



# PRAYER CONNECTIONS

## November 2007

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

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### 1. UNITED NATIONS PRAYER INITIATIVE IN NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2007

**"God shapes the world through prayer." – E. M. Bounds**

**400-450 Christian leaders from 50 nations, including 30 child intercessors and many from the city of New York took part in the United Nations Prayer Initiative and Prayer Cruise around Manhattan. What a thrill to see so many of the Lord's prayer leaders, pastors and businesspeople gathering to pray for the UN and New York City!**

**More than 20 ambassadors, or their representatives, including the ambassador who now leads the organization that monitors the Millennium Development Goals, joined with us in the initiative. We could feel that we were under girded by prayers and that it surrounded all the proceedings. Jesus Christ was**

**surely among us in the heart of this influential international organization!**

**One UN official said, "An event like this has never happened in the history of the UN." Others described the initiative as having been truly "historic". and having even a "world impact".**

**An ambassador from a Muslim country told one of my colleagues that he was "deeply moved" and wanted to be part of any future prayer events like this. One of my colleagues added: "It was amazing to see so many ambassadors attend, engage and receive personal prayer. I don't think the UN will ever be the same. I know God connected the hearts of prayer networks around the world to the UN during this time and I know their prayers and the impact of their prayers will continue."**

**A brother in one of our partner organizations put it simply, "God was glorified and Satan lost ground!" Another UN official urged us to consider registering the International Prayer Council as a member NGO (non-governmental organization) of the UN. As you can see, the Lord gave great favor, and we believe there will be open doors for the future as He leads us to further engage through prayer with this significant world body.**

**One of the joys of the initiative was working with other Christian organizations whose ministries involve them in working on an ongoing basis within the UN. Two of the organizations we partnered with, Christian Embassy and Christian Ministries to the United Nations, brought together many diplomats for an annual prayer breakfast during the week after the UN Prayer Initiative. They have reported increased spiritual receptivity by ambassadors since the prayer initiative and are trying to follow up with Bible studies among the diplomats. Please pray for many to turn to Christ, the King of Kings and Healer of the Nations, for the many challenges they face.**

**"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus." (Eph.3:20,21)**

**This is a wonderful promise we should claim for the UN. Let us pray for the presence of the Lord to be strongly felt there far more abundantly than we can even imagine and for many inside the UN to turn to Christ as Savior and Lord. Ultimately,**

**this huge institution will be changed as the lives of its personnel are transformed. That is why such continuing efforts by our sister organizations are so important to keep in your intercession.**

**John Robb  
Chairman International Prayer Council**

## **2. CHILDREN AS PART OF THE UN PRAYER INITIATIVE**

**Making children part of the UN Prayer Initiative was a most significant decision that was made. They played a vital roll in this very special time together. The adults enjoyed having them amongst them and were astound at the boldness of the children with which they serve the Lord and stand for Him.**

**Herewith feedback from a few of them in their own words and ways:**

**I thank God for the amazing blessing that the UN initiative was to me! God gave me heaps of amazing experiences, memories and friends. One of the most important parts of it were the relationships that were built between countries, generations and cultures. I loved that we were able to have both times when we were united in prayer and worship to our God, and times when we were simply having fun and enjoying each other's company.**

**It was really good that we were able to pray on a lot of different levels; for global, national, generational and personal issues. In a way, this widened my perspective in regards to prayer. Also, I was very encouraged by the acceptance, support and passion that people of all ages had for young people to be there taking part with them - and the passion that they had for us to grow and be strengthened. It made me even more passionate about seeing our generation changed! *Caely 15yrs***

