

# JERICHO WALLS PRAYER GUIDE – ARTICLES

## DES 2008 – FEB 2009

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### **But God**

Dear Intercessors

Thank you to all who laboured with us this year, who contributed financially and prayed for us. May the hand of the Lord be upon you. It was a privilege to be able to stand before the throne of the Lord with you this year and to plead with God for the country and the world. Know that your prayers made a difference. Let us only remember once again: God promises to listen to us and answer our prayers and secondly, we pray because God tells us to pray. Thus, although we often do not see direct and instant answers to our prayers, especially when we pray for countries and nations, we can rest assured that God hears and answers us.

May you have a blessed Christmas, and understand afresh what Jesus came to do for you; may your relationship with Him deepen and may God give peace in your home and family relationships.

### **Reflect on 2008**

For many, 2008 was the year of new beginnings and now we are at the end of the year's new beginnings. It is time to reflect on 2008, to reflect prayerfully on the year. It would be a good idea to set aside half an hour or more during the course of the week for *prayerful reflection* on 2008. We don't really learn from that which happened in our lives unless we evaluate it and ask the Spirit of God how we should reflect on it. It is important to do it over the course of a number of days. We don't always remember everything that happened and often the things we are reflecting on first need to "ripen" in us. Reflect prayerfully on the following matters:

- my family relationships,
- my work relationships,
- my relationships with my friends,
- my relationship with God,
- the management of my time and money,
- to what extent, this year, did I get to that which I believe the Lord called me for and
- what are the things that I know must change (do/not do) in the coming year?

### **Spiritual revival**

You will see in the December prayer pointers that we focus on prayer for revival. We included a number of "stories" from history on revivals. May these stimulate you to pray.

The one lesson to be learned from revivals of the past is the vital role prayer always played. All revivals were preceded by a few people (anything from two to ten) coming together to pray and persevere in continued prayer. Soon more people would join in prayer and eventually revival came.

The one thing I can confidently say is that an increase in prayer, a deepening desperation and intensity in praying were seen worldwide. An increase in prayer and prayer groups can be seen amongst children, young people, in churches and in the market place. We see prayer groups, more night and day prayer watches, more prayer initiatives and prayer networks being formed. An increase in prayer together with people being obedient normally always leads to an outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord.

### **God is already in 2009**

God is already in 2009. We must hold on to this as a strong and secure hope. The year 2009 is rife with uncertainty. The elections are coming up. All prices are rising. There are prospects of violence, illness, crime, desperation and many other things.

Our only anchor is in God our Father's indescribably great and precious promises (**2 Pet.1:4**). Let us become absorbed in the Word, let us bend to His will and allow Him to do what He wants and as He wants. Don't make hasty decisions. Listen to Him and move only when you know you must move. He *is* in control. Although it often doesn't look like it, even if feelings of bitterness, injustice and fear overwhelm you, proclaim day by day: Jesus is Lord, He holds the keys to death and Hades, He is the first and the last, He came to destroy the works of Evil.

May the God of peace protect and keep you.

Bennie Mostert

**Managing Director: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**  
**Eph.3:20**

## Quotes

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When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do. - A. C. Dixon

The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church... grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church. He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil. - Leonard Ravenhill

What an unspeakable grace to be allowed to deal with God in intercession for the supply of others' needs! To be able to take part in Christ's great work as Intercessor is such a blessing. It is wonderful to be in close union with Him and to mingle my prayers with His! What an honour to have power with God in heaven over souls and to obtain for them what they do not even know or think! - Andrew Murray

The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer. - John R. Mott

## Prayer focuses: December 2008 – March 2009

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### December 2008: Revival

May we never tire of praying for revival. There have been hundreds of recorded revivals all over the world in many countries the past 300 years, since 1727. In the prayer pointers for December you will read about some of these revivals and the effect they had on people and societies. We want to call upon you to persevere in prayer for spiritual revival in the Church. Revival has to do with the Church in the first place. When there is revival in the Church, the result is that people become devoted to God and total communities change. Share this information that you read in the December prayer guide with other people. Read it to your family at family devotions. Encourage people to pray anew for revival. The Church is God's answer for South Africa, but only a Church that lives in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### January 2009: Fatherhood

The role that fathers play in the lives of people is pointed out in all research, personal conversations and the experience of counsellors, as most probably the single greatest collective problem of people with spiritual and emotional problems. The role of the father is the anchor in any family relationship. When fathers take their rightful

place in the family and live correctly towards their wives and children, we have healthy homes with discipline, order, peace and security in the family. This, in turn, has an influence in schools and universities and subsequently the community. When however, the father does not fulfil his role as father as the Bible prescribes, fathers ruin their own lives, and their families and the whole of society begin to malfunction. Over the past two years we have seen a dramatic increase in fathers all over the country humbling themselves before God and taking on their God-created role as fathers in their families – with indescribably positive consequences. Pray that this will gather momentum, and also pray for hundreds of thousands of people living with the consequences of fathers who did not live the way God intended. Pray for healing and the restoration of relationships.

### **February 2009: Proclaiming God's name, character & works over the Church**

The Church is and will remain until the end of time the expression of God the Father through the image of Jesus Christ made visible in and through the lives of Believers. We are involved in a continuous spiritual war for the souls of people. Victory in this war means salvation for the lost, faith overcoming unbelief, truth overcoming lies, hope overcoming despair, love overcoming hate and fear, righteousness overcoming unrighteousness and injustice, holiness overcoming sin and ungodliness. The only way to remove hate and fear is to completely replace it with love, grace and forgiveness. During February we will focus on praying for the Church to arise to her God-given and ordained authority over the things of the earth. Firstly we focus on God Himself, declare, confess and proclaim His Name day by day as a banner of love over the peoples of the earth. Secondly we will pray to God for His character to become visible in His Church. Lastly we will declare His works over the earth and its inhabitants. We invite you to join in this month, declaring God's kingdom to come on the earth as it is in heaven.

### **March 2009: Famine**

Starvation is a practical reality for almost 50% of all people in our country. At least 50% of the people in our country live on and "under" the breadline. These are people who wonder where the next meal will come from and how they will survive the month. God is our Father and He promises that He will take care of us. When there is a famine, there is always a reason for it. The Scriptures are clear on this. Pray that God will show us what it is that is wrong in our country and how to put matters right. Part of the problem is with the Church and **Isaiah 58** gives us answers for this. May I ask that you read **Isaiah 58** prayerfully and repeatedly until you hear what God wants to tell you and what He is asking you to do. Pray until there is compassion in your heart and until you start doing something about the needs of others. Here we must pray and do.

