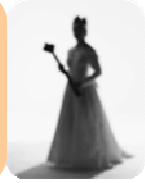


July 2009

# Hadassah Watch

*"And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14b*



## 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](mailto: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...Iranian unrest

*Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!" (Ps.40:13&16)*

After wide perceptions of vote counting fraud in the recent election, many cities in Iran have been gripped by protests, involving hundreds of thousands of people. After several days of strikes and mostly peaceful protests, the government has endorsed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the current President, and threatened violence against the protesters. This is the greatest time of unrest for Iran in decades. A large percentage of the protestors are students of whom 50% are women. Iranian students have known nothing apart from the Islamic regime and the vast majority wants freedom. Most would describe themselves as without hope for the future because the economic situation and the religious political system make it extremely difficult to build a decent life. One Student was quoted:- "Please let the world know that the people of Iran are using the election outcome as an excuse, their real problem is the system and the corrupt regime. Anything that happens to us is because of this religion... religious beliefs are personal and should not be enforced."

*Pray for Iran's leaders to practice justice; for prudence for the protestors and their leaders who must decide their course of action; and for wisdom for the church and its leadership which must endure this time of turmoil. Pray that the Lord will reveal Himself to the students as the only true source of hope. Also ask for a spiritual revival amongst the students.*

## Nation Iran

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 4000 BC. The Medes are credited with the unification of Iran as a nation and empire (625-559 BC), the largest of its day, until Cyrus the Great established a unified empire of the Medes and Persians leading to the Achaemenid Empire (559-330 BC). In 522 BC Darius the Great was declared king. Under Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great, the Persian Empire eventually became the largest and most powerful empire in human history up until that point. Iran had been a monarchy ruled by a Shah, or emperor, almost without interruption from 1501 until the 1979 Iranian revolution, when Iran officially became an Islamic Republic on 1 April 1979. Iran's population is over 71 million. The largest people group in Iran are the over 25 million Persians. The second largest group are the over 14 million Azeri Turk Azerbaijani people as well as many ethnic groups of whom many have retained their mother tongue. The state religion is Islam and 99.5% of the people are Muslims. Shia Muslims represent 91% of the population and Sunni Muslims 8%. There are small numbers of Christians who suffer much persecution. However, Many Muslims are coming to Christ, thanks to the courage of Iranian Christians, who are working very hard to spread the Good News. The Supreme Leader is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Tehran is the Capital of Iran and the official language is Farsi /Persian

*Pray for the 94 least-reached people groups still living in Iran who need to know the Prince of Peace! Pray for the Christian leaders, evangelists and broadcasters for wisdom on how best to reach the various regions and communities. Pray for continued courage and perseverance for the Christians in reaching out to their countrymen and for many more Iranians to meet Christ. Trust God that the Iranian people will again have a ruler like Cyrus, who acknowledged God as the only true King.*

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up! (2Chron.36:22-23)

## Marriage and Family

Nearly every Iranian grows up among a number of relatives and families and friends spend much time together. Family picnics are a favourite pastime. However, there are also many broken marriages in Iran and divorce is on the increase. In the event of divorce children usually end up in the father's custody and therefore many mothers live in terribly unhappy marriages so that they can raise their children. Women do not have the same rights as men when it comes to marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. Iranian women are often commended for being deeply committed to their families. Family life is put under extra strain because many fathers need to work at more than one job to make ends meet. The good news is that whole families are coming to the Lord. In some cases many members of the extended families have become Christians and one of the primary ways Christianity is spreading is through family networks.

**Pray that the gospel will continue to spread through the country through family networks. Pray especially for those Christians who are still the only believers in their families, ask that the family will see the difference Christ made in their lives and for them to have wisdom in reaching out to their families. Trust the Lord that Christian mothers will be able to lead their children to Christ.**

*All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God. (Ps.86:9-10)*

## WOMEN

*I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD. (Ps.40:1-3)*

A high percentage of women in Iran are literate and more than half of university students are female, showing that Iranian women desire education and personal development, however their passion is soon quenched as they face up to the realities of living as a woman under Iran's Islamic law. Women are prohibited from entering certain careers and women do not enjoy the same legal safeguards as men. Women are not allowed to participate in some entertainment and sports activities. It is mandatory for women to wear a head covering from the age of nine. As a result of this many women have become activists, as was seen in the recent protests, where more than 50% of the people taking to the streets were women, mostly young ones.

**Let us pray that Iranian women will experience the true liberty that only Christ can bring. Pray for women suffering domestic violence and abuse from fathers, brothers and husbands. Pray for female Christian workers for wisdom on how to introduce the gospel to women in all parts of society. Ask God to reveal to Iranian women His love, acceptance and appreciation for them.**

*I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens. (Ps.87:1)*

## TESTIMONY

A young woman, known as Neda, (meaning 'divine calling' in Farsi) has become the symbol of women on the front line. In a widely circulated amateur video, Neda is seen in the protests. She is shot and drops to the ground. Blood runs from her mouth, the camera closes in on her face as she is dying. Neda Agha-Soltan, 26, loved life and music and was looking forward to play the piano. She was the second of three children living with her parents in a middle-class neighbourhood east of Tehran. Her friends call her a happy, positive person. She was studying philosophy and religion at the Azad Islamic University. According to some reports she and her music professor, who was with her at the time of her death, were not participating in the protests, but just happened to be there.

**Let us pray for so many young women like Neda who are caught up in circumstances that they have not created, but they are paying the price. Pray for all the unsaved women and young girls in countries like Iran who need the Lord. Trust the Lord that they will keep on searching for truth and freedom in the only place that it can be found, Jesus Christ.**

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (Matt.7:7-8)*

**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**