

# 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**

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