### **April 2009: Elections**

It is the year in which our elections take place. Our politics are in a state of confusion and as Christians, we have the responsibility and the mandate to stand before God the Father and pray for a government that will honour God. When we pray we should do so with great wisdom and brokenness. Pray with grace in your heart, knowing that you are a sinner yourself and have your weak spots too. When we pray, we must be aware of the responsibility that rests on us. We must literally stand in the breach for this country and ask for God's grace. May God hear our prayers so that we may live peaceful lives in our country according to **1 Tim.2:1-3**.

## **WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN**

### **National**

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#### **19-21 February 2009: Missions Fest™ in Gauteng**

*Missions Fest™* is a city-wide missions conference planned and organised exclusively by local churches of different denominations. The goal of *Missions Fest™* is to provide information about the missions needs and opportunities both locally and globally, to celebrate what God is currently doing through His people, and to challenge people of all ages to get involved in the Great Commission by going, sending, praying and giving. To attend this event in Pretoria, contact: Gerald Golbeck, Facilitator - *Missions Fest™*, Gauteng. Tel.: 012 321 9964

or cell: 082 816 2099. Website: <http://www.missionsfestinternational.org> or e-mail: [gerald@mfestpretoria.org.za](mailto:gerald@mfestpretoria.org.za) or [dmbea@dslmweb.co.za](mailto:dmbea@dslmweb.co.za)

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## WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN

### International

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#### 7-12 December 2008: Church focus: *All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Conference*

*All Africa Council of Churches (AACC)* will gather these few days with the theme: *Africa, step forth in faith*. It aims to examine hindrances to Africa's renewal and progress. Themes of values and moral renewal, economic justice, HIV/AIDS, poverty and good governance will be addressed, to mention a few. Contact: AACC. P.O. Box 14205, 00800, Nairobi, Kenya. Website: <http://www.aacc-ceta.org/> or e-mail: [ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:ninthassembly@aacc-ceta.org) or [japhetn@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:japhetn@aacc-ceta.org)

#### February & March 2009: *Shalom Ministries*

##### Angus Buchan's itinerary for February & March is as follows:

26 February - 2 March 2009 Men's Conference, Perth, Western Australia

25 - 30 March 2009 Netherlands

*Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown, 3250. Tel.: 033 417 1695, fax: 033 417 1425. Website: <http://www.shalomtrust.co.za> or e-mail: [shalom@futurgtn.co.za](mailto:shalom@futurgtn.co.za)

#### March 2009: International Training in Kenya

*Kingfisher East Africa* is hosting an *International Mobiliser Training* event that will take place during March 2009 in Kenya. All information regarding this training as well as on-line registration can be downloaded from website: <http://www.kfmc.co.za>. The focus is to strengthen the capacity for Kingdom-mobilising all over the globe. They can accommodate 50 people at the venue in Kenya and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Ora at e-mail: [training@kfmc.co.za](mailto:training@kfmc.co.za) with any enquiries regarding this training, or Theunis Scheepers, *Kingfisher Mobilizing Center*, tel.: 021 913 0909 or cell: 083 289 0451.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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### Adopt a terrorist for prayer

You have heard it said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. – *Jesus*. The war on terrorism is primarily spiritual. One side features a militant form of Islam. The other side promotes freedom of conscience and expression. Fear is the primary weapon against these liberties, and terrorists are Satan's primary tool. If terrorists start to know and accept Jesus, then terrorism as a weapon will fail, and the whole world will know something spectacular about the one true God. *Adopt a terrorist for prayer* wants to cry out to God to save all terrorists. You can select and pray daily for a change in the heart of the terrorist you choose to pray for and encourage others to do so as well. (Website: <http://www.myatfp.com/home.html>).

### Christian prison in Argentina

A special prison for evangelical inmates only, called "Christ the Only Hope," has been set up in Argentina. Most inmates were saved in other prisons and transferred to "Christ the Only Hope". The institution is an experiment, the only one of its kind in the world, and it is experiencing a high rate of success, attracting attention around the world. With ten to twelve prisoners to a cell, the inmates move about the prison "fairly freely" and are expected to solve their own problems. Rates of re-offences by prisoners who have served their terms are reportedly much lower than in other prisons. (Breaking Christian News, website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7513011.stm> or e-mail: [editor@breakingchristiannews.com](mailto:editor@breakingchristiannews.com)).

## BREAKTHROUGH

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### Top Hamas leader's son accepts Christianity

Masab Yousef, son of West Bank Hamas leader Sheik Hassan Yousef, revealed for the first time that he has left Islam and is now a Christian. Prior to the publication of the interview, Yousef's family did not know of his faith

conversion even though he is in regular contact with them. Praise God for revealing Himself to Yousef and pray for God's ongoing blessing for Yousef and others like him (**Ps.32:7-8**). (Source: Issue 3208/The prayer Forum of the British Isles & Ireland; website: <http://www.prayer-alert.net>).

### **Solomon Islands: Whole Bible dedication**

Praise God for the publication of the whole Bible in the Solomon Islands' Pijin language. The Pijin Bible was dedicated on July 6, 2008 as part of the nation's 30th independence celebration. (Lars Widerberg, Intercessors Network, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linkoping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se) or [Intercessors.Network@Telia.com](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Telia.com)).

## **WHAT'S ONLINE?**

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**Website:** <http://www.wycliffe.org/documents/Curriculum/ChildrensPrayerJournal.pdf>

In this prayer journal that you can download from the above website, children can pray for 12 different people groups featured in the book. They learn to pray Scripture for people groups and missionaries.

**Website:** <http://www.biblebible.com/Hebrew/>

Listen to the Bible in Hebrew.

**Website:** <http://globalrecordings.net/>

*Global Recordings Network* now has gospel messages and basic Christian teaching available in 5,693 languages and dialects. Of these, 4,515 are on their website for free listening or for downloading to your MP3.

**Website:** <http://freechristianaudiobooks.com/>

Classic Christian books by writers including E.M. Bounds, G.K. Chesterton and others are available as audio or textbook downloads for free.

**Website:** <http://www.hope@hope365.co.za>

After 20 years of full-time involvement with the *JESUS Film*, opportunities to reach people online with the gospel have now emerged. Through the Internet people are reached by evangelism, they are followed up and encouraged to grow spiritually. This SA based ministry has drawn interest from all over the world. Visit this website and become involved today.

