



PRAYER CONNECT

February 2008

Newsletter of the International Prayer Council
"Globalising Prayer, Transforming our World"

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1. 40 DAYS OF BLESSINGS FOR FRANCE

The 40 days of fasting and prayer in 2006 was the culmination of seven years of international mobilisation for France. In fact, it is now more than 10 years since Pastor John Mulinde in Kampala, Uganda, received an urgent call from the Lord that the people of France should humble themselves, pray and seek His face on behalf of their nation. The first 40 days were organised in early 2000. In 2001, John Beynon, an English minister who had no idea what was happening in France, felt convicted that he should launch an international 40 days of prayer for France. He also had the idea to produce a prayer guide so that all Christians could pray for the same topics each day. And so many people responded!

In 2001, an estimated 2 million Christians worldwide were committed to intercede for France! In France, several tens of thousands took part in the 40 days each year, in one way or another. In the last few years, they repented for their past, they prayed for their regions and their relations with other nations. They are not the first to do so, but a mobilisation on this scale is something new. And God has heard them! All the overseas ministries who came back to France noticed a shift in the spiritual climate. Hunger for God is no longer taboo, but is being expressed by many. This was also reflected in the media, and even the authorities openly affirmed the importance of the spiritual dimension.

AND NOW ?

This year, they want to bless, and enter into blessing.

- To bless God for who He is and for what He has already accomplished in their nation.**
 - To bless their brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ whatever their age, their origin and the type of church they go to. To bless, in order to unite their strength.**
 - To bless young people and catch them up with them into this blessing.**
 - To bless the signs of Life and Hope in their country and beyond.**
 - To bless their authorities. They are in a time of elections crucial for their country. At a European level as well, this period is important.**
- To bless, is to change your mentality!**

Source: www.prayforfrance.org

2. BURMA: GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER – 9 MARCH 2008

The people of Burma have suffered internal warfare and military oppression for more than 30 years. After decades under a brutal military regime, a widespread movement towards democracy culminated in the massacre of thousands of demonstrators in the late 1980's. The demonstrations of 2007 were put down brutally and the war against the ethnic peoples continues. More than 50% of the national budget are being spent on arms, while the Burmese people slide deeper into poverty. Most of the world's heroine comes from Burma. Once one of the richest countries in Asia, Burma is now one of the poorest in the world – and has one of the worst human rights records.

An estimated 7% of the Burmese people are Christian, largely among ethnic minorities. Religious differences are being used

to stir up internal divisions and hatred. Persecution is widespread and includes ethnic minorities as well as majority Burmans.

In spite of oppression, the people of Burma have not given up. They need prayer, immediate protection, humanitarian assistance and support for their pro-democracy organizations.

Please join the global initiative to pray for Burma on March 9, 2008

- **Pray for an end to the atrocities in Burma. From someone in Burma: 'My mother and I were captured when I was 5 years old. For a whole day they dragged us through the jungle without any food and water. Then they let us go. After that happened I was always afraid. It did not go away until I turned 12.'**
- **Pray for the emergence of an open society and religious freedom for all peoples of Burma.**
- **Pray for love and understanding among all the peoples of Burma.**
- **Pray that the Church will be faithful in opportunities to stand for love and truth, to love even their enemies and to pray for them.**
- **Pray for people on both sides of the conflict – for God's love to become a reality and that they may receive eternal life from Him.**
- **Pray for the relief teams in Burma – for their protection, for courage, for provision on every level, so that they may be able to help Burmese refugees effectively. Even relief workers are being captured, tortured and killed. Pray for Christian relief workers to share the love of Christ with all they meet.**

Please consider dedicating regular time to pray for Burma, forming prayer groups. Let us together cry out to God for this nation!

Source: Christians Concerned for Burma publication, ccb@pobox.com

Note. The new name politically of the country is Myanmar, but the indigenous people seem to prefer the old name Burma.

3. CHRIST DAY IN FINLAND

In Finland the people have been praying for some years, asking God to rise up His prayer army in every town and city. Now He has called some students from Turku city to pray and gave them a vision to call prayer groups from every place in Finland to the Turku Hall in Turku in October 2008, where there is room for 10 000 people.

