

But God...

Dear Intercessor

I trust that you enjoyed the first three-monthly edition of the *Jericho Walls* prayer guide. The prayer guide you have in your hand now, is packed with information and articles which I am sure will be a blessing to you and help you to pray with one purpose in mind.

The Lord Jesus and Paul encourage us in the New Testament to persevere in prayer and not become disheartened. The writer of the Hebrews letter writes that we should approach the throne of grace boldly, so that we can be helped *at the right time*. So often people say: We have already been praying for such a long time and there are so few answers. On the one hand, this is so. Yet, if we look at the bigger picture, we see in what a mighty way God is at work all over the world. There are times that we do not see direct answers to prayer in our own lives, but this does not mean that God is not at work elsewhere, in a powerful way.

Prayer focuses for the following three months

We have a prayer focus every month to help in particular, congregations and the growing number of night and day prayer watches to focus on certain matters for extended periods. In this issue we have three very important prayer focuses:

- **September – Ramadan:** The Muslims' month of fasting.
- **October – India:** A country with 1.3 billion people - a country in which the Lord is powerfully at work and literally tens of thousands of people are converted weekly.
- **November – the Persecuted Church:** Almost 200 million Christians are not able to freely practise their faith in countries where there is legislation to this effect and hatred toward Christians.

There are articles on each prayer focus in this prayer guide. Let us pray in earnest for these matters. It impacts millions of people.

World-wide revival

I would very much like to encourage you to read Floyd McClung's article on revival. It is indeed enlightening. Many people have certain expectations and ideas of what revival should look like. Personally, I can identify with what Floyd McClung writes. Yes, it is so that there is also the traditional way of looking at revivals, like what happened in the revivals in 1857 in the USA and 1860 in South Africa and the 1904 revival in Wales, to mention but three. And we must still continually and persistently pray for revivals like these. But we tend to forget what the Lord is already doing. Let us thank the Lord for His great deeds that are visible in the world.

Children and prisons

We see nowadays how the Lord is raising up the children in South Africa to start praying. Especially in squatter camps, townships and among those who are often seen as 'less privileged' the Lord is at work through His Spirit, to raise up children (6-13 years) to pray. It is quite exceptional to see what the Lord is doing among children and not only in South Africa, but also world-wide. It is nothing but a new and exceptional movement of the Holy Spirit, particularly over the last 7-10 years.

Another aspect of prayer that I am very excited about, is to see how the Lord God is busy through His Spirit, to establish 24/7 prayer watches in prisons. During the *10 Days* of prayer leading up to the *Global Day of Prayer* on 11 May this year, there was one prison in Johannesburg where 96 prayer watches were active and prayed, on average, 15-16 hours per day during the *10 Days*. In one prison in Pretoria there were 6 such prayer watches that prayed through the *10 Days*. In another prison in the Cape there were three prayer watches who were active during the *10 Days*. These were not the wardens, but the prisoners themselves who prayed. People are busy being converted in prisons and the lives of many are changing radically as they start growing spiritually and become disciples of the Lord Jesus.

A word on the power of God

Much is said about the power of God versus the power of man. Christians especially then point the finger at the church and 'accuse' the church of being powerless. Let's leave the church out of this for a moment. May I ask: Is the power of God present and visible in *your* life? This is the more important question. God's power comes through Jesus' words; when we believe them and live our lives by following His commands accordingly. It comes when people fear God more than people. The power of God comes when I confess my own sins and stop unceasingly pointing out all the sins of others. The power of God comes when I learn to place my own life under the control of the Holy Spirit and obey Him strictly and radically. The power of God becomes visible firstly when someone lives in brokenness before God. The power of God is there where there is conviction of sin that leads to the person being cleansed of that sin which consequently leads to a holy life. There is no power of God without a holy life.

Let us first of all seek God Himself. When we seek God Himself, His power is a 'fringe benefit' of our life in Him. However, there is too much focus on these fringe benefits of God's power. There is no power without God. God Himself is the power. Remember: the power is never *our* power. It is God's power working through us. Too many people think the power is in them or from within themselves, that they possess power. No, the power of God is solely the power of God when God works through us Himself. And for God to work through us, requires that we die to ourselves, our will, opinions and emotions; that we will get out of the way so that God can work through us, unhindered.

Today people make many assumptions when they talk about revival and the power of God, but too often there are no tears, no conviction of sin, no brokenness or a holy life and the fear of God. Too often we see puffed up, pretentious people, who are 'strong' in themselves, know-alls, full of self-confidence (self-confidence which is in fact confidence in themselves). To have a good time in church, to praise and worship only to satisfy the flesh while it leaves us unchanged and discontented when we go home, has little to do with the power of God.

One of the biggest problems is that we think God is there only for us, that in fact, everything is actually all about us. No, it is all about God. It is not about my healing, my prosperity, my success and my needs, but about Jesus and Jesus alone and how He is glorified when I am granted healing, prosperity and success and my prayers are answered. We are so inclined to twist and distort life in such a way that everything revolves around us in the end. Spiritually we do the same. It is so easy to get to the point where we are the centre of the 'universe' and not God. We start viewing matters and reasoning about them from our own (human) perspective and not from God's perspective.

I read about the revival in Korea. The missionary who attended the gathering the evening that the revival broke out said years later, 'May God give that I will never again be present when revival breaks out. It is a terrible experience.' The holiness of God is overpowering when it comes upon one. We easily pray for revival and for power from God. But what will happen when it comes? Are our lives in such a condition that God can come to you and to me without His judgment destroying us because of the sin that is in us?

I want to encourage every Christian in this country to get the book by *Roy Hession, The Calvary Road* and to prayerfully read through it. The person who reads it, listens and applies it to his life, will see something of the power of God break through in his or her life. May God Himself teach and lead you through the Holy Spirit as you pray the next three months.

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network

The Global Prayer Alert

The *Global Prayer Alert* is a weekly e-mail prayer guide enabling individual intercessors, congregations, prayer groups and 24-hour prayer watches to pray in an informed manner on a regular basis. This prayer guide is an initiative of *Jericho Walls International* and is made possible by your faithful donations. The *Global Prayer Alert* focuses on personal, citywide, nationwide and international prayer issues of the week. To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in English, please send an e-mail to pray_7days-subscribe@associate.com. To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in Afrikaans, please send

an e-mail to bid_7dae-subscribe@associate.com. For more information, please feel free to contact us at 021 919 7988.

What, where and when

National

12-13 September: Angus Buchan at Newlands

Families are invited to humble themselves and come to pray at the Newlands cricket stadium on 12-13 September 2008. Bookings can be made at Computicket. For more information: Sias le Roux (Shofar), cell: 083 915 8000, e-mail: angusnewlands@pro-events.co.za.

29 September-3 October 2008: Watchman's School of Prayer

The 7th *Watchman's School of Prayer* takes the form of a prayer retreat this year. The focus will be on different forms of prayer e.g. the *Harp & Bowl* intercessory worship model, Word watches, etc. as a means to connect with God night and day. There will be an opportunity to be intimate with God Himself and teaching on experiencing a deeper prayer life with God. We will look at creative ways of corporate and individual prayer and how to start and sustain 24/7 Prayer in your church or community. New practical sessions on how to pray for felt needs, the sick and your community are also included this year. There is accommodation for 120 people only, at R850 per person. Please register as soon as possible with Lizette at tel.: 021 919 7988 or e-mail: watch@jwipn.com.

3-25 October 2008: The Leadership Summit

Willow Creek South Africa again presents *The Leadership Summit* this year in October. Lay leaders, small group leaders, pastors and young people who want to make a difference in their communities are invited to register for these training opportunities. Register your team of leaders today to be refreshed, inspired and encouraged. For more information on locations and dates for regional meetings, contact *Willow Creek SA* at tel.: 012 665 4688, fax: 012 665 2844, website: <http://www.willowcreeksa.co.za/conf-national.html> or e-mail: admin@willowcreeksa.co.za.

International

International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem

Christians also observe the *International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem* on the first Sunday in October with one purpose: sustained, fervent, informed global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people. They trust God this year for 175 participating nations, over 300 million participating Believers etc. (For more information, visit: <http://ew.us.churchinsight.com/group/group.aspx?id=1000002767>).