**Website:** <http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries-tree.php>

See the world country by country with drop-down people listings containing data for prayer for the unreached in these nations.

### **E-mail version**

#### **The Prayer Guide**

Receive the Prayer Guide by e-mail or download it from our website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com). Should you wish to subscribe to the e-mail version of the *Prayer Guide*, please fill out the subscription form in the middle of this *Prayer Guide* and mail/fax it back to us.

#### **The Global Prayer Alert**

The *Global Prayer Alert* is a weekly e-mail prayer guide enabling individual prayers, 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 a personal, citywide, nationwide and international prayer issue of the week. To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in

English, please send an e-mail to [pray\\_7days-subscribe@associate.com](mailto:pray_7days-subscribe@associate.com). To receive the *Global Prayer Alert* in Afrikaans, please send an e-mail to [bid\\_7dae-subscribe@associate.com](mailto:bid_7dae-subscribe@associate.com).

## **PRAYER STORY: YOUTH WATCH IN THE HELDERBERG BASIN OF SIR LOWRY'S PASS**

### **HOW DID YOUR PRAYER WATCH START?**

We started with 36 students after we clearly felt God directing us to do so. For two months we prayed 24/7. It had a major impact in the lives of everyone who took part. To ease the burden of 24/7 and our daily responsibilities, we have scaled down on the hours now, but continue to keep the watch.

### **WHAT TIPS CAN YOU GIVE OTHERS ON STARTING A PRAYER WATCH, OR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE STRUGGLING?**

- Take into consideration all the realities. For us, the realities are that the students are studying, they are in a process of development and not everyone has the same spiritual capacity. Find ways to accommodate everyone whereby all can grow but not feel under condemnation if they are not able to keep the pace. Adapt without compromising the vision.
- Keep it fresh. We have a *Word Watch* (reading the Word out loud as a prayer proclamation) during the night. Two people are together in the *Boiler Room* and they alternate, reading a chapter at a time. The *Word Watch* runs from 22h00 to 06h00. From 06h00 to 09h00 we have free time, meaning that we have worship music playing and anyone is welcome to come to worship or pray or partake in the *Boiler Room* with its stations. From 09h00 to 19h00 there are single prayer slots where individuals (students and staff participating in the 24/7), can choose to either pray for an hour or do a *Word Watch*. From 19h00 to 22h00 is free time again.

### **WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES YOU ENCOUNTERED?**

- Apart from the flesh that wants to stay in bed...?!
- Fitting the prayer watch vision into the schedule of our school.
- Also to determine the direction the Lord wants us to take in what we do in the prayer room and with our daily programme. There are times when the Lord tells us to stop the classes and have corporate times of worship and prayer. The challenge is to continuously consider the programme, at the same time ensuring that all essential matters/activities/issues continue. But in general we have decided that we won't be unduly influenced or bound by the program. It was something new reading the Bible out loud.
- Waking up in the middle of the night and quieting your mind, which keeps telling you you should be tired.
- Encouraging those who battled at first, but never to make them feel guilty or condemned or less spiritual.

### **WHAT MUST ONE GUARD AGAINST?**

- Beware of it becoming an automatic thing. It remains an awesome privilege to spend time in the presence of the Lord.
- Beware of pride, feeling you are more special than others because you partake in a prayer watch.
- Keep the vision fresh. People must always understand what it is about. They must continuously be reminded why they are doing it, and where they are going. Share people's experiences and what the Lord is saying to them. Share with the ones who are part of the Watch the vision of individuals, God's vision for our nation and the nations.
- Guard what the Lord has given and is doing. In this world of Media everyone wants to make the DVD, it is so easy to get the cameras and to want to make a big thing of what is happening at your prayer watch. This is not wrong at the right time when God shows you to do this, but some things God wants to remain hidden till the fullness of His time.

### **DO YOU SEE YOUR PRAYERS BEARING FRUIT?**

The following are some testimonies regarding the *Word Watch*: One young man who cannot read very well said: "It is a journey; we must keep the prayer fire burning. If it was a worldly activity, then we would be there. I feel we need to upgrade (press in and do more)."

Another said: "After *Word Watch*, you feel washed and refreshed even though you were sleepy and tired when you started."

Another young man who got stuck with the genealogies: "I could not understand and said to my friend, but this is boring. My friend encouraged me and I felt the Lord opening up my mind and bringing understanding and I felt so blessed I even started to read louder and louder."

Another one: "I would be lying if I said I enjoyed it, but it is helping me. It helps me be responsible and builds endurance and takes away my laziness."

One night one of the young ladies felt the Lord saying she must go down to the *Boiler Room* to pray. Suddenly, while she was praying, there was a wind which blew strongly in the *Boiler Room*, but all the doors were closed. All the posters and papers fell from the wall and she felt His presence next to her. At the same time she saw someone coming down the outside steps wanting to enter at the door, but could not. She was very afraid and asked the Lord to take away the fear if it was Him. The fear left and she asked Him what He was saying. He said that He wanted to come into this nation but the sin of people kept the door shut to Him.

And so there are many testimonies of the Lord revealing Himself in some way to them. We give Him honour and glory for the grace which He alone gives to endure and to run after Him. We have seen major deliverances take place in the presence of the Lord in the *Boiler Room*, and He gets the glory.

I myself have had a major healing while just sitting in the *Word Watch* one night while others were coming and going to read. And this is so neat, because He alone gets the glory, no man. He sent his word and healed them!! To Him be glory forever and ever!

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For more information, contact Barbara during office hours at *Eagle's Rising Training Centre* at tel.: 021 856 4486 or cell: 082 773 2174 or Alfred at cell: 073 498 5535. Website: <http://www.eaglesrising.org.za> or e-mail: [office@eaglesrising.org.za](mailto:office@eaglesrising.org.za)

### ***Are you a real man?***

The question with which every Christian man is confronted is the following: *Are you a man of God?* Not everybody sees their way clear to walk the road. Being a man of God comes at a price. The price is to live in God's presence and to live for God. Few feel up to this. We don't mind and it suits us to give money, help someone, or do a good deed. And there is something heroic about choosing "of your own free will" to do something for God. But there is little personal glory in simply doing the will of God in absolute obedience, irrespective of what it is He asks. We normally think it will take away our freedom and human dignity when we subject ourselves completely to the will of God. Yet exactly the opposite is true.

