



PRAYER CONNECT

October 2008

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

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1. THE BELIEVER'S ACCESS TO THE THRONE OF GOD

Ten Biblical reasons why you may stand before God

People often doubt or are uncertain whether God will hear them when they pray. We often hear people ask: Am I good enough? Will God listen to me? I am just an ordinary person. I do not pray well. I am afraid of God.

Take a look at the following verses from Scripture. It will help you understand what God wants to say to *you* about prayer. He wants you to speak to Him and on the basis of the following Biblical arguments you can be sure that He will listen to you:

1. On the basis of God's invitation: Heb.4:16 - **So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will**

receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

2. **On the basis of the Cross: Joh.19:30** - When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit."
3. **Because Jesus is interceding for us: Heb.9:24** - For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.
4. **On the basis of the promises: 2 Cor.1:20** - For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.
5. **On the basis of His covenant with us: 2 Cor.6:18** -And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. **Heb.8:10** - But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.
6. **On the basis of the blood: Heb.10:19-22** - Dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.
7. **On the basis of God's oath: Heb.6:17** - God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.
8. **On the basis of God's character: Num.23:19** - God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
9. **On the basis of our priestly function: Rev.1:6** - He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.
10. **On the basis of the Name of Jesus: Joh.14:13-14** - You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

From: *Praying with Purpose* by Bennie Mostert

2. WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HALLOWEEN

Halloween is celebrated on 31 October every year. It is the night when most pagans honor the spirits of the dead, offer human sacrifices and make pacts and covenants with the demonic

forces. Please pray that the Lord will silence the voices of the underworld so that witches, wizards, shamans, etc. will be unable to make contact with the spirit world.

Halloween originated among the ancient Celts of Europe and was called the festival of "Samhain" or "All Hallowtide". It was a feast of the dead and started the evening of 31 October, signaling the end of harvest and the beginning of winter. 1 November was All Soul's Day. It began on 31 October because in ancient times days were reckoned from evening to evening, rather than midnight-to-midnight as we do. This also signaled the beginning of the New Year for the Celts. During the "turning" of the year, the "veil between the worlds" is believed to be at it's thinnest and the living could communicate with the dead in their dwelling place. It is a time when deceased ancestors and other "friendly" spirits are invited to join in Sabbath festivals and be reunited with loved ones. The celebration of the dead honored the god of the dead on this particular night. It was also a time when faeries were active. Faeries were seen as those angels who did not side with either God or Lucifer and were condemned to walk the earth until judgment day. The Celtic people believed that chaos reigned during this night since it was neither one year, nor the other. It was a night of magic charms and divinations, reading the future and other rites.

"Trick or Treat"

People would imitate the faeries and go from house to house begging for treats since the belief is that spirits had to be appeased by giving them a type of worship and offering (food or milk).

Failure to provide the treats would result in practical jokes being played on the owner of the house such as: blocking the chimney, leading off cattle, throwing cabbages, etc. Another way to fool or scare away the evil spirits was to dress up to look like them. It was believed the spirits would bring them no harm then.

"Jack-o-Lantern"

Jack was an Irish scoundrel who liked to eat big red turnips. On Halloween day he trapped the devil in a tree and would not let him down until the devil promised Jack he would never live in Hell. The devil agreed. A year later Jack died. Because he did not believe in God, he did not go to heaven. The devil did not allow him in hell. To help Jack find his way back to earth, the devil gave him a fiery coal. Jack put this fiery coal in the lantern he carved from his big turnip. This first "Jack-o-Lantern" helped Jack find his way back to Ireland but he never found it and is forever roaming the earth with his lantern.

Fire ceremonies: Halloween was one of the four great "Fire Festivals" of the Celts. All the fires in hearths were extinguished and then re-kindled from a central bonfire started ceremoniously

by the druids. During this time the druids would wear animal skins and heads to disguise them from the spirits. The extinguishing of the fires symbolized the "dark half" of the year and the rekindling symbolized the return of hope. Fires or candles are left burning all night to honor and welcome the dead. The "Jack-o-lanterns", gourds, cider, incense and gemstones are used as altar decorations. The candles are black and orange. Black cats were considered to be reincarnated beings with the ability to divine the future.

Druids (priests of the Celts) held the ceremonies of the feast in sacred places, such as forests, rivers, lakes and streams. Human sacrifices were part of the ceremonies.