30 October - 4 November: The Global Mission Commission Consultation

The consultation will focus primarily on missiological issues such as Contextualisation, Mission and Spirituality and Mission in the Context of conflict, violence, persecution and suffering. Their *Global Missiology Task Force* has working teams researching and writing on these issues, preparing presentations for the event and future publications. Based on the reflection of these themes, the last day will be dedicated to discussions of the future of world-wide mission. Pray that the Lord may speak to them as they reflect on the missiological themes and for His kingdom to really benefit from this consultation. (Website: www.wordevangelical.org, or contact Bertil Ekström, at e-mail: bekstrom@wordevangelical.org or Kees van der Wilden, at e-mail: kees@wordevangelical.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

Bulembu outreach prayer initiative

Tuks Missions felt God was calling them to be courageous and do something bigger than themselves, specifically during their Missions Week this year. They planned to take 1,000 students on an outreach to Bulembu in Swaziland. For 10 days they helped in the schools, in the clinic, they fixed houses and planted vegetable gardens to sustain the growing orphan community in this mission-station town. As part of their outreach they had two 12-hour sessions of continual prayer for revival and for the nations, to show students the importance and power of prayer. (Nadine van der Wat, cell:

082 404 6947. E-mail: missnadine@tuks.co.za).

City Wide Watch

The *City Wide Watch* (also a *Jericho Walls* prayer initiative), was established in April this year in Cape Town in an effort to link 1,000 local churches in a continuous cycle of 24/7 prayer and worship in the city. The focus is to mobilise 1,000 churches over the next three years to pray 24 hours per day for revival and renewal of the church, salvation of the unsaved and the challenges the city faces like broken families, domestic violence, drug abuse among the youth (tik, etc.) and homosexuality. They are very excited as the church begins to answer the call to take its place on the wall and stand in the gap for God's kingdom to come on the earth as it is in heaven. (Dave Donald, tel.: 021 557 1772, or e-mail: citywatch@jwipn.com).

China needs prayer

China had its most devastating earthquake in generations in May this year. About ten million people in the Sichuan province have been directly affected by the 7.9 quake that flattened entire villages. Losses have been severe and some towns basically have no houses left, they have all been razed to the ground. Nearly 70,000 people are known to have been killed, nearly 400,000 were injured and almost 20,000 were listed as missing. Pray that the Chinese authorities respond effectively in Sichuan, one of the country's poorest provinces. Pray for the church; that it will provide a healing touch and Christian witness at this time. (*Ethnos Asia Ministries*, website: www.ethnosministries.org and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Sichuan_earthquake or e-mail: info@ethnosministries.org).

What's online?

Hollywood Prayer Network

Website: <http://www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org>

The new *HPN KIDS Prayer Calendar* is growing monthly and there are many kids who are starting to pray for professional kids in Hollywood. Visit this website if you want to find out more about the *Hollywood Prayer Network* and how to pray for young people.

Interactive Arabic language tool

Website: http://www.pacificarabic.com/?vocab_applet.html

Are you learning Modern Standard Arabic? Would you like a free tool to help you practise vocabulary from the widely popular Alif Baa series? ***Warning* The maintainers of the website are NOT Believers, so if you contact them, please do not share any missionary information.**

World Bible translators

Website: http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=downloads_main

You can download Bibles in PDF format in different languages e.g.; Arabic, Gujurati, Tamil, the English version for the deaf etc.

24/7 Prayer watch focus: September-December 2008

The prayer focuses on this page are to encourage those involved in a 24/7 house of prayer to focus on the same things at the same time in prayer. These are only guidelines and watch coordinators may add their own focuses as the Holy Spirit leads them. Will you not consider putting up these prayer pointers in creative ways in your prayer room or use them in your quiet time? Also inform others and encourage them to pray for these issues during each of the monthly focuses. More information on these issues is available free of charge from our website at: www.jwipn.com. Also remember to subscribe to our weekly prayer alert at cape@jwipn.com which covers more current issues in prayer on a weekly basis.

September: Ramadan

Every year Muslims keep a time of fasting for 30 days. (See article). This year *Ramadan* will take place from 1-30 September. The church of the Lord Jesus world-wide will unite to pray for Muslims to understand the love of God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. You will see that we have put a specific prayer pointer focusing on a specific group

of Muslims in different countries on each of the days in September. Also, tenfold prayer journeys will take place when Believers will visit countries in the Middle East and Central Asia to go and pray there.

October: India

India is a country with 1.3 billion people, 21% of the total world population. This means 28 times more people live in India than in South Africa. The three main religions in India are Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. For the whole of October we will focus on India. Over the past 15 years the number of Christians in India has doubled. Thus, during the past 15 years just as many Christians were added to the church as in the preceding 200 years. Particularly under the Dalit (270 million) who are regarded as the 'untouchables/outcasts', there are at present literally thousands of people who are daily converted and churches are planted. Even people from the very high castes in India are being converted in growing numbers. The need for workers and funds in India is astronomical. This opportunity to bring the gospel to the Dalit most probably counts among the 10 greatest opportunities in history to bring the gospel to a specific group of people.

November: Persecuted Church

Every year at least 160,000 Christians are killed because of their faith in Christ Jesus. But on the positive side, it is percentage-wise in terms of the world population, the least persecution the church has experienced the past couple of centuries. It is our responsibility as fellow Believers to pray for our brothers and sisters facing persecution. Let us pray for their safety, for perseverance in faith, boldness to witness, for legislation making it possible for Christian families to express their faith in daily practice and unhindered. Let us also pray for the hundreds of thousands of families who lost a father, a mother or a child the past decade. There is much disruption, confusion, pain, fear and unanswered questions. Let us cry with those who cry, have compassion with those who suffer and at the very least pray that God will give them strength and protect them.

December: Families

Families remain the fundamental building bricks of any community and country. When the family structure crumbles, society breaks up, security disappears from homes, authoritative structures fade away, children become rebellious and run wild. The first thing that happens, among other things, is that fathers disappear from home and this usually has an exceptionally destructive effect on households. It can lead to rebellion, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, lawlessness and contempt of authority, as well as licentiousness and immorality. This is where we find ourselves at present in our country. May God help us in all of this. December is the month in which families spend more time together. Pray for the restoration of relationships, reconciliation and the healing of much pain experienced in many family relationships.

The Month of Ramadan: The fifth Pillar of Islam

From 1-30 September 2008 we are praying for the estimated 1.7 billion Muslims in the world, for God's grace and that the Holy Spirit will reveal Jesus Christ, God's Son to them. It is significant to see how the Lord is calling Christians worldwide to pray for Muslims. Let us not stop praying. Wonderful things are happening and large numbers of Muslims continue to place their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

You can follow the prayer pointers in this prayer guide over this period of time. Consider inviting others to pray with you, to pray for the salvation of Muslims at your weekly prayer meeting or Bible study during September. It is also a wonderful opportunity to teach children to pray for those who do not know God. The Children's prayer booklet for Ramadan is now available from: <http://www.30-days.net>.

Ramadan stretches over a period of 30 days during which Muslims do not eat anything during the daylight hours. This is the fifth pillar of Islam and compulsory for Muslims. It is part of what they need to do to gain enough 'good works' to go to heaven. Hundreds of millions of Muslims will fast during *Ramadan*. Each Muslim will try to visit Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

As Christians we believe the way to reconciliation with God and then also the way to heaven, is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus our Saviour on the cross. Good works will not gain us eternal life. Yet, we do good works from a heart filled with

thanksgiving and to demonstrate God's love for all people.

Let us then pray during these 30 days for Muslims:

1. That God will reveal His Son Jesus Christ and His all-sufficiency to them.
2. For an understanding of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love in the hearts of Muslims.
3. For God's tender mercies are on all His works, also on all people that He created (**Ps.145:9; Ps.103:22; Ps.103:8; Ps.57:3; Ps.89:14**).
4. Let us not pray in judgment or with fear - but from hearts filled with love and compassion.
5. Let us pray with hope in God to save and reconcile Muslim people to Him through Jesus Christ.
6. Let us pray that God will bless the Muslims and heal and restore them so that they will enter into a personal relationship with Him.
7. Pray that they will see the Living God as their Father. The prevailing spirit in Islam is a spirit of 'fatherlessness'. Muslims have 99 names for Allah, but he is never seen as a god of love, or a father.

Prayer focus on missionaries

During the month of September we will, together with the prayer focus for the salvation of Muslim people, pray for the millions of missionaries working abroad. One can only imagine the loneliness they often experience, being far away from home and often suffering the scorn of non-Christians. Our prayer is that God will continuously stir in us the desire to also carry in prayer the workers in the harvest, that they will experience His comfort and also the joy of others joining them and not to fear the impact of economic changes in the world on their work.

DAY TO DAY PRAYER GUIDE: SEPTEMBER 2008

Monday 1 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for couples to grow in their trust of each other, praying for and encouraging each other in the face of difficulties in a foreign country.