## Men-2-Pray: Fathers: Single and sane

Becoming a single father can be a life-changing experience. It requires massive adjustments and a host of coping skills, but many dads bravely do it alone. With the divorce rate at an unsettling 75% according to *FAMSA* figures, single fathers are now a common phenomenon, as in many instances they gain custody of the children after a divorce. Divorce is not the only reason for fathers raising their children on their own. The death or severe illness of a spouse rendering them unable to care even for themselves is another reason. How do you pray for yourself and your children as a single father? How can you as parents pray for someone in this situation? The following are a few practical hints for single fathers, with related Scripture verses:

1. You have to make the most of it when you have limited time with your children. Do not take time with them for granted when they live with you. Pray that God will give you wisdom how to spend the time you have with your children. Ask Him to show you small needs they do not necessarily express and wisdom on how to meet these needs. Ask the Lord to give you the capacity to be able to listen and relate to them in situations that are of concern to them.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Out of heaven let me hear Your voice, instruct me concerning Your ways (**Deut.4:36**).

2. You have to change your lifestyle and learn to plan things carefully and in advance. The planning of your business life or career must revolve around your children and their school holidays. Pray that God will give you favour in your work situation so that it will be possible for you to be available to your children. Also ask God for wisdom in your job/career and how to organise it in practical and beneficial ways, to the advantage of both your work situation and your children.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Show me Your way now, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And also consider my children Your children (**Ex.33:13**).

3. Children adore both parents because they know they are part of both. When one parent is angry or resentful towards the other, they feel guilty. After a divorce, parents will have a life-long relationship to negotiate, accommodating the children. Ask the Lord to bring peace between you as parents. Ask the Lord to help both of you to work out your differences and to find a peaceful way to live with each other. Pray without ceasing about this vitally important issue, not only for yourself, but even more so for your children.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Father I pray that grace and peace be multiplied to us as parents in the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus (**2 Pet.1:2**).

4. Often one parent cannot cope with the children due to chronic depression or self-destructive tendencies, addictions etc. In such cases this spouse still stays in the house, but is completely unable to care for the family. Sometimes there are no other relatives or family or support in this task which has now fallen on the other parent, e.g. the dad. Pray that God will show you in wisdom how to care for your incapable spouse in a really meaningful way, even if it means getting full-time help. Ask Him to show you how to minister to both your weakened spouse and your children in times such as these. Pray that most of all, they will have a revelation of their heavenly Father as they see you care for them in simple ways.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** I pray that they may have eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (**John 17:3**).

5. If your spouse has passed away, you need a lot of wisdom with your children. Continue to pray for yourself until you experience a breakthrough that God will heal your own heart and that of your children in the loss and all you have suffered. Ask for grace to accept the situation and for strength to face each day ahead. Also ask God to protect you from rushing into another relationship with someone because of your own needs and to also provide care for your children.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You (**P.s.25:20**).

6. It is a major issue whom to entrust your children to when you as a single father are not around at times because of other responsibilities. Ask the Lord to show you trustworthy female mentors for your girls, whether

it be their mother (if she is still alive), or the mother of a school friend, an aunt or someone from your church or work. Pray for a breakthrough in this area until you find individuals whom you respect and whose values are sound. This may be the greatest gift you can give your children.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** I ask that my children will know and rely on the love You have for them. You are love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him (**1 John 4:16**).

7. It is not so important to do everything perfect as it is to be available to your children. Communicate with your children when you are together as a family, but also individually. Negotiate some 'alone time' with them, both together and individually on a weekly basis. It needn't be an hour at a time, but it does need to be at least once a week. Make sure you ask them questions and get honest answers. After such a session, always try to end your discussion in prayer for them and with them. In this way you model to them to always take their problems to their heavenly Father, even when you are not available. Ask the Lord to make you sensitive at these times; not to be in a hurry, but to be able to make them feel completely 'heard' by you, giving them your full attention even in the short while available.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Father, like Jesus, give me wisdom to explain Your ways to my children (**Matt.13:36**).

8. It is important that you spend time with friends who can build into and enrich your life too. Ask the Lord that your path crosses that of friends your age and if possible also in similar circumstances, who could also be prayer partners. If the opportunity arises, why not start a small group of three or four men to pray for each other and encourage each other on a regular basis. Be careful not to bury yourself in your work.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Father grant me friends to pray with, because You say; when two or three come together in My Name, there am I with them (**Matt.18:20**).

9. Ask the Lord to show you a fatherly figure that you look up to. Consider asking this person to become your mentor or spiritual father. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive insight and wisdom from someone with more experience. Jethro was like this to Moses in the matter of ruling Israel.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord I have many instructors in Christ, but lack a true spiritual father. Send someone my way that I can imitate as he imitates Christ (**1 Cor.4:15,16**).

10. Give thanks for what you have. We so easily get depressed and discouraged when we see what we lack or need. Nothing lifts one's heart so much as making a special effort to look at the things you do have and then to start thanking God for them. Even when you're driving your car or walking from one meeting to another, ask God to remind you to give thanks to Him.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** I give thanks to You o Lord, for You are good; Your love endures forever (**Ps.118:1**).

### **Prayer focus on people holding influential positions in SA**

We began to pray for people of influence in our previous issue of the *Jericho Walls Prayer Guide*. Realising the influence people have on others, we decided in this issue to focus on such people in South Africa. There are many more people holding positions of influence than those mentioned here. It is a biblical command for us to pray for those in government and in authority, therefore we felt it fit to note down these prayer pointers to serve as a guideline on how to pray for people of influence in South Africa. Our prayer focus is on the position and sphere of influence these people have, more so than on the person. Please feel free to add others to your list as the Lord leads you and continuously remind yourself and other Believers to pray for the leaders of the day.

