

# MEN-IN-THE-GAP

It is very interesting to see how many new prayer initiatives have evolved in the country over the past few months. In Pretoria a group of six men started praying together in January 2007. Now, once a week, 200-250 men attend this meeting and it is starting to spread to other towns. In Centurion a large group of Believers across denominations and a number of organisations came together at the beginning of January to pray for the country. It was a very special occasion. There are many more examples of people that gather to pray with all kinds of prayers (**Eph.6:18**).

As an outflow of these initiatives, the need was expressed to continue encouraging men to gather on a regular basis to pray about issues of concern, not only personal, but also as priests of their families, people of influence in the workplace and in obedience to God who calls us to stand in the gap for our nation (**Ez.22:30**). From this month onwards we will try to at least set down some ideas to put you on course so that you may lay hold of God through His Holy Spirit in prayer and intercession for different issues.

Will you not consider praying about some of these issues some time during the day on a regular basis, e.g. every Thursday? Remember it is not necessary to gather only on the days as set out here. What is more important than anything is that men across our country will begin to take up their position in prayer and do so on a regular basis. Try to fast for one day a week or skip one meal a day for three days a week, as the Lord leads you. Set yourself before God in this way to show that you are serious to see His kingdom come on earth.

## **Global Bridegroom Fast (Mt.9:15)**

Millions of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims are praying and fasting with intensity unknown to the Western church. Jesus desires the church globally to rise up, lovesick in her bridal identity. He desires for His bride to be abandoned in purity, fasting wholeheartedly, praying and worshipping to more effectively preach the gospel, heal the sick and serve the poor. *The Bridegroom Fast* takes place annually, for forty days and is set out as follows: The first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each month – that is three days a month, and then seven days in December.

## **What are we praying for?**

1. Fullness of the Holy Spirit and unity in the church (**Jn.17:2-23**).
2. Spiritual breakthroughs in the church world-wide with unprecedented unity, purity and power (**1 Chr.14:11b**).
3. The Great Harvest (**Mt.24:14**). Ask for over one billion souls to be converted by the power of God.
4. Revival amongst the youth (**Mal.4:6**). Ask for a world-wide revival, especially among the poor.
5. Revival to Israel (**Rm.9-11**). Ask for the fulfilment of all the prophetic promises to Israel and the Houses of Prayer in Israel (**Is.62:6-7**).
6. The release of "grace for fasting" with worship and prayer, to establish 24-hour-a-day houses of prayer in the cities of the earth (including Israel) (**Lk.18:7-8**).
7. Wealth of the nations (**Hag.2:7-9**). Release of finances for the Harvest, the prayer movement and the poor.
8. The wall of fire (**Zech.2:5**). Divine protection of all that is birthed through prayer: "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you" (**Is.60:2**).
9. The *Persecuted Church* (**Eph.3:10**). Ask for favour for the church to remain faithful, grow in truth and take up their position in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed them in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Him (**Eph.1:3**).
10. Give thanks to the Lord, call on His Name; make known among the nations what He has done (**1 Chr.16:8**). Continue to give thanks to God who is faithful in answering prayers.