Salvation focus: Policemen and women

He (God) has shown you what is good: to do justly (Micah 6:8).

The police are under much pressure in our country. There are many reports of corruption within their midst. Pray for the salvation of policemen and women, that their hearts are right with God, and they will understand and do their work in righteousness and with integrity. Only salvation and repentance will change the hearts of people to do the right things.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 1: Muslim women's empty dreams

In Tajikistan the estimated average annual income is around 250 Euros per person. There are only seven million people in Tajikistan, with one million working in Russia. Many men marry more than one wife. Women and children are in the majority. In the villages the women live amid tensions between old traditions, atheism and a new wave of radical Islam. Tajikistan Believers are few.

- Pray for increasingly healthy and Biblically oriented families among the followers of Jesus in this nation.
- Pray for the many Tajik men in surrounding countries to be reached with the gospel.

Tuesday 2 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for unmarried missionaries to grow in their relationship with Jesus, not to feel lonely and not to become involved in any relationships outside of God's will. Ask for their emotional well-being as they continue their work.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 2: Saudi Arabian tribes: The Shahrani

The Shahrani tribe has an estimated 250,000 members and is one of the largest in Arabia. Khamis Mushayt is the 8th largest city in Saudi Arabia with a population of about 630,000. There are very few followers of Jesus, if any at all, in this tribe at present.

- Pray for opportunities for the Shahrani people to hear the gospel through their travels abroad, by means of the radio, Internet and possibly satellite broadcasts.
- The vast majority of this tribe is basically cut off from any significant access to the gospel. It is illegal to proclaim the gospel in Saudi Arabia. Many Christian Internet sites are blocked and very few followers of Jesus ever travel to or live in Khamis Mushayt and the surrounding area.

Wednesday 3 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionary children to adapt in foreign schools, to make friends with locals and win the trust of their teachers. Ask for their emotional transition and embrace their living conditions in a foreign country.

Basic needs focus: Higher food prices

Escalating food prices is a world-wide problem also felt in South Africa. Many respond with threats of strikes. Several people have already died during food price riots elsewhere on the continent. The agricultural landscape has changed across the globe and this has an extensive influence on the availability of food. Rice producers such as Vietnam and India have banned exports in an effort to depress domestic prices. (Website: http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss_&fArticleId=4352832). Please cry out to the Lord about this situation, that people will not lay the blame on anyone, but realise the core of the problem is beyond any government's control. Ask that people will start crying out to God for mercy and for a breakthrough.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 3: The Bakhtiari people of Iran

The Bakhtiari people number between 750,000 – 1,000,000 and live in south-western Iran. The Bakhtiari are divided into tribes, sub-tribes and clans. About half of the people retain their traditional lifestyle of shepherding for the men and carpet-weaving and homemaking for the women. The rest are settled and involved in agriculture and a variety of commercial activities. There are about 350,000 monolingual Bakhtiari speakers who are mostly Muslim. It is encouraging to know that over the last 30 years the number of Believers in Iran grew from less than 300 to between 800, 000 and 1 million.

- Pray for God to soften the hearts of the Bakhtiari people towards the followers of Jesus so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- Pray for intercessors to be raised up for the Bakhtiari people.
- Pray for the development of suitable ministry materials and means in the Bakhtiari language including: Scripture translations, radio broadcasts and the *JESUS Film*.

Thursday 4 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionaries in foreign countries, that God will supernaturally favour them to learn, understand, speak and write the languages of their area. Ask that they will be successful in their efforts to learn even more than one language.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 4: Spain – Historical Islam in 21st century circumstances

Much of Spain was under Islamic rule for almost seven hundred years. Spain has around 800,000 Muslims, most of whom are fairly recent Moroccan immigrants. One of the largest mosques in Europe, which was built with financial help from Saudi Arabia, is located in Madrid. Although the Muslim North Africans have now become a significant minority in Spain, few Spanish Christians are actively seeking to proclaim Christ to them.

- Pray for greater wisdom, zeal and mobilisation of Spanish Christians for ministry among Muslims.

- Pray for the distribution of gospel literature and DVDs in areas where there are Muslims.
- Pray for the radio and TV programmes being produced in Spain for North Africa.

DID YOU KNOW: About Muslim women's clothing: Muslim societies have traditionally encouraged their women to be well covered with clothes, often completely from top to toe. Originally there were practical and physical reasons for such clothing in a desert environment. Yet now from an Islamic perspective, the main reason for such clothing is to limit sexual temptation among men. The relative moral weakness of men in the sexual domain is also cited as a reason for women being isolated at home and the need to accompany them in public.

Islam is growing in Europe

Recent intelligence reports include the following facts:

1. **FRANCE:** In 1945 there were 100,000 Muslims in France. Today it is officially claimed to be 6 million (60 x increase), 10% of the population. There are 1,000 mosques in France.
2. **HOLLAND:** Muslims are officially 15% of the population.
3. **BELGIUM:** 10% of the population is Muslim. Half of all babies born in Belgium are now Muslims.
4. **GERMANY:** 2 million Muslims (Berlin has the fourth largest Turkish population in the world).
5. **BRITAIN:** 2 million (from 82,000 – 30 years ago – an increase of 25 times) 1,000 Mosques in Britain.
6. **SWEDEN:** 400,000 Muslims, with a massive increase in anti-Semitic attacks on the Jewish population in Sweden.
7. **DENMARK:** 200,000 Muslim immigrants are trying to dictate their anti-Israel, anti-American policies to the 5 million Danes. Although Muslims are only 4% of the population, they consume over 40% of the social welfare expenditure.
8. **ITALY:** 1 million Muslims.
9. **The Saudi Arabian government** has financed the building of 1,500 mosques, 210 Islamic centres, 202 colleges and 2,000 madressas (Islamic Quaranic schools) in non-Muslim countries – mostly in Europe. And while the average European woman has 1.5 children, the average Muslim woman in Europe has 6 to 8 children. (Website: <http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/reforislam.htm>).
10. **Cry out** to the Lord for the salvation of Muslims in every country of the world.

Friday 5 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionaries arriving in foreign countries, that they will be able to adapt to the difference in eating patterns and also to the different kinds of food. Ask for their bodies to remain strong and even become stronger despite the change in diet.

Evangelism focus: *Trans World Radio (TWR)*

West African radio producers are enthusiastically learning how to present the gospel to oral communicators with help from *TWR*. Just as Jesus told parables and stories to His followers, biblical storytelling on the radio crosses communication barriers and touches the hearts of listeners. Twenty-one stories are already being prepared by two *OneStory Programme Producers* in the Fulfulde and Kanuri languages. (Spoken by people in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Libya and Sudan). (*Trans World Radio-SA*. Tel.:011 974 2886, fax: 011 974 9960, cell: 083 387 3037. Website: www.twr.org.za or e-mail: ddupreez@twr.org.za. Listen to *TWR* on DSTV audio bouquet channel 55). Give thanks to the Lord for blessing the work of *TWR*. Pray for producers who are undergoing an extensive one-year training course before beginning work on programmes that will bring wisdom and insight to their own people.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 5: The Challenge: Winning the Bugis of Indonesia

Indonesia consists of 17,508 islands, with an estimated population of 234,694,000. It has the largest Muslim population in the world: 86.1% Muslim, Christian 8.7%, Hindu 1.8%, other 3.4%. The Bugis have a reputation for being fanatical Muslims with a history of violent persecution of the Christian minorities. They are also involved in animistic spiritual practices such as seeking power from spirits of the dead etc.

- Pray for at least 1,000 Bugis to be won for the Lord this year.
- Pray that the barriers of Islam and occult practices among the Bugis will be overcome.

- Pray for more Indonesian workers who demonstrate great sacrificial faith to build God's kingdom. May financial matters not become an obstacle to their ministries.

Saturday 6 September 2008

Youth focus: *Pneumatix*

Pray for *Pneumatix* as we visit more than 24 different towns in South Africa, ministering to schools and the community. Our main focus is to bring hope and transformation to the youth of South Africa in a unique way. Pray for new student applications for 2009 & tour bookings. Also pray for protection over our campus, as we experienced a serious attack in this regard during 2007/08. Pray for our partners in these economic times, that God will continue to bless them abundantly. (*Pneumatix*, tel.: 021 858 1877 (ext. 2), fax: 021 858 1268, cell: 082 374 2690).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 6: Surviving in Turkmenistan, Central Asia

Turkmenistan is the fifth largest supplier of natural gas world-wide, yet inequality is rampant and most Turkmen struggle to survive. Beginning in 1998, almost all missionaries were expelled by the Turkmen government. House group meetings of any kind are prohibited and people found attending secret religious meetings risk losing their home and their job. Nevertheless the church does continue to grow slowly. The existing New Testament in the Turkmen language needs revision to correct some mistakes and make it more contemporary. The Old Testament translation is still in progress.