1. **Spiritual influence: Retha McPherson: Mrs South Africa 2004:** On Saturday, 19 June 2004, Mrs South Africa, Retha McPherson, her husband and their two children were involved in a serious car accident. (Website: <http://www.rethamcpherson.co.za/aldo.htm>). Their son Aldo sustained serious injuries. God gave Aldo a visit to heaven, downloaded the entire Bible into him, which he is able to recall as needed, and much more. He heard people outside knocking, trying to get in, crying because the door was closed. Jesus told Aldo the feast was for His Bride, but many were not ready (this was in 2004). Retha now ministers the gospel in

many places in both South Africa and abroad. *Lord, we praise you for turning their mourning into dancing (Ps.30:11). Thank you for making everything beautiful in its time (Eccl.3:11). We pray for them and others who have such testimonies of Your goodness, for favour to proclaim the gospel freely and lead many to accept Christ as Saviour.*

2. **Cultural, social and arts influence: Zola:** Zola has enjoyed success as a Kwaito superstar, and is probably the most popular Kwaito artist in the country. Some refer to him as "the second biggest brand name in the country next to Nelson Mandela." He has received four South African Music Awards of which one was: *Artist of the Year - 2002. Yvonne Chaka Chaka:* From pop star in the 1980's, to talk show presenter and host, Yvonne Chaka Chaka is an entertainment icon of South Africa and Africa. She shed her disco image, restyled in African head-dress and fabric and was repositioned as a "Princess of Africa". During the 1990's, she sold albums in almost every sub-Saharan country. She has performed for a multitude of African heads-of-state and is involved in a variety of fundraising and benefit causes, and HIV work. In 2006 she was appointed *UNICEF Regional Spokesperson for Malaria.* (Website: <http://www.princessofafrica.co.za>). *Lord we lift up all artists like these to Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). We pray that each one will come to know You and continue to grow in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Give such people many opportunities to do good to others and testify of who You are to the multitudes following their lead.*
3. **Leadership influence: President Kgalema Motlanthe** was elected as South Africa's new president on 25 September 2008. Motlanthe is the first president who was voted in by parliament. Kgalema Motlanthe was born on 19 July 1949 in the Johannesburg township Alexandria as a member of a working class family. He was elected unopposed in 1997 as secretary-general of the ANC and re-elected in 2000. In December 2007 he was elected as deputy leader of the ANC and in July 2008 he was appointed minister in the presidency. (Die Burger 25/09/08.) *Lord, we lift up our current president before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). Will you reveal Your will and purposes for South Africa to him. Reveal Yourself to him as a rock of refuge, and a fortress of defence, for Your Name's sake, lead and guide him (Ps.31:2-3).*
4. **Political influence: Helen Zille:** Helen Zille was born in South Africa and is fluent in Xhosa and German. In April 2008, Zille was asked to address the *United Nations* in New York on population and development, offering her experience and lessons she learnt as mayor of Cape Town. In the same year she was awarded the prize *World Mayor of the year 2008.* Although criticised a lot, she shows strong leadership in her current position as the first female leader of a political party, the *Democratic Alliance*, since May 2007. **Patricia de Lille:** Mrs Patricia de Lille was born in 1951 in Beaufort West. She is currently leader of the *Independent Democrats*, which she formed in 2003 when she broke away from the *Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).* She was elected to Parliament in 2004. She was voted 22nd in the *SABC's Top 100 Great South Africans* in 2004. (Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patricia\\_de\\_Lille](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patricia_de_Lille)). *Lord we lift up all political leaders before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:16). We ask that You will establish them all in righteousness and justice, speaking all truth and with integrity. Reveal to them Your works and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon them and establish the work of their hands for Your glory (Ps.90:16-17).*
5. **Media influence: Ms Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu:** Ms Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu was born and raised in Umtata. Noeleen is a journalist and has spent a number of years in news handling, both Radio and TV, for *Radio Transkei* and *Radio 702* respectively. In 2002 Noeleen received the *Population Institute's Global Award for Radio Programme Excellence* in Cuba. She was voted one of *TIME Magazine's "Top 100 people of 2004"*. In 2004 and 2005 Noeleen won the *Crystal Award for Best TV Talk Show Host.* (Website: <http://www.tvsa.co.za/actorprofile.asp?actorID=40>). She is now known as the "Queen of Talk" in South Africa. *Lord, we lift up all those with influence on the minds and thoughts of people in South Africa through the media (Heb.4:16). Father of glory, we petition that You might give to them Your Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Christ as well. Open their eyes that they may all know the hope of their calling in You and know and proclaim the exceeding greatness of Your power toward us who believe (Eph.1:17-18).*
6. **Sports influence: Natalie du Toit:** Natalie du Toit, born in 1984, is a South African swimmer. She is known for the gold medals she won at the 2004 and 2008 *Paralympic Games.* She has won 5 gold medals during the 2008 *Paralympic Games.* Natalie is the most successful Paralympic partaker ever up until 2008. She is the

proud winner of 10 gold medals at the *Paralympic Games*. Natalie du Toit was born in Cape Town and has been competing internationally in swimming since the age of 14. In February 2001 her left leg was amputated at the knee after a scooter accident on her way back to school after swimming practice. Three months later, before she had started walking again, she was back in the pool with the intention of competing in the 2002 *Commonwealth Games*. Natalie swims without the aid of a prosthetic limb. (Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natalie\\_du\\_toit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natalie_du_toit)). *Lord we thank You for Your great mercy that You pour out on people in distress. Thank you for testimonies like these encouraging others to believe and trust that You are real. No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame. Show Your ways to especially sportsmen and women, teach them Your paths; guide them in Your truth as their God and Saviour. Let their hope be in You, remembering that Your great mercy and love are from of old (Ps.25:3-6, NIV).*

7. **Financial influence: Trevor Manuel:** Mr Trevor Manuel was born in 1956 in Cape Town. He received the *Global Leader for Tomorrow Award* in 1994 and is currently appointed *Minister of Finance*. South Africa reported its first budget surplus in 2007. Manuel increased spending for education, housing and sanitation. (Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor\\_Manuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_Manuel)). **Tito Mboweni:** Mr Tito Mboweni was born in 1959 and has served as *Governor of the SA Reserve Bank* since 1999. He was awarded *Global Leader of Tomorrow* in 1995. Upon joining the *South African Reserve Bank*, first as *Advisor to the Governor* in 1998, he resigned from all his elected and appointed positions in the ANC. (Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tito\\_Mboweni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tito_Mboweni)). *Lord we thank You for answering many prayers concerning our economy over the past 15 years. We bring these and other role players in the financial sphere before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:12). We pray for all those in government, not to fall prey to greed, for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves with many sorrows. We pray that You will deliver them and help them flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Help them turn all areas of their lives over to Christ (1 Tim.6:10-12).*
8. **Justice influence: The Chief Justice of South Africa** is the chief judge in South Africa, who exercises final authority over the functioning and management of all the courts. *The Chief Justice* therefore now presides over the *Constitutional Court*. **Mr Justice Pius Nkonzo Langa** (born in 1939) is the current *Chief Justice* of the *Constitutional Court of South Africa*. He was appointed to the bench in 1994 by Nelson Mandela, and was elevated as *Chief Justice* in 2005 by Thabo Mbeki. (Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pius\\_Langa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pius_Langa)). *Lord we lift up in prayer these and all other people of influence over our judicial system before Your throne of grace (Heb.4:12). Strengthen them to establish righteousness and justice as the foundation of Your throne (Ps.89:14). Pour out on everyone who does not know You, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding; may it guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus in everything they do (Phil.4:7). Help them to be faithful to also execute righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Ps.103:6), for to do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to You than sacrifice (Prov.21:3).*