A young man, Hannu Hatanpää, is the leader of this vision, which was received by a Lutheran revival organisation, KRS, where Hannu is serving among the students in Turku. KRS is well received in every church domination in Finland.

Therefore, all Christian churches are joining this process to rise up a nationwide prayer network in Finland!

Christ Day will take place from 17 to 18 October 2008 for all prayer groups from the towns and cities in Finland. A special forum for international mission and prayer leaders, will be held from 16 to 19 October 2008. The gathering is similar to the one held in Switzerland in 2004.

For further info, please contact Päivi Heikkilä at paivi_heikkila@hotmail.com

4. CARIBBEAN PRAYER SUMMIT

The Caribbean Prayer Summit (CPS) seeks to bring together the islands and other nations of this region. Hosted by a unanimous decision in Suriname, this Summit will provide attendees the opportunity for networking, strategic planning and prayer for revival within our region.

The CPS aims to target intercessory prayer leaders from throughout the region and beyond who have a burning in their hearts to see the region transformed through the power of prayer and a revival birthed impacting all of the Caribbean and beyond.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose and objectives of the CPS are as follows:

- To provide a forum for networking of intercessory prayer leaders
- Strategic planning for the setting up of national prayer networks on islands where there are none in place
- To strengthen and empower prayer leaders to return to their islands and seek to multiply prayer groups and fellowships
- Development of links, networks, and initiatives in the region; exposing what already exists.
- To encourage the youth to become more involved in intercession
- To present the concept of a Global Day of Prayer and have it initiated in all the islands of the region.

For further details, please contact Rev Maria Harbajan at prayernet@cwjamaica.com

5. MANI SA CONSULTATION

MANI Southern Africa (Anglophone nations)

Strategic collaboration for the Great Commission is on the increase in English-speaking Southern Africa as leaders recognize that more can be accomplished together than working alone. National initiative efforts are underway in varying levels across the region. Building upon the mandate given by Southern African leaders at MANI 2006, a decision was taken to hold *MANI 2008 Southern Africa* in February 2008. The World Evangelization Network of South Africa has offered to host this event in partnership with MANI and Transformation Africa.

Below are some prayer pointers.

Prayer Item #1

Please pray for the MANI Southern Africa 2008 Consultation planned for February 18-22, 2008. It represents a strategic moment for the African continent - drawing together 300 high-level leaders in delegations from 13 Southern African and Portuguese-speaking nations along with continental and global leaders. Please lift each national delegation as they explore more effective ways to work in strategic partnership to disciple their nations and to send Africans in mission to the world. Pray for the facilitators of 19 working groups as they design sessions ranging from church planting movements to community transformation. Pray for a deep touch of God upon each delegate and for the strengthening of national initiatives in each country.

Prayer Item #2

In Southern Africa, thousands of communities remain beyond the practical reach of a healthy church. Without a vibrant church presence, the hope of community transformation cannot be realized. To meet this huge challenge, the Body of Christ must work together in prayerful and strategic partnership. This is the vision of the MANI SA 08 Consultation, planned for 18-22 Feb in Johannesburg. Pray for the leaders of 13 national delegations as they grapple with the challenge of reaching every geographic community – among people of all backgrounds - in their countries.

Prayer Item #3

The African Church is increasingly moving out in mission to the world. Thousands of Africans currently minister cross-culturally and many hundreds are engaged in ministry beyond the African continent. Pray for a rising tide of missions sending from Africa to the least-evangelized peoples of the world. Pray for Africans to play a significant role in the re-

evangelization of the West. The challenge of African missions will be highlighted by 300 delegates at the MANI SA 08 Consultation. As models are shared and partnerships formed, pray for the Lord to accelerate missions within and from the African continent.

Prayer Item #4

The challenge of discipling a nation is far bigger than any one denomination or organization. Real transformation – where Jesus impacts all sectors of society - requires the whole Body of Christ to work together. It takes healthy churches – planted in every small place – working together to bless their communities. Everyone has a critical role to play. Pray for national delegations from across Southern and Portuguese-speaking Africa that will gather at MANI SA 08 on 18-22 Feb. Ask for a spirit of unity, common vision and practical partnership as they consider the challenge of mobilising the Body of Christ as a force for transformation.