- Pray for the revision of the New Testament and the completion of the Old Testament in the Turkmen language.
- Pray for the new president, Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov, who continues in the ways of his predecessor, that God will touch his heart and change his life.

Sunday 7 September 2008

Memorise

We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor.5:7-8).

Prayer focus on Bible translation

Of the world's 7,148 languages, at least 2,000 still have a need for New Testament translation work and over 2,000 need to be surveyed to ascertain their need. The provision of God's Word in the mother tongue of each people of the world is fundamental to world evangelisation. Many agencies are committed to various aspects of making the Scriptures available to all. Most of these are members of the Forum of Bible Agencies, formed in 1992 to link together the efforts of Bible translation and distribution agencies. This Forum has become increasingly important and strategic in the past eight years. (Website: www.operationworld.org). Give thanks to the Lord for this Forum which now makes it possible to accelerate the number of Bible translations worked on and finished. Please pray for every person working on Bible translation, that God will inspire them through His Holy Spirit to continue and finish their task.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 7: Challenges for new Believers

New Believers from Muslim backgrounds have many questions, but in addition they also suffer intense psychological pressure that may include fear (of Allah, that he will punish them if they change, of family and relatives, of community, of death). They struggle emotionally, dealing with difficult choices especially when the laws are against them or when other Believers do not trust those coming to faith. Some experience rejection from their community or even the Body of Christ or both, leading to shame.

- Pray for cultural sensitivity, awareness and respect among Believers as they interact with new Believers from a Muslim background.
- Pray for whole families to be converted to Christ, especially those who hold influential positions, so that many more will be touched through their testimony.

Monday 8 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionaries to be able to adapt to the huge cultural barriers and cultural differences in the countries God called them to. Ask for favour for them with local people and that they will be able to learn practical wisdom in their everyday life among those God placed them.

Salvation focus: Commentators and DJ's

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight (Ps.19:14). Radio commentators and DJ's reach and influence large numbers of people. Pray for their salvation, so their words will honour God, so their thoughts will not lead people astray or influence them negatively. Ask that they will stop making suggestive jokes and not defile their listeners in this way. Ask that they will act with great sensitivity and refrain from deceptive reports. Also that they will not push their own ideas, and especially ideas not honouring God.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 8: Ghana: Peaceful despite religious and economic division

Islamic countries have invested a great deal of money in bringing Islam to the various ethnic groups. A stronghold of Islam in Ghana is the city of Wa in the north-west of the country. Its residents are mostly Muslim merchants. Some of the Believers in Wa did see a few people come to Jesus during the past year. In the last decade the Christians from the southern part of Ghana planted more than 1,400 churches in the northern parts of Ghana.

- Pray for the Ghanaians who are seeking to make Christ known to Muslims.
- Pray for the people of Wa to become open to the gospel and new Believers to have courage and to grow in their faith so others may be reached.

Tuesday 9 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionaries in foreign countries to have opportunities to befriend their neighbours, people in the market place etc. Ask that God will grant them the trust of those they want to minister Christ to, and to remain patient and expectant for opportunities to share the gospel.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 9: Muslims in Hong Kong

Hong Kong (7 million people), often called the 'Pearl of Orient', is composed of Hong Kong Island and some associated areas on the coast of China. Hong Kong's Muslim population includes 90,000 native Hong Kong residents (Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Malaysian, etc.) and about 110,000 Indonesian migrant labourers. Local Chinese Believers have often befriended the Indonesians and several new congregations of Believers have begun.

- Give thanks to God for every person who has come to Christ in Hong Kong.
- Pray that Chinese Believers in Hong Kong will make even more friends for Christ among Muslims. Ask that more Chinese Believers will be willing to learn Indonesian languages in order to proclaim Christ.
- Pray that many Christians who have hired Muslims to work in their homes will treat them fairly and proclaim Christ through their daily life.

<p>DID YOU KNOW: Muslims believe in ... Allah, for them the creator of all things, angels and evil spirits, prophets (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, Jesus and Mohammed), that Mohammed was the last and greatest of the prophets. Also in the holy books (the Torah, Zabur (Psalms), Injil (gospel) and the Qur'an), the Day of Judgement for all people and that the Bible has been corrupted and modified by Jews and Christians to suit their beliefs.</p>
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Wednesday 10 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for missionaries working abroad as economic changes influence the exchange rate in which they receive their support. Ask for their local congregation, friends and supporters to take note of these changes and adjust their monthly support likewise.

Evangelism focus: *Every Home for Christ South Africa (EHCSA)*

EHCSA has a goal to reach every home in the country by the year 2020. This will be done by forming strategic alliances with those committed to the Great Commission (**Eph.4:16**). Evangelism will take place by means of outreach teams that have been trained to systematically go from home to home, leaving the gospel message in literature form at every household. Please pray for congregations, outreach teams and individuals to participate in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in South Africa. (EHCSA, P.O. Box 7256, Centurion, 0046. Tel.: 012 663 4587, fax: 012 663 4589. Website: www.ehcsa.co.za or e-mail: info@ehcsa.co.za).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 10: Muslims in ancient Beijing

Beijing (regarded as the capital for over 850 years), is the capital of the People Republic of China, and was founded more than 3,000 years ago. Slightly over 11,000 Hui live in the Niuje Street area of central Beijing in an area of 1.5km² around the famous Niuje Mosque, the biggest and oldest mosque in Beijing. There is a wide range of devotion to Islam among the Hui. There is very little, if any Christian witness to the Hui Muslims in general. There are no known Believers among the Muslim Hui in Beijing.

- Ask God to open doors for Chinese Christians to proclaim Christ to Muslims.
- Pray for Muslim Hui people in the Beijing area to begin to seek the true God.
- Pray that Chinese Believers will be successful in reaching the Muslim population in their midst.

DID YOU KNOW: Practising Muslims all over the world pray memorised ritual prayers toward the city of Mecca five times per day. This is done at appointed hours which constantly change by a few minutes each day depending on the calendar. Here are the prayer times for Beijing today: 5:50, 12:11, 4:41, 18:32 and 20:02. Some people will pray an optional sixth time at 4:09.

Thursday 11 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that supporters from missionaries' local congregations or ministries will try to send someone to visit missionaries at their place of ministry at least once a year. Ask for these supporters to really be a blessing to the missionaries and to encourage them to continue with their work despite difficulties.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 11: The Ismailis and their Leader

Prince Karim Aga Khan IV traces his ancestry back to the Prophet Muhammed through the line of Ali and Fatima, the Prophet's daughter. The Aga Khan's 18 million followers reside in more than 25 countries. As Imam and spiritual leader of the Shiite Ismailis, he has absolute authority over his followers. A family feeling within the Ismaili community is very strong.

- Pray for Prince Karim and his family, that they will all have visions and dreams of Jesus Christ and be completely changed in their thinking.
- Pray for a spiritual hunger for the Ismailis, that they will discover life in Christ.
- Pray for boldness and sensitivity for the few Ismaili Believers who have mostly been ostracised from the community and sometimes from their families.

Friday 12 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray for the local churches and support groups of missionaries to contact them on a regular basis, to show sincere interest in their work and to make a special effort to let their missionaries feel supported from their home base.

Economy focus: Creative designs drive SA exports

South African design exports are being snapped up from Mumbai to Hong Kong and are increasingly contributing to local job creation and wealth generation. According to estimates of the *Department of Trade and Industry* estimates, South Africa's craft sub-sector alone contributes about R2-billion or 0.14% to South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP)

annually, providing jobs and income for around 38,000 people through at least 7,000 small enterprises. (Website: <http://www.southafrica.info/business/trade/export/edida2007.htm>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering many prayers for creative employment opportunities in and around our country. Continue to pray for these small businesses to prosper and find favour to export their goods. Ask that young businessmen and women will remember God, the only Giver of true prosperity.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 12: Kairouan: Oldest Islamic City of Northwest Africa

Kairouan (about 1,300 years old) is located in Tunisia, a Muslim holy city which ranks after Mecca and Medina (in Saudi Arabia) as a place of pilgrimage. For many North Africans, Kairouan is considered the fourth holiest city of Islam. Its school trains religious leaders (Imams) for all of Tunisia. The few people who have heard of and responded to the Gospel in Kairouan, often struggle with personal issues, some manifesting little evidence of spiritual growth, perhaps due in part, to the hidden spiritual influences over the city.