**When I first heard about the possibility for me going to America I just thought wow and how am I going to get the money needed. I started to send some letters to people and started praying but I received no money and then suddenly the week in which I had to pay for my plane ticket the money just came in and kept on coming. So I just learned that if the Lord wants you somewhere He will provide in all your needs. I also started praying and asking the Lord what does He wants to say to me about America then I got Ezekiel 29:10-13. I was shocked and started asking the Lord firstly why He gave it to me and not to someone else, but He said to me that I will put the meanings together when the time is right and I also asked Him not to proceed. Then on the conference one evening the 9<sup>th</sup> September the people started repenting and asked the Lord to have mercy and then the Lord gave to me Job 40:5 and He just said because of all of you at this conference asking Me will I change my plans. So I had amazing experiences on this conference it will stay with me forever all the memories and exciting wonders the Lord did. *Mari-Louise 15yrs***

**My youngest son --Samuel-- was given a prophetic word several years ago and it was confirmed in March 2007 where the persons giving the word said they saw Samuel addressing many nations, speaking the Word. We were very excited about this, as you can imagine, however our deeply set**

mindsets thought it would take place when he was older.... ha! Only a couple of weeks went by when Yanira spoke to my mom about coming to NY. She couldn't come but suggested my name. "But we need a child to travel, too," Yanira said. "Karla's got two," said my mom. My oldest passed the opportunity on to Samuel who realized it was the fulfillment of that particular prophecy! Now THIS was something to be excited about! He really did get the chance to address the nations by having had the privilege of reading Goal #1 of the Millennium Goals in the UN and having prayed on the tour around Manhattan. We feel humbled and thankful for His goodness towards us.

Here's what he prayed: "We declare that God's eternal gates open up in New York. Ports, we bless you and we declare you are open to receive the blessing and the presence of God. We declare you open to the good and perfect will of God. We cancel all demonic presence, in the name of Jesus. We cry out for the blood of Jesus on these entries for the glory and honor of God. Amen." Karla wrote on behalf of *Samuel 14yrs*

My experience in New York was incredible. I was deeply impacted by the fact that there are children and youth praying all around the world. In my country, Guatemala, there are a lot of intercessors but only a small portion of them are young people. After my experience in New York, God touched my heart and placed a seed on it. My heart's desire now is to organize the youth in Guatemala in prayer and I know that God is going to help me in this endeavour. On the other hand, I am truly thankful to God for the opportunity of having met all of you. Blessings to you all. *Anna Maria 15yr*

I liked it the first day when we were on that prayer cruise and went around NY. In the second day I was very happy and proud because I carried the flag of Israel. I liked the conference because I have met and made new friends from many countries (Aaron and Andrew from USA especially). Mostly I liked the last day when I was asked to pray for the children at risk and when we have prayed and blessed the people of Israel. I was happy because the word of prophecy I have received the first day when I prayed on the top of Empire State Building was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit was outpoured over the participants at the end of the conference. *Philip 10yrs*

The trip was awesome I don't think I've ever had a better spiritual time and made so many new friends so quickly. I loved it how everyone was so friendly. I really feel like it wasn't just a conference it was more like a briefing for our mission from God. And another thing I really liked was just how we were all from different nations but we all were Christians and were gathered for a common purpose and just how it really occurred to me that we really aren't any different than each other and that we're all parts of the body of Christ and we're all 1 family. That feeling was the coolest thing I've felt in my whole life! I just thought that overall that God was really calling us to change the world and i have confidence, after meeting so many people with such Godly spirits, that we will change the world and we will keep Gods fire in us. I think that trip will always be in my heart for the rest of my life and when I think of it I'm sure I'll feel God's spirit in me. *Andrew 11yrs*

The conference was amazing in the sense that faith and hope and love was the basis of it. We prayed in faith in a hope to see certain stuff happen and we were one great family loving each other. Meeting all the people from around the world was incredible and God really met my expectancy in meeting all the people.

