



# PRAYER CONNECT

## September 2008

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

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### 1. GOD OF JACOB

What a disillusionment to discover, as the years go by, our own weakness, brokenness and sinfulness. It bewilders us and drives many of us to despair. Particularly if we have become converted, if we are Christians filled with the Holy Spirit, yet are still discovering brokenness, weakness and sinfulness in ourselves.

Please go to <http://www.ipcprayer.org/articles/GOD%20OF%20JACOB.pdf> to read this excellent teaching.

## **2. GOD'S PRIORITY FOR ORPHANS**

***God is the Father to the fatherless!***

**One respected Swiss-based research organization estimates that, based on a survey of 88 countries, there will be 100 million orphans under the age of 15 around the world by 2010. That is huge! Half of them will be AIDS orphans.**

**No wonder God is alerting His people to the need to care for orphans. James reminds us that what God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this – to look after orphans and widows in their distress (James 1.27). But God is also looking for more – for children who are orphans to get to know *Him* as their Father – to learn to hear His voice, pray, live by faith, reach out to others, plant churches and become nation changers – even by the age of 14! If children can be Olympic stars by this age then surely they can be stars for God too!**

**We hear much about the abuse of orphans the world over. But where are the stories of those whom God has raised up? Moses was an orphan. Joseph as a child was rejected and sold as a slave by his brothers, and became separated from his family. Samuel was handed over by his mother to be raised by a priest. David was ignored by his brothers and father from an early age. Yet all of these became stalwarts of faith, trust and obedience to God, and leaders of their nation. He was their Father!**

**God's word also exhorts us about support for orphans. The tithe was meant for "the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow" (Deut. 26.12). Does that mean that a quarter of our tithe should be for orphans? When crops were harvested, some were to be left for the gleaners - "for the fatherless and widows".**

Brian Mills IPC [bmills@interprayer.com](mailto:bmills@interprayer.com)

## **3. MIDDLE EAST: MUSLIMS FIND JESUS AT HIGH COST**

**Thousands of Muslim people across the world are having encounters with Jesus Christ through dreams, visions and personal visitations, according to British missionary Paul Tew, who works with Open Doors. Paul has told of a series of extraordinary meetings he has had with former Muslims who have converted to Christ through a supernatural revelation.**

**When two sisters saw a note on a telegraph pole advertising a 'Christian meeting and healings', they went along and witnessed the blind seeing and the lame walking. Discovering that such miracles were authenticated in the Bible, they asked their family what the Koran said about them. But they were**

threatened with sulphuric acid instead, and managed to escape to a 'safe-house' run by Christians. One of the women, whose name we are withholding for her protection, told of a subsequent encounter with Jesus himself. "I was sitting on my bed and Jesus came and sat next to me." The leader of this safe-house, in a Middle Eastern country, was asked what he would do if the police came (it is illegal for Muslims to convert to Christianity in many Islamic countries). And he stretched out his arms, saying: "They would take me first."

Another family who experienced the miraculous deliverance of their daughter from demon possession when they turned to Jesus (Isa in the Koran), subsequently found their house bathed in light even though the shutters were down to keep out the bright sun. "And when they opened the Bible, the room filled with light." Paul went on: "God is revealing himself to Muslims in miraculous and dynamic ways. In one country there are hundreds of mullahs who have turned to Christ. And the government is really afraid of the youth there because so many have turned to Jesus.

But new believers face terrible persecution. Another Middle Eastern convert was given 30 seconds to leave his house by his own father, or else he would be killed. Paul also told of over 2,000 Christians in a North African country who are locked up in metal containers where they virtually cook by day and freeze by night. Many die in there rather than renounce their faith. "The New Testament was written for persecuted Christians," said Paul. "They faced death every day. And it's just amazing to see the joy of Christians in the same position today. They expect to be persecuted." Source: Paul Tew, Open Doors

It is now the month of Ramadan and we pray that many Muslims will come to the Lord in this time when so many Christians are praying for them, but let's pray that they will not have to do so at a high cost like these. (Prayer points can be found on [www.30-days.net](http://www.30-days.net) or [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com)).

#### **4. A CALL TO PRAYER FOR THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS**

##### ***WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PRAYER***

**"Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3**

##### ***WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT WATER***

**"The poor and the needy are looking for water, but there is none. Their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the Lord, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them. I will make rivers flow on bare hilltops. I will make springs flow**

through valleys, I will turn deserts into lakes. I will turn land into springs." Isaiah 41: 17-18

### **WATER FACTS**

**1.1 billion people in the world do not have access to safe water; this is roughly one sixth of the world's population.**

**2.6 billion people in the world do not have access to adequate sanitation; this is roughly two-fifths of the world's population.**

**1.8 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. This amounts to around 5000 deaths a day.**

**97.5 percent of the earth's water is saltwater. If the world's water fit into a bucket, only one teaspoonful would be drinkable.**