### **Are you a real man?**

Being a man of God will cost you. The man who wants to be a man of God, must find his identity in God. Many of us don't want to. We still want to be "our own person". When we become a man of God, our name becomes "man of God"; any other name or identity becomes unimportant. We still want to be known by our own name. We still so badly want recognition for what we have done, for our successes, achievements and that which is unique to us. When we are just "man of God", there is no room for personal glory. There is however more: one of our greatest fears is probably that we must be in God's presence every moment and not just when we want to. To a human being this is an absolutely terrifying thought. Think about it for a second: *every moment*. There is not one moment that God does not know what we are thinking or what we are doing. There is nowhere we can be alone. There is never a moment that we can just sit and be left alone, where no one bothers us. God is always there, like a shadow. And this could be the deepest fear of the great majority of us: that He will be there every moment. Then there's no more looking one more time where we're not supposed to look and thinking a few "private" thoughts,

sometimes saying precisely what we feel in our heart to say, and now and again being just "a little bit unholy"; having to watch our step all the time. Maybe we haven't thought about it like this, but at the deepest level, the Adam in us is still trying to hide from God.

## Women-2-Pray: Dealing with a miscarriage

The moment a woman finds out that she is pregnant, a very special bond forms in her heart towards the unborn child. Having a miscarriage in the midst of all this excitement, or when a baby is stillborn, is quite devastating, and many times cause women to become severely depressed. People may seem unsympathetic and tactlessly comment that they did not know the child or are young enough to have another one. The following are some guidelines to help you pray for yourself or someone who has lost a child through miscarriage.

1. **Acknowledgement** – Once someone has gone through a miscarriage or given birth to a stillborn baby, one of the most difficult things is to acknowledge what happened, and not to feel embarrassed or to blame oneself. Pray that God will reveal His love and His thoughts to those who experienced this event and grant them grace to accept that He understands their pain and wants to comfort them (**2 Cor.1:3**).

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord, help me know and believe the love that You have for me. You are love. Help me abide in love and in You in this difficult time (**1 John 4:16**).

2. **Anger/disappointment** – Feelings of anger towards their husband, friends, family or even God might occur after miscarriage. This happens because one has lost something no one can replace. Pray for them not to blame themselves for what happened. Ask that God will touch their emotions with healing and relieve their anger, disappointment and sorrow.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** O Lord, help me not to turn away from You. Revive me and I will call upon Your Name. Restore me, o Lord God of hosts; make Your face shine on me, and I shall be saved! (**Ps.80:18-19**).

3. **Rationalisation** – They will try to compensate for the loss by trying to fill the void with something else. Pray that God will show them true wisdom in their situation and help them to re-establish healthy habits and not to fall prey to excessive eating or neglecting their bodies. Ask that they will turn to God for everything and not run away from Him.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** God of peace, sanctify me completely so that my whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust in You as the faithful One who calls me by my name, please do this for me (**1 Thess.5:23-24**).

4. **Depression** – They will enter a time of intense sadness and cry a lot, wanting to be alone and may shut out the outside world completely. Pray that they will make time not only to be alone, but also to spend time with God, even just to be saturated with His presence. Ask that this will be a time for them to experience God like never before. Also pray for them to confide in a good friend, so that they will not become completely isolated. Ask that they will never consider taking their own lives.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord Jesus Christ and my God and Father, who has loved me and given me everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort my heart and establish me in every good word and work (**2 Thess.2:16-17**). Give me a friend that will love me at all times (**Prov.17:17**).

5. **Embrace** – When they have worked through their loss, a deep inner peace comes. They may still sometimes experience bad days when they hear something that causes sadness or when they see a child or another pregnant woman. Pray for them during the bad days, to find their comfort in the Lord and not to fall back into complete despair or depression.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord, who have I in heaven *but You*? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the Strength of my heart and my Portion forever (**Ps.73:25-26**).

6. **Facing your spouse** - Both parents are dealing with intense emotions and it is easy to turn away from each other, afraid to talk about the miscarriage/death. Ask that God will grant them grace and courage to sit down with each other and have an open discussion about what happened to them. Pray that they will be open and

honest and together find a new depth in their relationship with each other, praying together on a regular basis and again giving their lives to God as a couple.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord, I call upon Your Name, heal our broken hearts and bind up our wounds as a couple (Ps.147:3). May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, o Lord, our Strength and Redeemer (Ps.19:14).

7. **Facing your family and friends** – Family and friends are the best source of practical support during such difficult times. Sometimes someone might need to speak with a professional therapist or counsellor to help them deal with what happened. Pray that God will give them understanding and supportive family and friends who will not try to solve their problems, but care and pray for them. Ask that they will be open to share their hearts.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord, please help us understand, support and pray for those suffering sorrow (Ps.116:3).

8. **You are not alone** – There comes a time when they will be confronted with people who also suffered a miscarriage. This is a time they will be able to share from their own experience. Pray for them to find even more comfort in beginning to comfort and pray for others who suffered a miscarriage.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Lord I thank You for being the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, Who comforts me in all my tribulation, that I may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which I myself have been comforted by God (2 Cor.1:3-4).

9. **Give thanks** – Give thanks to the Lord who answers prayer. Give thanks to the Lord who anoints us in our brokenness to preach good tidings to the poor; to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and opening prisons to those who are bound; to comfort all who mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness and the planting of the Lord (Isa.61:1-3).

(South African help lines: *Compassionate friends* (support for parents), tel.: 011 440 6322 or *Fertel Helpline* (fertility and miscarriage), tel.: 072 104 8352).

## KIDS-2-PRAY-4-KIDS

This week we will pray for other children that are in trouble because bad things have happened to them. Every time we pray for a child who is in trouble, we can also say thank you to God for giving us so many things, and people who are our family and love us. We do not always think about it this way, but we have many things that other children do not have.

