices or pass a school, or you could bless people like your children and friends in prayer, even if they are not close by.
4. **Time-out:** It is not always possible, but see if you can take a day off or set half a day aside at least once in six months just to pray and worship God. Try to arrange this with your husband, family or friends. Go to a place where no one will disturb you and switch off your cell phone. Take your Bible, a notebook and some worship music or your musical instrument. Begin your time with God by writing down the things on your mind or things that bother you. Then go into a time of extended worship, for as long as your heart desires. Now begin to praise the Lord for His goodness and take care to write down what He shows you from your time of worship. Spend the rest of your time in simple extended reading from your Bible and praying for things that come to mind.
5. **Keep it up:** Take care of yourself by taking time-out with God regularly.
6. **Give it up:** Which are the things that wear you down most? Take time today and write them down. Search your Bible for God's promises regarding fear, doubt, strife etc. Now write down these promises next to each of your concerns. Begin to speak the truth of God's Word over your life. Declare, according to the promises of God, the life of God, the

truth of God and the love of God over your challenges and problems. Lay them down at His feet and when you find yourself carrying them again, lay them down again until you are completely freed from these burdens. As new burdens come up, add them to this list. Whatever you do, do not let them remain 'un-prayed' about!

God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate my time, my body, my mind, will and emotions to you. Please help me to slow down, to bless others, to take time out with You and to give up and let go of those things wearing me down. Teach me Your ways which are higher than mine. I desire a deeper relationship with You Lord Jesus, please show me the way. Help me plan my time and give me wisdom on how to spend my energy in a way that will glorify You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Tuesday 4 November 2008

12th on World Persecution List: Somalia

Overview: Plagued by political instability, if not anarchy, there is no constitutional or legal protection of religious freedom in Somalia. Islam is the official religion and social pressure is strong to respect Islamic tradition, especially in some rural areas. At least six Christians were killed for their faith in 2006. Most had Islamic backgrounds and were killed after this was revealed.

Prayer: Pray for a new era of stability and peace in Somalia. Pray for Christians who practise their faith in secret, that they will find fellowship and grow in their faith. Some children of Somali Christian refugees who fled to Kenya have allegedly been kidnapped by Muslim relatives and taken back to Islamic institutions in Somalia for 'rehabilitation'. Please intercede for them.