The highlight was being able to serve the people, praying together as youth in the chapel one night for the world and having fun and laughs with my family from all around the world. Experiencing God's grace in every situation and knowing that God will answer our prayers in his way gives me great joy! I believe that God will bring breakthroughs around the world and that he would use His children and organizations such as the UN to fulfill His purposes in the world so that every ear would hear the gospel of peace. *Ilené 17yrs*

I really enjoyed NY, being there with people from different nations was amazing ;) I really felt such an honor to represent our King in the UN, praying with the kids at one night was a really good experience, God really moved among the kids and we were all at the chapel just praying our hearts out, repenting, and interceding for the nations. After that there was such a bond among the kids and we were very close even until now we send emails to each other. I learnt that God can use anyone, especially young people, to impact our generation and the coming ones. To God be the glory!! *Japheth 19yrs*

I've learned so much about prayer and really felt the spirit of the Lord surrounding us. I've realised the power of prayer and feel like a new person in the Lord. I also experienced a new change in my life and learned so much from my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We all became very close to each other. It was an amazing experience to meet so many new people from around the world that all believed in God!

I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be invited to this initiative. I thank him for what he did in my life. I thank him for this amazing experience. And I thank him for what he is already doing and is going to do in the world!! *Jannes 15yrs*

### **3. PRAYER INITIATIVE DURING RAMADAN**

During the month of Ramadan, a group of 124 intercessors from a developing nation, formed up a prayer watch in one of the countries of the Middle East. The task was to raise a 24/7 watch and to fill the land with prayer. The intercessors were divided into 4 teams, forming a relay-prayer group, each taking responsibility for a 8/10-day period. A youth and children prayer team, aged 9-17, also formed part of the initiative as a 5<sup>th</sup> team during their school holiday. (See 5 here below for their report)

The 24/7 watch was formed by dividing the day into 4 quarts. The first quart being 6 am until 12 noon focused on the Church in the Middle East. The second quart from 12 noon until 6 pm focused on the Middle East and its inhabitants. The third quart from 6 pm until midnight focused on worship and proclamation of the Names of God. The last quart of the day from midnight to 6 am the focus was on reading the Psalms and the Book of Revelation aloud. Every intercessor took responsibility for at least 2 hours per day, in two of the different focus areas. Two

hours per day were dedicated to corporate worship and intercession, and another hour to de-briefing and corporate fellowship.

Eighty percent or more of the participants were first-time intercessors, ordinary church-folk. Some had never before spent an hour in prayer, while others had never before heard God speak to them personally. Many testified how their lives changed as they encountered a very personal God, who wants to use them to accomplish His Kingdom purposes. They discovered the joy of intimate fellowship with Him. They were astonished at the revelations they received concerning God's plans for the Middle East. Their hearts were broken as they realized what it means to be lost without the knowledge of Jesus as Saviour. Many of them wept over the conditions the church in these areas face. They came face-to-face with converts from a Muslim background and were challenged as they realized how much it costs them to live a Christian life. As friendships with local believers developed, a deeper understanding of the Body of Christ began to open up. Spontaneously they donated large amounts of money to help believers to receive training and discipleship, to buy bibles and to ease the burden of living in a country where Christians are second-class citizens.

Small teams traversed the country from north-to-south and east-to-west, praying in the cities, at the borders, at the entrances of the country and at many other strategic places. Together they discovered the fatigue of long hours on dangerous roads, packed with pedestrians, donkeys, motorcars, bicycles, goats and numerous other obstacles. They experienced the discomfort of unhygienic facilities, unavailability of food during the hours of the Ramadan fast and sleepless nights because of the constant calls for prayer from the mosques.

Any such first-hand encounter with life in a country, where the gospel cannot be heard freely and where believers are hunted and despised, cannot but stir one's heart into a compassionate cry to the God of heaven who can change things. They went to pray for transformation of the Middle East, but experienced how God had transformed their own hearts. None of them will be the same ever again. Many testify that they now understand for the first time what Jesus meant when He told us to "Go!" They heard God speak, they saw Him at work and they became eyewitnesses. May their testimonies echo through the heavens and overcome the work of the enemy. May they themselves

become grains of seed that will fall into the ground so that they can bear fruit that will last for eternity!