**Monday: HIV/AIDS:** South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS. This means that many children are born HIV positive because their parents have AIDS. Many children are left behind all by themselves when both their parents die of AIDS. Often other family members are also sick or too far away to take care of them. *Lord Jesus, I pray for these children, that they will not feel alone. Please send someone to take care of them and give them food every day. Help them to come to know You, Jesus.*

**Tuesday: AFTERCARE:** Many parents work during the day and leave their children at daycare or after school care centres. The people caring for children at these places are really amazing and special. But, sometimes bad things happen to children in these care facilities, because some adults do not really love the children and do and say nasty things to them. *Lord Jesus, I pray for children that suffer because adults do and say nasty things to them. Please help them so that these bad people will be found out. I thank you for the good people who watch and take care of children everywhere in South Africa.*

**Wednesday: POVERTY:** Many parents are not able to find a job and then they cannot buy food for their children. It sometimes happens that children begin to beg for money at street corners, because they really want something to eat. *Lord Jesus, I pray for children who do not have enough food to eat every day. Please will You do miracles for everyone, so that they will know You are a good God. Please help their parents to find good jobs, so that they can buy food for everyone.*

**Thursday: PARENTS:** Many children do not have parents and live with their grandparents. Other children's parents work in towns far away and they only see them once in a while. *Lord Jesus, I want to say thank you for every child who has parents and who is able to live with them. Please help these children to love and respect their parents. Also comfort those children who do not have parents or who are in orphanages to know that You are a heavenly Father who also provides for their needs on earth.*

**Friday: GIVE THANKS:** As we have prayed about the troubles of other children, let us take time to look and see what we have, compared to them. Ask someone to help you to write down the things you have that you can thank the Lord for. Also say thank you to your parents/family or guardians who look after you. *Lord Jesus, I give thanks to You for You are good and Your mercy endures forever (1 Chr.16:34). Thank you for showing me how much I have to give thanks for.*

### **Are you a real man?**

David says in **1 Chronicles 29:17**: *I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.* So much is said about integrity. What does integrity really mean? Integrity is what we think and do when no one sees us and when no one will ever know about it, except us. It is to live in such a way that we do not mind if God or people know everything we do. It is a life in which whatever we say, think and do will not be an embarrassment to us should our wives, children and colleagues get to know about it, or if it is published in a newspaper. It is when we live in such a way that our words, deeds, character and whatever God expects from us are in accordance. It is when our *character* is in accordance with God's character. To a Christian, integrity is to choose God (Himself, His will and precepts) consistently, in all circumstances and under any form of pressure. A man with integrity is not controlled by a fear of people or by being pressurised. Jesus' critics had to admit in the end: *"Teacher, we know you are a man of man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth"* (**Mark 12:14**). This is integrity. We read in **Daniel 6:4**: *At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.* This is integrity. Look at God's promise to those who have integrity: *The man of integrity walks securely* (**Prov.10:9, NKJ**). For the man of God, being a man of integrity is not feeling good about himself, but feeling right about himself, in other words, knowing that he lives the *right* way.

### **YOUTH-2-PRAY: Gain your balance**

Young people are extremely vulnerable to peer pressure to get involved in seemingly innocent "testing out" of things like alcohol, drugs, pornography, chat rooms and much more. All these things seem very cool until a friend dies of an overdose or is raped or falls pregnant. Will you as a teenager not consider praying for other teenagers for protection from these things?

1. **Religion:** The majority of teenagers and young adults in most parts of the world are religious, according to a massive 21-country study. Worldwide, almost 44% of young adults say they are deeply religious (not only Christian). Only 13% say they are not interested in God or faith in general. (*Christian Post*, 15 July '08).

*Lord, I pray that You will touch the hearts and minds of young people across the globe to turn their hearts towards You and be radical followers and doers of Your Word.*

2. **Obesity:** Teenagers who eat breakfast consume more daily calories but weigh less than those who skip the first meal of the day. Kids who skip breakfast tend to gain more weight, and would therefore be at a higher risk for obesity. Obesity leads to many other illnesses. (Website: [http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=31&art\\_id=nw20080303181402244C183552&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20080304ah](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=31&art_id=nw20080303181402244C183552&newslett=1&em=177813a1a20080304ah)).

*Lord, I pray for young people to become established in healthy habits like eating correctly, exercising and socialising sensibly. Help us to realise our bodies are a temple of Your Holy Spirit and that we were bought at a price. Help us to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits which belong to You alone (1 Cor.6:19).*

3. **Pornography:** About 81% of South African children between the ages of 13 and 17 have seen pornographic images on their friends' cellphones. Sixty-seven percent have been exposed to pornography through movies and, by the time they reach 18 years of age, 64% would have seen images of pornography on the Internet. About 45% of the respondents admitted to watching pornographic films regularly. More boys (84%) than girls (54%) have watched at least one pornographic film (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/sa/652453.htm>).

*Lord, we pray for our peers to watch out for the trap of watching pornography and becoming addicted to it. Help them understand that it is truly dangerous and harmful to the mind and spirit in the long run. As young people we submit to You. Strengthen us to resist the devil in Your Name. Teach us how to draw near to You, urge our generation to cleanse their hands and purify their hearts (Jas.4:7-8).*

4. **Drugs:** Large amounts of alcohol inhibit self-consciousness and self-control and very often lead to and encourage irresponsible behaviour. While under the influence, teenagers are more likely to try drugs and have sex. It also increases exposure to being robbed, attacked and raped. (Source: Medical Council crime, violence and injury lead programme report 2004).

*Lord, I pray for protection over teenagers who fall prey to peer pressure and lose their dignity. Help them realise the dangers and to say no to drugs and sex. Protect them from falling victim to robbery, physical abuse and violence or rape.*

5. **Alcohol:** Binge drinking (having more than 5 drinks in a few hours) is becoming a great problem among teenagers. It causes alcohol poisoning and high blood pressure. It may cause heart failure, a stroke or suffocation if a person should pass out. Hospitals report that it is especially over the December holidays that teenagers who were left to care for themselves were treated for injuries, or in extreme cases, because their parents or guardians were too drunk themselves to do so. (Source: Medical Council crime, violence and injury lead programme report 2004).