**At any one time, half of the developing world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-related diseases.**

**40 billion working hours are spent carrying water each year in Africa.**

**In the past 10 years diarrhoea has killed more children than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II.**

**Today, the average American uses 101 gallons of water a day, more than 15 times that used by many in third-world countries.**

**Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and experience "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst. For full details and prayer points, please visit [www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc)**

## **5. WHAT IS THE 10/40 WINDOW?**

**The 10/40 Window is located from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, which includes Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia**

- Nearly 4 billion people live here, including 90 percent of the world's poorest of the poor. It is estimated that 1.6 billion of these people have never had the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ - not even once!**

- The seat of every major non-Christian religion - Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, Atheism, and Sikhism - is headquartered in the 10/40 Window.
- In many of the 67 countries represented in the 10/40 Window, witnessing the Christian Gospel means death. Truly, the 10/40 Window remains the darkest and most inhospitable territory to the cause of Christ and represents the greatest remaining stronghold of Satan.
- Two-thirds of the world's population (4 billion) live in the 67 nations of the 10/40 Window.
- 95% of the people are unevangelized.
- 90% of the people are the poorest of the poor, averaging \$250 per family annually.
- 43 of the 50 worst countries in the world for persecution of Christians are here.
- Five pennies out of every \$100 spent on missions goes to this desperately needy area of the world.
- Illiteracy is widespread.
- Terrorist organizations and child prostitution run rampant in many of these nations.
- Horrific abuse of women and children remains unchecked.
- Children as young as 18 months old are trained to be Jihad soldiers.
- It is estimated that 1.6 billion people have not heard the Gospel one time.

[www.win1040.com](http://www.win1040.com)

## 6. WINESKIN OR LEATHER BOTTLE

The word *askos* (779) occurs "a leather bottle, wineskin," in Matt. 9:17 (four times); Mark 2:22 (four times); Luke 5:37 (three times), 38; in each place, RV, "wineskins" or "skins," for KJV, "bottles."

- A whole goatskin, for example, would be used with the apertures bound up, and when filled, tied at the neck. They were tanned with acacia bark and left hairy on the outside.
- New wines, by fermenting, would rend old skins (cf. Josh. 9:13; Job 32:19).
- Hung in the smoke to dry, the skin-bottles become shriveled (see Ps. 119:83).

This is a very interesting word:

### Psalm 119

81. My soul faints for Your salvation,  
But I hope in Your word.
82. My eyes fail from searching Your word,  
Saying, "When will You comfort me?"
83. For I have become like a wineskin in smoke,  
Yet I do not forget Your statutes. (NKJV)

**A wineskin in smoke is a striking metaphor, unparalleled elsewhere. The smoke damages the wineskin; this is comparable to the harm the psalmist has suffered at the hand of his enemies. A wineskin in the smoke is shriveled and blackened. The simile explains itself. The harassed believer is wizened, parched, and unsightly through waiting, but he is not hopeless as long as He has the Word to fall back on!**

**In Luke 5:37 putting new wine (Jesus' new way) into old wineskins (Judaism) would not work because as the new wine fermented, it would stretch the old skin and break it, ruining the wineskin and wasting the wine**

#### ***WHY ANALOGY OF A WINESKIN?***

**Jesus used the analogy of wineskins to show that the Jewish legalism of the Old Testament was inflexible ...\* : "No one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined" (Matt. 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37-38)." The "old wineskins" of Judaism could not contain the dynamic new faith of Christianity.**

#### ***APPLICATION BY THE LORD***

**In "Mark 2:21 the Lord Immediately added two illustrations to announce the arrival of a New which was incompatible to the previous one. The first illustration involved a new patch made of cloth that has not been shrunk. If used to repair an old garment, it will inevitably shrink and something will have to give. The garment, made of older cloth, will be weaker than the patch and will tear again wherever the patch is sewed to it. Jesus was comparing the Old Dispensation to the old garment." ...**

**The second illustration is described in "Mark 2:22 and involved new wine in old wineskins. The leather wineskins lost their power to stretch. If new wine was put into them, the pressure built up by the fermentation, would burst the skins." ... "Christianity has always suffered from man's attempt to mix it with legalism." In the same way Jesus, wants us in this time of new beginnings to get rid of our old wineskins so that He can pour the New Wine of the New Beginnings into New Wineskins!**

#### ***THE NEW WINE***

**Coming to answer our question of "Why the relation of the New Wine and the Wineskin is so important":**

**An old wineskin is unable to contain the New Wine. If the wineskin is not of the quality it is required to be, the New Wine**

will be wasted and the Wineskin destroyed. The wineskin is a picture of the condition of our heart. If we are stuck and unmovable in old structures of thinking of an un-regenerated mind, we won't be able to contain the things and purposes of GOD. We need a paradigm shift to receive and move in the new things of God in this time when HE wants to reveal to us many new things which could touch the nations and change them! We must put the new wine in a new wine skin and drink from it constantly so that all the old wine can be washed from our spirit!

We need to become new vessels for the Lord, resulting that the new wine will not be lost! GOD is willing to pour out the good and perfect wine; therefore we need to examine the vessel, the wineskin, which is our heart.