Satanists had adopted the Druidic High Days and celebrate Halloween as follows:

22-29 October - Satanists start Sacrifice preparations, 30 October - Satanic High Day - related to Halloween with human sacrifice
31 October - All Hallow's Eve - Blood and sex rituals with demons; animal or human sacrifices.

The early Christian Church tried to eliminate the Druid celebration by offering All Saint's Day as a substitute. It was of no avail. Although the outward forms of such worship disappeared, the belief in these gods did not. In the Middle Ages open practices of witchcraft flourished. In the mid 1900's paganism returned to the western world and the pagan feasts were re-introduced. *The uninformed Christian has no idea that demonic spirits that are actually contacted and activated as people call out to them in jest or in seriousness. Every act around Halloween is in honor of false gods and spirits. To pray for the dead is totally against Scripture.*

Scriptural Prayer Guidelines

2 Tim 1:7 - *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind.* Resist the spirit of fear that seems to surface in the time of Halloween and is enhanced by movies portraying either the occult or extreme situations of fear.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 - *Do not imitate the detestable ways of the nations through sacrifice, divination, omens, witchcraft, casting of spells, mediums or consulting the dead.* Resist the temptation to be drawn into seemingly harmless celebrations of this ancient demonic feast. If you were involved in the past, confess it. Ask the Lord for a revelation of His ways to people around you. Ask the Lord for forgiveness for the countless ways your town will be involved in this practice. Speak up and warn people of the danger of getting involved in any kind of occult practices. "Father God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I renounce any involvement my family, forefathers and I had with this practice of Halloween. I now cancel any covenants made with the spirit world and any worship we have given to Satan and his demons. I

turn my back on this practice and ask You to cleanse me and my family with the blood of Jesus Christ Your Son."

Isaiah 8:19 - *Should a people not consult their God? Why speak to the dead on behalf of the living?* Call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to His ways, and ask for a deeper revelation of His love. Ask Him to reveal to You His plan and purpose for you and your town and pray until He manifests His power in your area.

1 Chron 10:13-14 - Consulting the dead is being unfaithful to God, and can result in judgment. Commit yourself and your family once again to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Ask the Lord to expose all evil, especially on the night of Halloween, so that works of the kingdom of darkness will weaken.

Ask for protection for those targeted for human sacrifices. Pray for all Christians to be protected against curses directed at them, pray especially for pastors, ministers and Christian leaders.

Pray for the salvation of many who practice the occult, that they will be confronted with the love, purity and holiness of God the Father.

Petition the Lord against the resurgence of serial killers, escalation of crime, especially violent crimes against children and women, tribal disputes, increased trade in narcotics and pornography, increased abortion, drought and spoilt harvests, financial destruction to the Church, calling up of spiritual forces to begin mass bloodshed and war in countries all over the world, evil forces meeting together to generate power to deceive the masses and the revival of the practice of magic, especially by teenagers and pre-teens.

Elizabeth Jordaan ejord@mweb.co.za

3. PRAYER FOR GODLY GOVERNANCE

The greatest privilege and most revolutionary power available to the Christian is Prayer.

***"If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you"* John 15:7**

***"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father"* John 14:12**

The power of united prayer was demonstrated by the early church. Acts 4.....they prayed together with one heart, mind and spirit.

If we turn to the historical records of the Old Testament, we find a number of occasions where fasting and prayer brought forth the dynamic and powerful intervention by God.

Jehoshaphat Conquers Without Fighting

In 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, received word that a very large army from the territories of Moab, Ammon and Mt Seir was invading his kingdom from the east.

Realising that he had no military resources with which to meet this challenge, Jehoshaphat turned to God for help.

His first decisive actv3 "he proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah"

Judah's Response

- Collective fasting and prayer for divine intervention.
- The common danger facing them brought them together as one.
- Their jealousies and rivalries between them were set aside.
- They were called to protect their common inheritance, rather than promote their individual differences

Practical lessons to be learnt

1. The anti-Christian forces that are at work in the world today are just as hostile and just as formidable as the army that threatened Judah in the days of Jehoshaphat.
2. These forces are united in hatred and opposition towards all who truly love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. They are not concerned about internal denominational distinctions between Christians.
4. Therefore this is no time for Christians to emphasize denominational issues that have divided them in the past. Rather it is time for all God's people to follow the example of Judah and unite in prayer and fasting.