#### **4. 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD IN 2007**

"30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World" is a Christian intercession movement which was birthed during a meeting of several Christian leaders in the Middle East in 1992. These men and women strongly sensed God's desire to call as many Christians as possible to pray for the Muslim world. The prayer movement was planned to coincide with the Islamic month of Ramadan. Since the dates for Ramadan are established according to the Islamic lunar calendar, in 2007, Ramadan began on September 13th and ended on October 11th. Because of the changing nature of the Islamic year the 2007 Ramadan prayer project was actually our 16th effort.

Around the world many thousands of Christians were involved in the "30 Days" prayer effort. Over 275,000 copies of a prayer guide were distributed in more than 30 languages (English, German, French, Dutch, Finnish, Hindi, Korean, Tamil, Bahasa Indonesian, Chinese and others). The largest numbers were distributed in the Germany and the United States. Some of our co-ordinators in developing countries only produced a few hundred prayer booklets which they distributed with great care. Their efforts are very valuable in the eyes of the Lord! In addition we sponsored two major web sites for "30 Days" <http://www.30days.net> and <http://www.30daysfire.net> Over a million pages of prayer information were viewed on one site. A new Children's version of the prayer material is gaining a larger audience each year.

It is especially encouraging to read the testimonies of Christians who have seen God transform their hearts through prayer using the "30 Days" material. God is also touching the Muslim world in miraculous ways. More people have turned from Islam to Christ during the last twenty years than in all the previous 14 centuries since the rise of Islam. "30 Days" has been involved in this change and thankfully God has raised up many other prayer efforts focusing on the Muslim World as well.

Praying during the month of Ramadan does not mean that we conform ourselves to the Muslim practices of fasting and prayer. Rather it was originally intended that "30 Days" should be during the month of Ramadan for at least two reasons: (1) as a means for Christians to identify themselves with Muslims during a fixed period of the year, (2) to call upon God's

**sovereign intervention in the lives of Muslims during a time of the year when they are particularly religious.**

**While being opposed to Islam "30 Days" emphasizes God's love for Muslims. The movement has always tried to cultivate a spirit of humility, love, respect and service toward Muslims. The goal of our prayer material is to inspire and encourage each participant as he or she intercedes for the Muslim world. Our material is far from being completely informative about the Muslim World, however, the material is designed to give some ideas about the needs of Muslims. We pray with the conviction that God's glory will one day cover the earth as the waters cover the seas . Millions more Muslims will eventually find new life in the Messiah.**

**We have begun work on the 2008 prayer materials. Ramadan will begin on September 1st in 2008. We hope that you will be praying for Muslims throughout the year but please do join us for next year's prayer effort during Ramadan. Please check on one of our web sites to get more information.**

**Victor Henri  
30 Days International Coordination Chairman**

## **5. GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER 2008**

**Global Day of Prayer will be on 11 May 2008 and will be preceded by 10 days of prayer from 01 to 10 May. The prayer points for these 10 days, as well as the Prayer for the World will be found on the following websites: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) and [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com). We are trying to have it translated into as many languages as possible.**

**We urgently need people who can translate it into the following languages:**

- **Bengali**
- **Cantonese**
- **Hindi**
- **Japanese**
- **Javanese**
- **Korean**
- **Marathi**
- **Punjabi**
- **Tamil**
- **Telugu**
- **Wu**
- **Yue**

If you can assist us in doing this, or if you know someone who might be willing to help us, please contact Nita at [office@ipcprayer.org](mailto:office@ipcprayer.org)

## **6. The Wycliffe Prayer Focus**

The Wycliffe Prayer Focus Bulletin consists of seven items per week, giving information touching on the pulse beat of God's Word advancing in nations around the world through Bible translation. To get your name on the mailing list, you can write to Jan Crowell, International Prayer Coordinator, Wycliffe Bible Translators, at [jan\\_crowell@wycliffe.org](mailto:jan_crowell@wycliffe.org), or you can find it directly on the web at [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net)

