

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?gclid=CNaF4d3W5pECFRciFQodmQ7Cew and International Medical Corps at e-mail: development@imcworld-wide.org).