- Pray for Muslims living in Kairouan to have dreams and visions about Jesus Christ, with whole families and groups of people being converted at a time.
- Some Believers in Kairouan are convinced that God has asked them to raise a banner of praise over this city. Ask that they will remain faithful in doing so.

Saturday 13 September 2008

Focus on the poor and needy: Proposed grants for infants

The *Department of Social Development* had proposed that qualifying infants should receive grants in their first month of birth. Children with a birth certificate can apply for the child support grant before they reach the age of one. In this way they would also check on children who were collecting child support grants, to ensure that they were attending school. (Website: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804140173.html>). Give thanks to the Lord for hope for poverty-stricken children to have better opportunities. Please pray that these changes would really benefit a new generation of children. Ask that these things will happen in all integrity and honesty and that it will not encourage illegitimate pregnancies where mothers seek to gain financially by obtaining these grants.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 13: The Aimaq of Afghanistan and Iran

'Aimaq' refers to the tribal peoples living here. Tribalism dominates to such an extent that local customs and concepts of honour and shame are more important than Islamic or state law. Disputes tend to be settled by tribal leaders rather than by government authorities. Aimaq women have exceptional freedom compared to other women in rural Afghanistan. The Aimaq are largely illiterate Sunni Muslims. There are few if any known followers of Jesus among the Aimaq. Various Christian radio broadcasts have been aired in Dari and Farsi; however, the impact is not known.

- Pray for God to touch each of the estimated 900,000 Aimaq people living in Afghanistan and Iran. Ask that all barriers and resistance to reach these people with the gospel will just crumble.
- Ask for translation of Scripture into local languages as of the 10 largest ethnic groups in Afghanistan, only four have portions of the Scriptures available in their native tongue.
- Also ask for Christian broadcasts and the *JESUS Film* to become available in their language, as possibly 85% of Afghans has never heard the gospel.

Sunday 14 September 2008

Memorise

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (1 Cor.4:20).

Prayer focus on Bible translation

Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) has a remarkable record in single-minded dedication to the completion of translating the New and Old Testaments into the languages of the world. By 1999, *WBT* translators had completed 500 New Testaments and were involved in a further 1,100+ projects. Their staff numbers 6,000. However, this number masks the

thousands of nationals and other partners that are also involved in the task. In 1999, together with their partners world-wide, they started a Bible translation project in every language that needs one to be available to them by 2025. This means working in new ways, training others and funding national teams to accomplish a task that would normally take 150 years. Please pray that this new effort will bear much fruit, be well provided for and be granted favour from the Lord to be completed even before 2025!

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 14: A Great Opportunity in Bangkok

The official Muslim population of Bangkok, Thailand, is 262,023 people (2000 est.) Over 160 officially registered mosques are located in the city. Muslims tend not to move into areas where the residents are primarily Buddhist. However, because Bangkok has become such a huge city, there are many places where Muslims mix with non-Muslims - even though they prefer to both live and work together with fellow Muslims. Bangkok's Muslims speak mostly Thai, and Muslim sermons on radio include Arabic and sometimes Malay readings.

- Pray that many Muslims in Bangkok will realise that life is not just about religion, but a personal relationship with God through the Messiah (**John 17:3**).
- Pray that Bangkok's Muslims will get to know the way, the truth and life everlasting through Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**).
- Pray that Thai Believers will be able to build positive and beneficial friendships with Muslims.

DID YOU KNOW: The Islamic religion is lived according to five main 'pillars' which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims:

1. **Reciting the Creed** (shahada) - There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.
2. **Prayer** (salat) - Five times each day.
3. **Almsgiving** (zakat) - Both obligatory and voluntary giving to the poor.
4. **Fasting** (saum) - Especially during the 'holy' month of Ramadan.
5. **Pilgrimage** (hajj) - At least once in a lifetime to Mecca, known as the Hajj.

When ministering to Muslims, remember

1. Do not attack the person of Mohammed, but do not accept him as a prophet either. We are called to help people discover Jesus, not to criticise others.
2. Do not criticise the Qur'an.
3. Avoid politically-sensitive subjects like the Palestinian problem.
4. Do not insist on Jesus being the Son of God: A Muslim will not understand or accept this affirmation. Later, when they read the Bible or the gospels, you can give them the necessary explanations.
5. Do not enter into discussions about pork and wine: We, as Christians, are sent to proclaim Jesus, not to establish dietary laws. It is good to insist that drunkenness is wrong. Do not serve alcohol to Muslims, they detest this. (The *Ramadan* children's booklet is also available from www.30-days.net).

Monday 15 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that missionaries will have the means to visit their family and friends back home at least once in 2 years, if possible, at least once a year. Ask for local churches and supporters to consider these expenses as part of supporting their missionaries abroad.

Salvation focus: Medical doctors

By His stripes we are healed (Isa.53:5). More people pass through hospitals and doctors' consulting rooms than through the church. About 60-80% of all problems for which people visit the doctor are a combination of spiritual and physical problems (psychosomatic). Please pray for the salvation of doctors, that God will deliver many from sin and that they will experience God's new life and that He is their Healer. Ask that this will help them to bring healing to others and to help them physically as well as spiritually. Pray that God will fill doctors with His Spirit so they will make wise diagnoses, prescribe the right medication and/or help and that they will show people the way to Jesus as the best Doctor to heal

them from their sin, physiological problems, wrong thoughts and behavioural patterns. Pray that doctors will openly confess their faith in Christ and that they will live righteous lives amongst their colleagues.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 15: The Kanuri of Nigeria, Niger and Chad

The majority of the Kanuri live in north-eastern Nigeria, where they are the dominant people group. Smaller numbers are also located across the borders in the surrounding countries of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. Most of the Kanuri are farmers. A man may have as many as four wives. The divorce rate among the Kanuri is extremely high, with eight out of ten marriages ending in divorce. The Kanuri have been Muslims since the eleventh century (about 1,000 years).

- Pray that God will raise up people to translate the Bible into each of the Kanuri dialects as they lack Bible translation in their native dialects.
- Ask God to call more workers into the harvest of the Kanuri and for many to turn their lives over to Jesus Christ. Ask that new Believers will cherish marriage as an institution of the Lord.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Kanuri and use the small number of Kanuri Believers increasingly to share the gospel with others.

DID YOU KNOW: What Muslims believe about Jesus

Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of Mary.

Jesus is only a prophet.

Jesus was actually a good Muslim and he taught an earlier form of Islam.

Jesus did not die on the cross. He went directly to heaven.

Jesus will come again, marry, have children and die. He will be judged like all men at the Last Judgement.

Tuesday 16 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that local congregations and supporters of missionaries abroad will make sure that their missionaries have time to rest while at home, so all their time and efforts will not go into ministry at home. Ask God to open the hearts of Believers at home to accommodate and really bless them while visiting their home countries.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 16: Islam in Sudan

The Massalit are a group of some 400,000 people in Sudan (most in Darfur) and in Eastern Chad. They are one of the ethnic groups involved in the Darfur crisis. The majority have fled to refugee camps. These difficult circumstances have caused many people in Darfur to question Islam and they have even stopped praying. Christian Evangelism is frowned upon; however, spiritual encouragement and testimonies are usually welcome.

- Please pray for an end to the war of Darfur and for both leaders and those who follow them to cease fighting.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of the hurting Massalit to receive His Word and healing.
- Ask for a strong church to emerge from among the Massalit.

Wednesday 17 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will raise up mentors and supporters for missionaries abroad, to minister to them spiritually, emotionally and also strategically. That missionaries will be firm in their calling and their relationship with the Lord Jesus, and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Economic focus: SA productivity drops

Statistics from *Productivity SA* and the *World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY)* show that South Africa has the worst brain drain in the world, the worst skills shortages, and productivity dropped from 38 to 50 last year out of a total of 55 countries that were researched.

(Website: <http://transcripts.businessday.co.za/cgi-bin/transcripts/t-showtranscript.pl?1208214054>). So many positive things have happened in our country the past few months as men began to take up their position in the Lord. Cry out to God to call back those who have left to become part of what He is doing in South Africa. Ask that the tide will be turned

for our economy, the production of food and goods. Pray God's blessing on the land and its people.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 17: The Mazandarani Muslims of Iran

The Mazandarani speakers of Iran number between 3 and 4.5 million people who live mainly in the Mazandaran province and neighbouring provinces bordering the Caspian Sea, in northern Iran. These people are almost 100% Shi'a Muslim, and Islam has been present in this province for about 1,300 years. In Iran it is a capital offence to convert from Islam to another religion. There are a number of small cell churches and scattered Believers throughout the region.