Prayer Item #5

With MANI SA 08 just around the corner (18-22 Feb), join us in praying for God's grace to infuse all those involved in preparations. May the Lord inspire national delegation leaders, plenary speakers and working group facilitators as they convey His passion to reach and transform every community across the Southern Cone. May the Spirit empower the logistics team and coordinators as they serve the delegates. Pray for the impact of MANI SA 08 to extend far into the future as national initiative movements are strengthened, regional ministry networks advanced, and hundreds of African leaders released into the global harvest. May the Lord glorify Himself through our weakness and use Southern Africa to touch the world.

6. HOLLYWOOD PRAYER NETWORK

The new HPN KIDS Prayer Calendar is growing monthly and there are many kids who are starting to pray for professional kids in Hollywood. If you want to find out more about the Hollywood Prayer Network and how to pray for young people, just go to www.hollywoodprayernetwork.org

7. GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

“Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Matthew 9:15

Millions of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims are praying and fasting with intensity unknown to the Western Church. Jesus desires the church to globally rise up in her bridal identity, with love sickness. For his bride to be abandoned in purity with wholehearted fasting, prayer and worship to more effectively preach the Gospel, heal the sick and serve the poor.

The Bridegroom Fast is 40 days, annually, being set aside as follows: The first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of every month - three days each month and then seven days in December.

What are we praying for?

Fullness of the Holy Spirit and unity in the Church

(John 14:12; 17:2-23)

Spiritual breakthroughs in the Church worldwide with unprecedented unity, purity and power

The Great Harvest

(Matt 24:14)

Over one billion souls converted by the power of God

Youth Revival Movement

(Mal.4:6)

Worldwide revival especially among the poor of the earth

Revival to Israel

(Romans 9-11)

Fulfillment of all the prophetic promises to national Israel

Houses of Prayer

(Isaiah 62:6-7)

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)

Wealth of the Nations

(Haggai 2:7-9)

Release of finances for the Harvest, the prayer movement and the poor

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." (Isaiah 60:2)

8. 808 CHINA BLESSING PRAYER STRATEGY

The 808 China Blessing is a global initiative to unite a billion Christians across the globe to pray for China on 080808 at 808pm.

With each month that leads up to the 8th of August, 8 prayer pointers which will aid you in focussing your prayers on the specific needs in China will be uploaded on the 808 China Blessing website - www.808chinablessing.org, Any updates on the event will also be uploaded on the website.

Even as we continue to pray, we thank God for His faithfulness embodied in the new developments that we see currently taking place in China.

9. PRAY THROUGH THE WINDOW

The 10/40 Window represents a rectangular area of the world, spanning the globe 10 degrees south to 40 degrees north of the equator. Over 4 billion people live in the 10/40 Window. Approximately 1.3 billion people have never heard the Gospel message - not even once. Every major non-Christian religion is headquartered in the 10/40 Window-- Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Tribalism, and Atheism. Current statistics support the fact that this region of the world trains and is a safe haven for terrorists. There are 43 out of the top 50 nations that persecute Christians are located in this area. Corruption, poverty, lawlessness and human rights violations run rampant in the 10/40 Window. This makes it a breeding ground for terrorism and all sorts of demonic activity.

Terrorism and followers of radical world religions are driven by demonic forces. Therefore, we must deal with these spiritual issues in prayer petitioning the LORD to demolish the demonic strongholds that are holding the people in captivity to do their evil bidding. It is our duty as Christians to pray fervently and regularly for the lost on behalf of Christians who are terrorized and persecuted by radical religious groups. We are defining terrorism as the unlawful use of force or violence against non-combatants.

Join us in our worldwide prayer initiative as we Pray Through the Window. Our most recently launched prayer initiative is *Praying Through the Window 9: Global Terrorism and World Religions in the 10/40 Window*. To find out more about the 10/40 Window and to partner with WIN during our global prayer campaigns, please visit www.WIN1040.com. We invite you and those within your sphere of influence to join us in prayer for the 10/40 Window. We invite you and those within your sphere of influence to join us in prayer for the 10/40 Window.

10. CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
2007		
14 – 16 Febr 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Sunshine Coast Queensland	www.ausprayernet.org.au apn@ausprayernet.org.au
15 Feb – 06 March 2008	21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for the Global Student Mission Movement	rshaw@epebbles.net
18 - 22 Feb 2008	MANI SA Consultation	manisa08@ehcaa.co.za
21 Feb - 01 April 2008	40 Days of Prayer for France	www.prayforfrance.org
09 March 2008	Burma: Global day of Prayer	ccb@pobox.com
29 – 30 March 2008	18 th Annual Worldwide Weekend of Prayer for the Addicted	www.justprayno.org
10 – 12 Apr 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Inverell, New South Wales	www.ausprayernet.org.au apn@ausprayernet.org.au
01 – 10 May 2008	Ten Days of Prayer preceding Global Day of Prayer	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.jwipn.com
30 April - 04 May 2008	2 nd Caribbean Prayer Summit	prayernet@cwjamaica.com mardevharb@cwjamaica.com
11 May 2008	GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.jwipn.com
22 – 24 May 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Perth, Western Australia.	www.ausprayernet.org.au apn@ausprayernet.org.au
16 - 19 October 2008	Christ Day in Finland	paivi_heikkila@hotmail.com

11. WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Please have a look at these great websites!

www.ipcprayer.org
www.GlobalAIDSPrayer.net
www.lovepasadena.org/jwipn/index.htm
www.interprayer.com
www.ethne.net
www.xtremepayer.com
www.global24-7.org
www.globaldayofprayer.com
www.jwipn.com
www.kairoscourse.org

12. THE IPC WEBSITE

We need your input as to be able us to keep on building on our website, www.ipcprayer.org and to make it serve its purpose.

The website consists of the following sections and we would appreciate it if you could assist us in the following ways:

- Home:** **News**
Please send us news of *International* interest
Upcoming initiatives and conferences
We need this info to update our calendar regularly
- Regions:** Please send us your **prayer requests and alerts**
for your region and
News from your *region*
- Resources:** What would you like to see under "Resources"?
Send us info on resources you know would be of
value to others, please.
- Links:** Please tell us about **links** you think should be added
to this list
- Newsletter:** Read our **newsletters** and enjoy them!

Please send your contributions to Nita van der Merwe at office@ipcprayer.org.

13. THE VISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER COUNCIL

"Compelled by God to seek Christ's glory worldwide for the blessing, healing and transforming of the nations, the International Prayer Council exists as a coalition of prayer networkers and mobilizers working together to motivate, develop and equip national movements and local churches to fill al nations with prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commandment and the completion of the Great Commission."

14. INTERNATIONAL PRAYER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The IPC is not an organisation. We are a fellowship of people involved in mobilising prayer. We are basically a prayer network with the purpose to help connect national prayer networks, international prayer networks, prayer initiatives and key individuals with one another.

Therefore we do not have official membership. At present we connect with individuals and networks through the IPC Connections which is a periodical newsletter distributed via e-mail to give prayer information to people. We encourage people to subscribe to this newsletter so that we can stay in touch with them.

We also have an annual conference and we are also assisting to establish 14 autonomous regional prayer networks in the world – for instance: South East Asia, India, Africa (9 regions), Latin America, Eastern Europe, etc.

Please encourage prayer coordinators, prayer network leaders, key leaders from different sections of the Body of Christ to subscribe to this newsletter. This will help them to know more about different prayer initiatives, existing prayer networks and how to participate in this.

**Bennie Mostert
International Coordinator for the IPC**

15. PLEASE TELL US

The focus of Prayer Connections is to keep prayer leaders and regional liaisons informed on what is happening worldwide in the prayer movement. This newsletter wants to assist you to be informed about prayer events, but also wants to create a network where we can work together in reaching our goal of bringing in the harvest.

It is only possible to be of such help if we receive information on what is happening in your region.

16. CONTACT US

Contact details:

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Fax: +27 12 365 3214**