

Jan. 2010

Hadassah Watch

"And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4 vs. 1-4b



WOMEN praying with other WOMEN for WOMEN across the world

We call on all Christian women around the world to take at least 15 minutes every Tuesday morning to pray. We encourage you to mobilize as many women as possible to pray, individually or in groups. Take a few minutes to ponder & pray at each point of the guideline below & be open to intercede as the Holy Spirit leads.

You are welcome to forward this e-mail to as many Christian sisters as possible. Please send us the name of the town and the country in which you reside & let us know what God is doing in your nations! [You are welcome to e-mail us with prayer requests and testimonies.](#) If you did not receive this e-mail directly from us, but would like to, feel free to send your e-mail address to info@hadassahwatch.org

We believe that God has called us as women, to intercede like never before, for His plans and purposes to be accomplished here on earth. Let us not slumber, but pray and call others to pray - for His Kingdom to come...

Ponder this...reach out

"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Luke 11:2

May God bless each praying woman and her family in 2010. May God give us the grace to stand firm for what we believe and to reach out to other women as never before. May we pray with increasing zeal for the Kingdom of God to come in the world. We committed ourselves as Christian women to pray for one another and for the issues women face in the different countries of the world, but do we know what these issues are? Shall we make it our mission in this new year to broaden our vision when praying for women? Shall we find out what women in countries, very different from our own, have to cope with? What their lifestyle is and what are the challenges they face. Let us intercede as never before for those women to meet their Saviour and to grow into mature, victorious Christians who will make a difference in their communities.

Country - Russia

"Whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? Rom. 10:13-14

Russia is the world's largest country, extending over 11 time zones from west to east, with a population of almost 150 million people. Russia has vast natural resources and is potentially the world's richest country, but the long term structural and moral effects of the Marxist government prevented it from being exploited for the benefit of the people. There has been a significant up-turn economically since 1999, but about 30% of the people still live on less than US\$ 1.00 a day (R7-8). Freedom of religion is written into the constitution, but the Orthodox Church's 1000 years history as part of the Russian culture gives it enormous political influence although only 3% of its members are actively involved. Discrimination against minority groups through hostile propaganda, biased reporting in the press and arbitrary restrictions on religious minorities by regional authorities, threaten religious freedom. Visas for foreign missionaries are hard to obtain and renew. A new legislation introduced this past month would make evangelism in the country nearly impossible if the legislation is passed, since only religious groups that have been registered in Russia for at least fifteen years will be allowed to engage in any evangelistic or missionary activity. The big tragedy is that the door is closing while hearts are open for the Gospel, and there's nobody to tell them. Nine out of ten communities still don't have access to Bible-preaching churches. More than 90% of Russians have no meaningful link with any church.

Let us pray for the Kingdom of God to come in Russia. That the Russian church will grow in strength and maturity. Pray for Godly leaders and a new spirit of faith and expectancy in Christian congregations. That the Gospel will be taken to all the undetached people groups. Pray that many people will get to know Christ through Christian TV and radio.

Family

They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." Luke 13:29-30

Russians live in small apartments in large blocks, with 2-3 generations living together. It's normal when grown single children live with parents, and even when married children with spouses stay with one of the parents. During the Soviet time one couldn't buy an apartment, he could only "receive" it from the state. A family with 2 children of the same gender would get only a two-room apartment of about 30 square meters. Nowadays one can buy an apartment, but it is unachievable for the majority of people because of small salaries. Living in small apartments together with parents and/or children makes Russians take care of each other. All housework is the woman's responsibility. About 80% of Russian families do not have an automatic washing machine and microwave. Daily life for the majority of Russian women is very much the same. After a simple breakfast, she goes to catch a bus/tram/trolleybus/underground train, spending between 30 and 90 minutes to reach the work place on over crowded transport. Leaving her work, she usually goes to the nearest shop to buy some food - bread, milk and meat. If she has a child, she must fetch him from the kindergarten. She has to walk to the shop and there stand in a queue (most shops, especially in regional cities, still sell over the counter and bill items manually). Russian society is pretty male dominating. Infidelity is common in Russia. Women outnumber men, and a man can easily find somebody for affairs. No other country has such a severe alcohol abuse problem as Russia. Official estimates are that 40% of the men and 7% of women are alcoholics. The effects on family life and society are staggering.

Let us pray for the negative moral and social effects of Communism to be removed by the love of God. That dysfunctional families will be changed into examples of Christian values. Pray that Russian women will find hope and peace in Christ and will become the backbone of their nation.

Youth

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matt.24:14

The health of Russian children and teenagers is worse than at any stage since World War II, the interior minister recently said. He warned senior Moscow officials that homelessness, drug addiction, alcoholism and illiteracy threatened the country's future. He said there are more than 700,000 orphans and street children, and four million teenage drug users in the country. And he said the figures represented just the "tip of the iceberg". and the real numbers are likely to be much higher. In turn, health officials say the large number of injecting drug users is helping fuel one of the world's fastest growing rates of HIV infection. It is feared that by 2010 there will be 500,000 AIDS orphans. Social problems are affecting not just young people's health, but also their education. Around two million Russian teenagers are unable to read and write - in a country that, during the Soviet years, prided itself on almost 100% literacy.

There has been a serious neglect of the youth by the church, let us pray that the Church will find new ways to reach the youth, especially in university campuses and schools. Ask God to supernaturally reveal Himself to this generation. Pray for young Christian leaders to come forward to reach out to their peers.

TESTIMONY...Abortion

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; Act 17:26-27

In 2005, 1,600,000 abortions were registered in Russia (the highest in the world); 20% of these involved young women under the age of majority. It is quite common for a woman to have had up to 25 abortions. Under Communism, the moral aspect of abortion officially played no role in a woman's decision to end a pregnancy. Even today women queue outside abortion clinics. The procedure is over in no more than 10 minutes. The patient is wheeled from the room and another woman is wheeled in. In the Soviet Union, abortion was virtually the only family-planning method women had. Ten years ago, nearly four million abortions were performed per year, 2.2 abortions for every live birth. A young woman called Zhanna has terminated her pregnancy. "I made the decision with my husband," she says. "He's taking it really hard. We wanted to have a little girl but we already have two children and we can't afford another." Poverty is pushing Zhanna and other Russian women toward abortion. She is unemployed. Her husband scrapes by on a tiny salary. Abortion is free and a month's supply of contraceptives costs from \$1.50 to \$10.

Let us pray that Russian women will realize the terrible moral, spiritual, physical and emotional effects of abortion and chooses a different option. Pray that this legacy of communism will be stopped and for a new realization of the value of life. That the State will take initiative with new family planning structures. Ask God's forgiveness for the murder of so many unborn babies.

Be blessed as you pray & spread the good tidings of the gospel of Jesus Christ!!!

Psalm 68 vs. 11 "The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host..."

Hadassah Watch is endorsed & supported by: PACWA (Pan African Women's Association) Jericho Walls International Prayer Network Transformation Africa / Global Day of Prayer