- Pray for the Mazandarani for receptive hearts towards the gospel and for new Believers to grow in faith and become active and effective in witnessing to others.
- Pray for the favour of God on the use of audio materials, the radio and also satellite broadcasts to proclaim the gospel. Pray for the Mazandarani Scripture translation team and their work, so this task will be completed soon.

Thursday 18 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will grant missionaries great favour when praying into situations in the countries where they minister, by answering their prayers with signs and miracles (**Acts.14:3**).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 18: Muslims in Aleppo, Syria

The second largest city in Syria, Aleppo (meaning milk), is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world, along with the capital, Damascus. With populations of around 4 million and 6 million respectively, about half the country's population live in these two cities. The people of Aleppo are predominantly Sunni Muslim and have a reputation for being conservative and devout. Many are content and complacent in their religion, yet some are earnestly seeking God. The young and educated Muslims are growing dissatisfied with Islam, but are drawn towards materialism, secularism and even atheism as the only alternatives they know. Very few Muslims in the city have ever heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

- Pray for peace and stability between conservative and less religious Muslims.
- Pray for Muslims dissatisfied with Islam to be drawn towards Christ and for whole families to come to Christ.
- Pray for the different Syrian Believers, for love, unity and a passion to explain their faith in Jesus to all.

Friday 19 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that missionaries abroad will experience a close relationship with the Lord Jesus, the love of the Father and the ever-present Holy Spirit. Ask for them to hear God's voice and receive understanding of and insight into their purpose in ministry.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 19: The Minangkabau of Indonesia

The Minangkabau, numbering about 8,659,000, are the fourth largest ethnic group in Indonesia and exercise significant influence in the country. Although many Muslims had exposure to the gospel, they are too afraid to respond. Millions of other Minangkabau have never had the opportunity to learn about Jesus.

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of the Minangkabau to the truth that only Jesus can bring salvation, and that He can free them from a life of fear.
- Pray that Minangkabau people will become tired of their circumstances and begin to call out to Jesus for help and healing.
- Pray that whole families of the Minangkabau will come to a trusting reliance on Jesus.

DID YOU KNOW: In many countries popular 'Folk Islamic' practices are often even more important than orthodox Islam in the daily lives of millions of Muslims. Orthodox Islam does not usually have a real expectancy that Allah will actually intervene in difficult situations. He is basically inaccessible. Therefore many people seek help from Muslim holy men for help. In some countries the tombs of various Muslim holy men are reputed to be places of blessing where people can

also seek help. Various things including talismans and the 'Hand of Fatima' are often used against the 'Evil Eye' and evil spirits.

Saturday 20 September 2008

Pastors taking up their responsibility

Praise the Lord for the *POPnet Clinic and Consultation*, conducted 12-15 August in Pretoria. *POPnet* (Pastoring of Pastors Network) held a practical training clinic and planning consultation on mentoring for pastoral and denominational leaders. Give thanks to the Lord for each pastor or spiritual leader that attended. Please pray that participants would take the next step in establishing peer shepherding relationships and that they would also begin pastoring the pastors within their local churches and denominations. (*TOPIC SA*, P.O. Box 13092, Norkem Park, 1631. Tel.: 011 972 6919, website: www.topicsa.net or e-mail: topic@topicsa.net).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 20: Muslims of Murshidabad, Bengal people group

This region is known for its numerous problems, including cases of human trafficking, child labour, severe poverty and local political assassinations. There are approximately six million people in the Murshidabad district with almost 90% of these people living in rural villages. While the majority of the population of West Bengal is Hindu, Murshidabad is 64% Muslim (3.8 million people).

- Pray that God will reveal Himself to the young and old Bengali Muslims in Murshidabad (**Acts.2:16-21**).
- Pray that Muslim background Believers will be called, equipped and motivated to witness and teach the gospel (**Matt.28:20**).
- Pray for God to call many more workers into Murshidabad, to set up 24-7 houses of prayer and cry out for the salvation of these people.

Sunday 21 September 2008

Memorise

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you (Rom.8:11).

Prayer focus on Bible translation and distribution

Scripture Gift Mission (SGM) International nowadays known as 'LifeWords' is a Christian charity organisation producing free Bible resources for people all around the world. They work in partnership with Christians and Christian agencies who share these booklets and leaflets with others on a one-to-one basis. SGM has given away 22 million pieces of literature to people in 190 countries in 450 languages through 35 centres world-wide. Give thanks to the Lord for this and other similar ministries spreading Christian literature. Please pray that this material will be used effectively and none of it go to waste or be destroyed.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 21: USA: Muslims and mosques in Dearborn, Michigan

Many years ago Muslim immigrants to the United States were drawn to the relatively high-paying jobs associated with the auto industry in the area. Dearborn (headquarters of Ford) in Michigan now has the largest single concentration of Arab Muslims in North America. *The Islamic Centre of America* in Dearborn, a Shi'a mosque frequented mostly by Lebanese Muslims, is the largest mosque in the US. Dearborn is one of the few places in the US where one can actually hear the call to prayer publicly over a loudspeaker. Efforts to bring Christ to these Muslims prove to be more difficult than elsewhere.

- Pray that the Muslims in Dearborn will be open and become responsive to the gospel message they have heard (**Acts.28:26-28**).
- Ask for Christians to set up houses of prayer in this area and begin to cry out for breakthroughs among Muslim people.

DID YOU KNOW: What Muslims believe: Muslims often believe that the Bible has been altered and corrupted. They will deny its authority because they see it as not being authentic. Muslims believe the Holy Trinity implies a belief in three gods. Many Muslims believe that the Christian Trinity is made up of the Father, Mary (the virgin) and the Son (Jesus). They believe it is blasphemy to affirm the divinity of Jesus and to give Him the title 'Son of God'. Many believe this implies that God had sexual relations with Mary and that a son was physically born through the union. (This idea is also unacceptable to Christians).

Monday 22 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will grant missionaries discernment in difficult situations, especially with the secret police in these countries. That their ways may remain concealed from those who want to do them harm. Especially pray that suspicion will fade and police will stop following and watching Believers so they can continue their work boldly.

Salvation focus: Owners of brothels, adult shops, escort agencies, night clubs etc.

Be holy for I am holy (1 Pet.1:16). When we pray for these people, it is important to remember that God also created them, that He loves them and that Jesus also died on the cross for them. Ask God to put love in your heart when you pray, and remember to ask for them the same mercy that you receive from God and on which you live every day. Pray for the salvation of these people, so the devastating consequences of their activities will stop, first of all in their own lives. Ask the Lord to restore them, their marriages and families and that they will experience the joy of deliverance in Christ. Ask that their salvation will diminish the destructive consequences of their businesses and will lead to the salvation of others, giving them hope. Pray that the salvation of these people will lead to the restoration of holy and pure lives so that the stronghold of immorality and perversion may be broken.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 22: Muslims of Nagpur, India

Nagpur (meaning 'City of Snakes') has a population of over three million people and is at the geographic centre of India. The majority of the population is Hindu. There is a Muslim minority of approximately 7.1% (215,000). The governing political party has a clear agenda to keep India a Hindu nation. There is no known group of Believers that regularly reach out to the Muslims in this city with the gospel in an organised way.

- Pray for local Believers to take up their role to bless all nations, tribes and tongues (**Gen.22:18** and **Gal.3:16,29**).
- Pray for the effective distribution of these new translations of the Bible.
- Pray for the local Believers who face real persecution due to prejudice and misunderstandings.
- Ask for existing Believers to come together on a regular basis to pray for breakthroughs for the gospel in Nagpur.

DID YOU KNOW: Muslims do not believe that it is possible to know God as stated in **John 17:3**. (They only believe that they can know about Him). Small numbers of Muslims called Sufis believe in a mystical union with God. However, this group is often seen as heretical by many Muslims.

Tuesday 23 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will stir up missionaries to spend more time in prayer for breakthroughs in their work. Ask that missionaries will realise this to be a part of the real 'work' they do every day. Ask that God will show them breakthroughs to encourage them to continue.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 23: Hard realities for Muslims in Somalia

Somalia (est. population 9,119,000) has suffered a complicated civil war for over 20 years. Over the past decade, more than half a million people (mostly men) fled the war – devastating the family structure and leaving many families fatherless. The majority of Somali men are addicted to khat (something they chew on), which has a huge influence on their life in Somali society. They often spend most of their money on khat, yet their families go hungry.