## **7. 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

## 8. CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>2007</b>		
October 2007	Pray for Muslim least reached peoples of South Asia	<a href="http://www.ethne.net">www.ethne.net</a> <a href="http://www.global-prayer-digest.org">www.global-prayer-digest.org</a> <a href="http://www.joshuaproject.net">www.joshuaproject.net</a>
23 – 25 October 2007	South Asia Prayer Summit	<a href="mailto:nationalprayernet@vsnl.net">nationalprayernet@vsnl.net</a>
28 Oct – 24 Nov 2007	28 Days of Prayer for the Australian Federal Election	<a href="http://www.ausprayernet.org.au">www.ausprayernet.org.au</a>
November 2007	Pray for least reached peoples of Central Asia	<a href="http://www.ethne.net">www.ethne.net</a> <a href="http://www.global-prayer-digest.org">www.global-prayer-digest.org</a> <a href="http://www.joshuaproject.net">www.joshuaproject.net</a>
6 - 9 November 2007	South-East Asia Prayer Consultation, Bali, Indonesia	<a href="mailto:seapc2003@yahoo.com">seapc2003@yahoo.com</a>
Mid November 2007	South-East Asia Prayer Consultation	<a href="mailto:info@prayforegypt.com">info@prayforegypt.com</a>
December 2007	Pray for least reached peoples of the Middle East and North Africa	<a href="http://www.ethne.net">www.ethne.net</a> <a href="http://www.global-prayer-digest.org">www.global-prayer-digest.org</a> <a href="http://www.joshuaproject.net">www.joshuaproject.net</a>
19 December 2007	Arafat Day	<a href="http://www.30-days.net/reveal/arafat/">www.30-days.net/reveal/arafat/</a>
14 – 16 Febr 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Sunshine Coast Queensland	<a href="http://www.ausprayernet.org.au">www.ausprayernet.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:apn@ausprayernet.org.au">apn@ausprayernet.org.au</a>
10 – 12 Apr 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Inverell, New South Wales	<a href="http://www.ausprayernet.org.au">www.ausprayernet.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:apn@ausprayernet.org.au">apn@ausprayernet.org.au</a>
01 – 10 May 2008	Ten days of prayer preceding GDOP	<a href="http://www.globaldayofprayer.com">www.globaldayofprayer.com</a> <a href="http://www.jwipn.com">www.jwipn.com</a>
11 May 2008	GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER	<a href="http://www.globaldayofprayer.com">www.globaldayofprayer.com</a>
12 May – 09 August 2008	90 Days of Blessing	<a href="http://www.globaldayofprayer.com">www.globaldayofprayer.com</a>
22 – 24 May 2008	Regional Prayer Summit and National Briefing - Perth, Western Australia.	<a href="http://www.ausprayernet.org.au">www.ausprayernet.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:apn@ausprayernet.org.au">apn@ausprayernet.org.au</a>

## 9. WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Have a look at these great websites!

[www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)  
[www.lovepasadena.org/jwipn/index.htm](http://www.lovepasadena.org/jwipn/index.htm)  
[www.campo247.com](http://www.campo247.com)  
[www.ethne.net](http://www.ethne.net)  
[www.xtremepayer.com](http://www.xtremepayer.com)  
[www.global24-7.org](http://www.global24-7.org)

[www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com)  
[www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com)  
[www.greatercalling.org](http://www.greatercalling.org)  
[www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net)

## 10. THE IPC WEBSITE

We need your input as to be able us to keep on building on our website, [www.ipcprayer.org](http://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](mailto:office@ipcprayer.org).

## 11. 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."*

## 12. 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.**

### **13. CONTACT US**

**Contact details:**

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