### ***BECOMING THE NEW WINESKIN***

The New Wine is the new move and impartation that the LORD wants to do in and through us by His Holy Spirit. GOD is the giver of the New Wine. It is pure and perfect. It is a visible breakthrough of His Kingdom. The Question is "Can we contain the New Wine?" "Are we ready for the new thing that GOD wants to do in us and in our nations and the nations around?" This leads us to an examination of the wineskin.

#### ***Nelsons Library continues:***

"How then can we as believers be filled with the New Wine for this strategic time of New Beginnings? The Apostle Paul commands us in the book of Ephesians to be filled by the Spirit. According to the Word have to:

- 1. Confess and put away all known sin in our lives (1 John 1:5-9). It is obvious that no new wine can be "drunk" by those who condone sin!***
- 2. It is also a sin to reject the new revelation that God is giving for a time such as this.***
- 3. Yield ourselves completely to His control (Rom. 12:1, 2). This involves the surrender of our will, our intellect, our body, our time, our talents, and our treasures. Every area of life must be thrown open to His dominion.***
- 4. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16). This involves reading the word, studying it, and obeying it. When the word of Christ dwells in us richly, the same results follow (Col. 3:16) as follow the filling of the Spirit (Eph. 5:19).***
- 5. Finally, we must be emptied of self (Gal. 2:20). To be filled with a new ingredient a cup must first be emptied of the old. To be filled with Him, we must first be emptied of us.***

**6. Be informed about the NOW words for the NOW time!  
Consult with leaders and a team to confirm the leading of  
the Lord re the New Wine**

**An unknown author writes:**

**Just as you have left the whole burden of your sin, and have rested on the finished work of Christ, so leave the whole burden of your life and service, and rest upon the present inworking of the Holy Spirit. Give yourself up, morning by morning, to be led by the Holy Spirit and go forth praising and at rest, leaving Him to manage you and your day. Cultivate the habit all through the day, of joyfully depending upon and obeying Him, expecting Him to guide, to enlighten, to reprove, to teach, to use, and to do in and with you what He wills. Count upon His working as a fact, altogether apart from sight or feeling. Only let us believe in and obey the Holy Spirit as the Ruler of our lives, and cease from the burden of trying to manage ourselves; then shall the fruit of the Spirit appear in us as He wills to the glory of God.**

Herald Ministry [www.heraldministry.org](http://www.heraldministry.org)

## **7. THE SILK ROAD**

**The Silk Road is the ancient trade route that Marco Polo and others traveled between Europe and China. Today "the Silk Road region" refers to North West China, Central Asia and extends as far as Turkey. Another way to refer to these countries is "the Turkic World".**

**However, Tajikistan, a "Persian language country" is included as well. The Silk Road Prayer Network focuses on Xinjiang, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey.**

**Please pray for these countries along the Silk Road during the 35 Day Silk Road Prayer Initiative from 1 September to 5 October. For more info please contact [info@capn.info](mailto:info@capn.info)**

## 8. CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>2008</b>		
1 - 30 September 2008	Ramadan	<a href="http://www.30-days.net">www.30-days.net</a>
1 September - 5 October 2008	35 Day Silk Road Prayer Initiative	<a href="mailto:info@capn.info">info@capn.info</a>
09 - 12 September 2008	South East Asia Prayer Consultation 2008	<a href="mailto:seapc2003@yahoo.com">seapc2003@yahoo.com</a>
10 - 11 September 2008	United Nations Prayer Initiative, New York City	<a href="mailto:mark@christiantrust.org">mark@christiantrust.org</a>
01 - 31 October 2008	Praying Through The Window 9: <i>Global Terrorism and World Religions</i>	<a href="http://www.WIN1040.com">www.WIN1040.com</a>
05 October 2008	Day of Prayer for the peace of Jerusalem	<a href="http://www.daytopray.co.uk">www.daytopray.co.uk</a>
16 - 19 October 2008	Christ Day in Finland	<a href="mailto:paivi_heikkila@hotmail.com">paivi_heikkila@hotmail.com</a>

## 9. WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Please have a look at these great websites!

[www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)

[www.wycliffe.org/documents/Curriculum/ChildrensPrayerJournal.pdf](http://www.wycliffe.org/documents/Curriculum/ChildrensPrayerJournal.pdf)

[www.atfp.org](http://www.atfp.org)

[www.dprindia.org](http://www.dprindia.org)

[www.unreached.org/unreached-email.php](http://www.unreached.org/unreached-email.php)

[www.GlobalAIDSPrayer.net](http://www.GlobalAIDSPrayer.net)

[www.interprayer.com](http://www.interprayer.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.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com)

[www.injesus.com](http://www.injesus.com)

[www.808chinablessing.org](http://www.808chinablessing.org),

## 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 all nations with prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commandment and the completion of the Great Commission."*

## 12. 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**

### **13. 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.**

### **14. CONTACT US**

**Contact details:**

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