- Pray that Somali people will come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the love of our Heavenly Father.

- Pray for deliverance for men addicted to khat, also for them to overcome the social pressure encouraging men to chew it.
- The Somali Bible was published in 1977. Distribution is only possible in refugee camps and among Somalis outside Somalia. Pray for the wide dissemination of the Scriptures and especially for Bible translation for the Maay Somali whose language is somewhat divergent.

Wednesday 24 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will raise up missionaries to go to closed countries with a specific calling to set up 24-7 houses of prayer to pray for breakthroughs in areas that are really difficult to reach both physically and spiritually. Ask for more workers to join them when breakthroughs start happening.

Media focus: HEARTLINES broadcasts

Starting September 24th, HEARTLINES is encouraging every church to engage in a 30 days of Action '*for good*' campaign. Pray that God would raise up the church to take the lead in living out kingdom values, resulting in action. Ask that it will be lasting action, built on the one true foundation – Jesus Christ. '*Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven*'. (**Matt.5:16**). (HEARTLINES. Contact 0861-HEARTLINES. Tel.: 011 484 5254, fax: 011 643 6253, cell: 082 325 8361. Website: www.heartlines.org.za, e-mail: pray@heartlines.org.za).

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 24: The Hindko Speakers: One language, many tribes

Possibly five million people in northern Pakistan are Hindko speakers. Made up of several ethnic groups, mostly Pathans and Moghuls, the Hindko are more of a language group than a people group. Only about 25% of Hindko speakers can read. Only a handful of Hindko speakers are followers of Jesus. The devastating earthquake of October 2003 caused deaths in nearly every Hindko-speaking family. Interest in reading the New Testament remains high, but the Word of God in Hindko is not yet available in print. Most of them have never had an opportunity to hear the gospel.

- Pray that Hindko Believers would overcome their fear of persecution.
- Pray that God would reveal Himself among Hindko speakers through various means, including dreams and visions.
- Pray that Hindko speakers would have access to God's Word in their own language through print, audio recordings, radio and the Internet.

Thursday 25 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will grant missionaries favour to renew their visas and work permits, especially in closed countries where Christians are persecuted. Ask for them for favour in every embassy, with every official from every country and that they will not give in to bribes and manipulation.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 25: Muslim Rangi people of Tanzania

There are an estimated 350,000 Rangi people living in Tanzania. Only the Rangi in the Haubi Valley refused Islam. A Rangi language Bible translation project began in 1996 and the translation is progressing well. Other work to help poor families is also under way. In September 2006 some local Believers opened a new school in the city.

- Pray for unity among the Christians (**John 17:20-26**). Muslims often point out that the Believers are divided.
- Pray for courage, favour and wisdom for the Rangi Christians as they proclaim the Messiah to their Muslim neighbours.
- Pray for the Bible translation project to be finished and for many to come to know Jesus through the new school.

Friday 26 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that missionaries will be safe from the physical harm directed at them by extremists from other religions. Specifically pray for safety concerning their cars, houses, food etc. That they might be victorious through all these trials and become a testimony to those who want to harm them (**Acts 28**).

Health focus: Killer cure too pricey for poor

Up to 850 women die every year of cervical cancer in South Africa, mostly poor women in their 40's and 50's, many of whom are the breadwinners in their families. Because of financial constraints, most women seek medical advice or treatment in the late stages of their illness. A new cervical cancer vaccine was launched that will help protect people against diseases caused by cervical cancer etc. At R770 per shot (patients need 3 over 6 months), it is very expensive. (Website: <http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=336948&area=/insight/monitor/>). Give thanks to the Lord for breakthroughs like this. Please continue to pray for other breakthroughs in cancer research. Also ask for those in need to soon have access to subsidies/sponsorship to do so.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 26: The Night of Power (Al-Qadr)

Tonight is the Muslims' *Night of Power*, which forms a very important part of their fasting time. The *Night of Power*, or 'Laylat ul-Qadr' in Arabic, is one of the most significant moments of the Islamic year. Muslims believe that groups of angels are sent out on this night to perform special tasks. Muslims are often encouraged to stay awake during the entire night, and pray for blessings and forgiveness. This is one moment/time of the year when Muslims have a bit more confidence that God will hear and act on their behalf. Significant numbers will be praying in desperation and are genuinely seeking help from God.

- Ask that God will raise up millions of Christians to pray for Muslims to have personal encounters with the Lord Jesus through visions and dreams.
- Ask that whole families and communities will testify of Jesus visiting them and calling them to follow Him.
- Give thanks to God for laying His salvation on those in darkness.

Saturday 27 September 2008

Justice focus: SA is a haven for smugglers

South Africa and Africa are facing a potentially lethal crisis, as revealed by the *International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)*, as scores of the world's drug cartels target the continent as a smuggling route for billions of dollars worth of heroin and cocaine. Interpol estimates that between 200 and 300 tons of cocaine is smuggled through Africa every year. (Website:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20080307061155683C151957&newslett=1&em=177813a6a20080307ah). God has already answered so many prayers about drugs being confiscated. Let us not give up in persevering prayer that even more drugs will be discovered at every airport, harbour and entrance to the country and continent. Ask for drug networks to be discovered and completely shut down across the world because of discoveries made in South Africa.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 27: New TV-channel for the children of the Arab world

One hundred million children under the age of 15 live in the Arab world and at least half of them have access to satellite television. Children often turn to TV as a place of safety where they can escape to. Now they have the opportunity to watch Christian programming at all times of the day. In December 2007, the *SAT-7 Network* launched *SAT-7 KIDS*, a 24-hour Arabic satellite television channel for children. From the beginning, programs for children have been among the most popular of the wide variety of shows available on *SAT-7*.

- Pray for the children of the Arab world, that they may be touched and changed by watching *SAT-7 KIDS*.
- Pray for additional funding for *SAT-7* and for their work to continue to grow.
- Pray that parents will also be touched and changed and that they will have their questions answered by the children's programmes.

<p>DID YOU KNOW: What Muslims think of Christians: Unfortunately Muslims very often associate Christianity completely with Western culture. Muslims often believe that Christians are being deceived and that they have an obligation to lead them to the truth of Islam. For many Muslims, the word 'Christian' signifies materialism, a lack of spirituality and moral failure. Because of this they reject many things that come from Western society and which they</p>
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consider perverted. For Muslims, alcohol consumption, pornography, a liberal lifestyle and a lack of religious practice are sure signs of the failure of Western countries. (They often see and hear these types of things on Western television, films, in books and music).

Sunday 28 September 2008

Memorise

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life (Rom.6:22).

Prayer focus on Bible translation: Importation and distribution

Much trouble and effort are expended on importing paper, machinery and completed Bibles. War, political crises and unsympathetic or hostile governments necessitates long and difficult negotiations. Pray for those involved. Sometimes the *United Bible Society (UBS)* depot or bookstore is the only source of Christian literature and Bibles in a country. In other countries a vast network of churches, shops and local distributors distribute millions of portions of the Scriptures. In 1999 world-wide distribution was 24 million Bibles, 26 million New Testaments and 577 million portions of the Scriptures. What a spiritual impact this could have! Please pray for the distribution to increase despite economic changes, so every person will have the privilege of having their own personal copy of a Bible in their language.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 28: Proclaiming Christ Forbidden in the Comoros Islands

The Comoro island chain consists of three main volcanic islands off the coast of Africa, 300 kilometres (200 miles) east of Mozambique with an estimated population of 711,417. Approximately 1,400 mosques are scattered throughout the islands. Harassment and social discrimination against Christians are widespread and evangelism is illegal. The Bible is available in French and Arabic, and portions of the Scriptures in Comoran. However, due to the low literacy rate (almost 60%), gospel recordings are more useful.

- Pray that the gospel would be made available to all the families of the Comoros Islands (**Gen.12:1-3**).
- Pray that Christian music, Bible stories and other radio broadcasts will gain an audience and touch many lives for Jesus.
- Ask that the Lord will raise up many Christians to actively begin to pray for significant breakthroughs for the gospel on these islands.

World food and water crisis in focus

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses (Prov.28:27).

Although some countries are experiencing famine, the global problem is not a food crisis, but a price crisis, as other competitors e.g. ethanol plants, offer higher prices to obtain the harvest of farmers. At the time of publishing, at least 33 countries were at risk of social unrest because of rising food prices. There is also an increasing scarcity world-wide, of available fresh water. One underlying factor for the water, food and oil crisis is the increasing global need for energy. As God's children, we are called to take up our responsibility in prayer, repent of the wickedness of people in our time and trust God to turn not only the tsunami of the approaching destruction of earthly resources, but more than anything, the tsunami of people on their way to eternal death without Jesus Christ. When people turn to God, God turns their tide (**2 Chron.7:14**). Let us never forget that our God wants to give life and does not want people to choose death AT ALL! (**Deut.30:14-20**).