*Lord, I pray for parents and guardians who do not conduct themselves according to Your will. Please show them the truth of Jesus Christ. I cry out for teenagers who follow their example, or who drink for fun and become alcoholics. Please help them acknowledge their addiction and that they need help. Let them realise they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, Your own special people, that they may proclaim Your praises who called them out of darkness into Your marvellous light (1 Pet.2:9).*

6. **Cellphone, TV & computer games:** If you are fascinated by a hobby, feel captivated by it, and would like to spend as much time as possible pursuing it - this could be an outlet for learning, creativity, and self-expression. But in truly pathological addictions, the scale has tipped. The bad outweighs the good, resulting in serious disturbances in one's ability to function in the "real" world. Looking at it from a clinical perspective, these pathological addictions may be an attempt to control depression and anxiety, and may reflect deep insecurities and feelings of inner emptiness. (Website: <http://www.netaddiction.com>).

*Lord, I pray for myself and other teenagers to recognise the line between enjoying games and becoming addicted. I ask that teenagers might wilfully restrict themselves from spending too much time playing games on the Internet or television. Also protect them from becoming involved with child predators in chat rooms, while using MXit etc. Help Christian teenagers to remember that they were raised with Christ in their lives, so that they might seek things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Help them set their minds on things above, not things on earth (Col.3:1-2).*

(South African help lines. Alcoholics Anonymous, tel.: 0861 435 722, Life Line, tel.: 0861 322 322).

## Global focus to pray about violence and war

The following pointers provide a basic foundation on how to pray about violence/war in the world right now. Please feel free to add to these and other issues the Holy Spirit might show you.

1. **35 Wars going on right now:** There have been over 250 major wars in the world since World War II. Over 37 million people have been killed by wars in the 20th century. Three times more people have been killed in wars in the last 90 years than in all the previous 500. There are over 35 major conflicts going on in the world today. *Father God, we lift up every person who suffers because of a war in their vicinity right now. May they know Jesus. May they be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make known their requests to You. Grant them peace which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil.4:6-7).*
2. **Who is dying?** In the wars of the last decade, more children were killed than soldiers. Child victims of war in the last decade include an estimated 2 million killed, 4 to 5 million disabled, 12 million left homeless, and more than 1 million orphaned. *Father God, reveal Your Son Jesus to the children that are left disabled, homeless and orphaned. May each one see Your marvellous loving-kindness, You who save by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them (Ps.17:7).*
3. **Child soldiers:** Some 300,000 children are serving as soldiers in current armed conflicts. They carry AK-47s and M-16s on the front lines of combat, serve as human mine detectors, participate in suicide missions, carry supplies, and act as spies, messengers or lookouts. Child soldiers are being used in more than thirty countries around the world. (Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/childsoldiers>). *Father God, we cry out that You would raise up those who would execute true justice and show mercy and compassion, everyone to his brother (Zech.7:9). May the children be released to be children, given peace from war.*
4. **Children and war:** Millions of children are caught up in conflicts in which they are not merely bystanders, but targets. Some fall victim to a general onslaught against civilians; others die as part of a calculated genocide. Still other children suffer the effects of sexual violence or the multiple deprivations of armed conflict that expose them to hunger or disease. Just as shocking, thousands of young people are cynically exploited as combatants. (*The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), State of the World's Children, 1995, p. 2. Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/childrenandwar>*). *Father God, we cry out to You for the plight of children. Show them salvation through Jesus Christ. Keep them as the apple of Your eye, hide them under the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who oppress them, from their deadly enemies who surround them (Ps.17:8-9).*
5. **Women and war:** During armed conflict, women and girls are continually threatened by rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking, sexual humiliation and mutilation. They are at heightened risk in all settings, whether at home, in flight or in camps for displaced people. (Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/womenandwar>). *Father God, we cry out to You to turn the tide for women, especially those who suffer because of ongoing wars. We ask on their behalf, that none will oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let no one plan evil in his heart against them (Zech.7:10).*
6. **Refugees:** Today, no continent and barely any country in the world are untouched by the global refugee crisis. At the beginning of 2000 an estimated 14 million people were living as refugees, uprooted, forced from their homes and compelled to cross an international border because of war, civil conflict etc. An estimated 30 million are displaced, those who are forced to flee their homes, but who remain within their own country, and hence are not eligible for protection under the same international system as refugees. (Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/refugees>). *Father God, we cry out to You on behalf of refugees and those who are displaced. Like in Bible times, will You provide bread and water for those who have fled from the distress of war (Isa.21:14-15). Help them to know You are a God Who saves, physically and spiritually.*
7. **Landmines:** It is estimated that there are between 60 and 70 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries. Landmines wound or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every year, including 8,000 to 10,000 children. Those victims that survive endure a lifetime of physical, psychological, and economic hardship. At

least 75% of landmine victims are civilians. (Adopt-a-Minefield, website: [www.landmines.org](http://www.landmines.org) or <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/landmines>). *Father God, we pray for a solution to be found soon to solve this problem worldwide. Minister to the victims of landmines, heal the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds (Ps.147:3).*

### **How to pray as you reach out to those who do not know Christ**

When we reach out to people, whether as part of an organised outreach or simply as we connect with people in our daily life, it is important to wilfully focus on God's heart for them in order to pray for them according to God's will. The following are some guidelines to help you the next time you are on an outreach or when God puts someone on your heart that you know does not know Him personally.

1. Pray for people by name, and ask God to minister to their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs - **James 2:16**.
2. Ask God to show you how to demonstrate His love and care – **1 John 4:10-12**.
3. Ask God for opportunities to get to know those you know are not Christians in your sphere of influence - **Luke 19:10**.
4. Ask God to help you in building a friendship with them in order to reach them – **1 Corinthians 9:22**.
5. Ask God to show you ways to meet some of their felt needs - **Isaiah 61:1**.
6. Ask God for boldness and opportunities to witness of His grace - **Colossians 4:3, Acts 4:29**.
7. Ask God to open their spiritual eyes to see the truth of Christ – **2 Corinthians 4:4**.
8. Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity – **2 Timothy 2:26**.
9. Ask God to give them ears to hear, faith to believe and the will to respond - **Matthew 13:15, Acts 20:21, Romans 10:9**.
10. Ask God to also send other people into their lives to witness to them - **Matthew 9:38**.

### **Set them thinking about life**

In the process of witnessing and building friendships with them, try to remember to ask them the questions listed down below. Do not pressure them for an answer. They will respond when they feel ready. Yet, after asking these questions, pray continuously that the Holy Spirit will continue to speak to them after your departure.

- Whom can I trust?
- What is the purpose of my life?
- What happens when I die?
- When will I really and truly be free?
- Why do I hate God and flee from Him?
- How can I handle my problems?
- What does happiness mean to me?