1. Pray for the 22 countries in Africa that are at risk because of the current food shortage. Ask for God's wisdom and revelation to each government to act with haste in meeting their people's needs.
2. Pray for world health conditions and the survival of literally millions that cannot afford to buy food because of rising food costs. Ask God to help those at risk to remain strong and healthy despite their circumstances and that God in His mercy will provide money so that they can buy food. Pray that many will taste and see that God is good and turn their lives over to Him.
3. Ask for the effective distribution of the available resources of basic staples, like rice, wheat and corn/maize. Ask for favour for Christian aid organisations to gain access especially to areas closed to the gospel and so have

- opportunities to apply God's love in practical ways.
4. Pray for aid groups that are already falling behind in their efforts to provide food across the continent of Africa. Ask for the church in Africa to rise to the occasion and lay hold of this opportunity to distribute food to those in physical need, not neglecting the opportunity to share the Bread of Life and cause living water to flow from their hearts (**John 7:38**).
 5. Pray about malnutrition which is already responsible for the deaths of approximately 3.7 million children every year. Ask for each child to have opportunities to hear about Jesus, that there will be provision for their basic needs and that many will recover miraculously from malnutrition. Ask for many lives to be saved.
 6. Ask for rich countries to be willing to support emergency food assistance.
 7. Pray that crops used for bio-fuel will not lead to higher food prices and a shortage of food in the long run. Pray that agricultural, government and world leaders will make wise decisions on this issue.
 8. This year, about a quarter of U.S. corn/maize will go to feeding ethanol plants instead of poultry or livestock. Please pray about the impact this has on the availability of poultry and livestock. In South Africa some farmers are either closing down their feed lots or radically reducing the number of livestock because of the rising prices of animal feed. Ask God to speak into the hearts of farmers and show them ways to overcome these problems. Ask for those who continue to produce food, whether crops, poultry or livestock, to be blessed in doing so and for this testimony to turn their own and the hearts of other farmers to submit all of themselves and their farms into God's hands. Pray for them not to fall into the trap of quick riches, but to set their hearts towards the purposes of God in the last days.
 9. Less than 2% of the water on earth is fresh water. Many of these resources are hidden deep inside the earth. Pray for God to show scientists world-wide how to retrieve resources of fresh water from depths that are difficult to reach, in a cost-effective way.
 10. The *per capita* access to clean water is diminishing in all developed and developing countries as the number of people and their demand for water increases. Pray for governments to pay urgent heed to the upgrading and replacing of old reservoirs, aging water pipes, dripping taps and other faulty infrastructure in all of their towns and cities so water will be used more effectively. About 20% of all available fresh water is lost in this way.
 11. Rising global temperature has an impact on the evaporation of water. Ask God to raise up millions of Believers across the world to begin interceding for these realities. Pray for night and day watches to be raised everywhere, that people will confess their sins and cry out for the turn of their nations' hearts towards God (**Ps.2:10-12**).
 12. Pray for alternative, low-cost solutions to resources like oil and coal which are limited. Ask God to give people creative ideas in our country on how to combat these situations, especially in generating energy. The *Durban University of Technology* has begun to run a unique project aiming to produce fuel from sewage. Pray for this and other projects to be conducted in righteousness, with great care and success and to really benefit the people of South Africa through the production of some by-products. Give thanks to the Lord for already answering prayer. Ask that scientists world-wide will give glory to God for what He is doing.
 13. An investment of over \$1 trillion will have to be made in the next 20 years to ensure an adequate supply of fresh water for the world's growing population. Ask that this issue will be addressed by all governments with immediate effect. Pray for the necessary expertise to focus on desalination, purification, pipes, pumps and anything else that will help increase the amount of readily accessible water. Ask for thousands of Christians to become actively involved in these processes, bringing God's wisdom and hope to a dying world.
 14. For South Africa, pray for an increase in capacity to purify existing water resources, as sewage water presents increasing challenges to the water resources we have available.
 15. Consider inviting other people to also begin to pray positively into the global challenges we face.
 16. *Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col.3:17). Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Eph.3:20-21).*

(Prayers are suggested by the writer of this article. Facts from website:

http://www.greenchipstocks.com/aqx_p/2952?qclid=CNaF4d3W5pECFRciFQodmQ7Cew and International Medical Corps at e-mail: development@imcworld-wide.org).

Monday 29 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that missionaries will soon have favour to obtain or buy property in closed countries where foreigners are forbidden to do so. Ask that in this way they will be able to establish their work over a long term and also find favour to involve local people to become involved in ministries such as orphanages, shelters, child-care, schools etc.

Salvation focus: Editors, sub-editors and journalists of newspapers and magazines

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32). These people have an enormous influence as they control what is printed in newspapers and magazines. It is often their viewpoints and preferences that are published. Pray for their salvation, that God through the Holy Spirit, will renew their thoughts and that they will have understanding of right and wrong from God's viewpoint. Pray that they will have good judgment; speak the truth so people can actually hear the real story and that everything impure, defiled and unholy will be removed from articles and publications. Pray for these people who are often under pressure in their working environment to think in a certain way and publish certain articles. Ask that God will set them free from pressures to promote evil or wrong through the media.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 29: Muslims in Suriname

Suriname is on the northeast coast of South America. Suriname's religious affiliation is as follows: Hindu 27.4%, Christian 48%, Muslim 19.6% (88,000), indigenous beliefs 5%. In other countries, Muslims are called to prayer from the top of the minaret (the tower) of a mosque. In Suriname, however, Muslims of Javanese origins follow their ancestral customs and respond to the sound of a drum. There are several Christian denominations active in the country but the gospel has been slow to take root among both Javanese and Hindustani Muslims.

- Ask God to raise up more people to intercede for breakthroughs among the Muslims in Suriname.
- Pray that the *JESUS Film* and other media efforts will reach the Muslim population. The *JESUS Film* has been extensively used in film shows and on television.
- Roughly a third of the population left for the Netherlands after independence. One of the first mosques in Netherlands was built in 1981 by Muslim immigrants from Suriname. Pray for the Surinamese Muslims in Holland to be touched by the gospel.

<p>DID YOU KNOW: About mosques: A mosque is a place of worship for followers of Islam. The Arabic name for mosque is 'masjid'. The primary purpose of the mosque is to serve as a place where Muslims can come together for prayer. Mosques sometimes have significant roles as community centres where people have celebrations, learn more about Islam and meet other Muslims. All mosques have prayer halls and some have domes and minarets. Mosques have an element called a 'Mihrab', which is often a niche, indicating the direction of Mecca.</p>

Tuesday 30 September 2008

Prayer focus on missionaries: Pray that God will grant missionaries favour with local Believers. Ask that Believers will join missionaries in times of prayer and ministry. Pray for the safety of local Believers in closed countries, that they will not be in danger of being persecuted because of their association with foreigners.

Pray for Jewish people

Today marks the beginning of the *Feast of Trumpets (Lev.23:23-25)*, which is celebrated for 2 days. For the church today this symbolises that Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth at the end of this age. At that time He will resurrect the saints who are no longer living and instantly change those saints who are still alive to immortal spirit beings (**Matt.24:31, 1 Cor.15:52-53, 1 Thess.4:13-17**). This festival commemorates the sounding of the trumpets that will precede His return (**Rev.8-10**). (Website: <http://www.ucg.org/litlibrary/holydays.htm>). Please pray for Jewish people at this time to be open and receptive to the message of Jesus Christ and to have a clear understanding of the prophecies from Scripture.

Ramadan prayer focus: 1 September – 30 September 2008

Day 30: Muslims in Ahmedabad in the Gujarat State of India

India's seventh largest city, Ahmedabad, has a population of over five million people. Gujarat has now developed into a major centre for Hindu religious zeal known as Hindutva which is seeking to preserve and expand Hindu influence in all of India to the exclusion of Islam and Christianity. More than one million economically marginalised Muslims live in the city. Evangelistic work in Gujarat is small. Local Christians fear to reach out into the Muslim community.

- Pray for more Believers to reach out to the nearly one million Muslims in Ahmedabad who have practically no gospel witness.
- Ask God to send more long-term workers to Ahmedabad and surrounding areas.
- Ask for existing workers to begin meeting for extended times of prayer and seeking God's face for breakthroughs for the gospel.

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.*