God's Sovereignty

"You sit above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. You reduce rulers to nothing and make judges of the earth meaningless. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding"
Isaiah 40 & Daniel 2

Pray for the Leaders of your Country by name - That they might have protection, guidance, wisdom, and awareness of God's presence in mind and heart and that they might practice integrity. I Samuel 12:14; 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Pray that

They might trust God with all their heart and not lean on their own understanding; that they will acknowledge Him in all their ways (Proverbs 3:5-6).

- They will seek to have a conscience void of offence toward God and men (Acts 24:16).
- God will place men and women of righteousness, such as Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah, Mordecai, Esther and Deborah into positions of authority to lead the nation in righteousness (Proverbs 14:34;16:12).
- Legislation in your country will be in line with principles from the Word of God.
- Christians will be aware of governmental issues; will support leaders in prayer and act regarding issues concerning the moral and spiritual climate of the country.
- Christians to become vital witnesses for Christ through their lives and words (II Corinthians 5:17-20)
- Christians to meet the conditions for revival set forth in II Chronicles 7:14
 - ✓ Humble themselves (I Peter 5:6)
 - ✓ Pray effectually (James 5:16; Luke 18:1)
 - ✓ Seek God's face (Jeremiah 29:13)
 - ✓ Turn from their wicked ways (1 John 1:8-9)

Remember: The end-time purpose of God is the restoration and completion of the Church. (His Body)

4. STRATEGIC GLOBAL PRAYER INITIATIVE

Targets Global Terrorism and World Religions

Christians worldwide are encouraged to inform and mobilize their denominations, churches, ministries, prayer groups and families to get involved in Window International Network's (WIN) *Praying Through The Window (PTTW)* 9. This five-year strategic global prayer initiative will continue to keep prayer focus on global terrorism and world religions.

The revised prayer initiative for 2008-2009 begins on 1 Oct 08.

The intercessory prayer campaign, which was originally launched in 2007, targets Global Terrorism and World Religions along with the lawless regimes in the 10/40 Window.

According to the US Department of State, four out of the five governments that actively sponsor terrorism are in the 10/40 Window—Syria, Iran, North Korea and Sudan. Statistics also show this region of the world trains and is a safe haven for terrorists.

The 10/40 Window represents a rectangular area of the world, spanning the globe from 10 degrees south to 40 degrees north of the equator, including countries from North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. WIN's prayer initiatives focus on the 68 nations that comprise the 10/40 Window.

Terrorism and radical world religions are driven by demonic forces. Therefore, we must deal with these spiritual issues in prayer. We must petition the Lord to tear down these spiritual

strongholds that are holding precious people in bondage and leading them to a Christ-less eternity.

Additionally, every major non-Christian religion is headquartered in the 10/40 Window, including Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Corruption, poverty, lawlessness and human rights violations also run rampant in the 10/40 Window, which makes it a breeding ground for demonic activity.

We must petition God on behalf of people living in these countries. Non-combatants are terrorized by radical Hindus in India; the genocide of defenseless Muslims continues in the Darfur region of western Sudan by government sanctioned *janjaweed* (militia armed with a gun and horse); harassment of Christians and senseless killings are perpetrated by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka; and many other random acts of aggressive terrorism continue. "The 10/40 Window countries need our prayers.

***PTTW 9: Global Terrorism and World Religions* goes hand-in-hand with WIN's missions to inform, equip and mobilize networks of prayer around the globe to empower effective evangelism, church growth and discipleship in the 10/40 Window.**

Prayer moves the hand of God. Once there is sustained, strategic and informed prayer in the 10/40 Window, massive numbers of unreached people coming to Christ will be witnessed. Pray that this will happen in our generation.

To order *Praying Through The Window 9: Global Terrorism and World Religions in the 10/40 Window* prayer calendars for your church, Bible study, or Prayer Network, visit www.win1040.com/resources.

5. BREAKTHROUGH HARVEST!

The South-East Asia Prayer Consultation (SEAPC) 2008 was an awesome time in God's presence. Key intercessors from all 11 nations in this region gathered for 4 days of sharing testimonies and challenges, intense prayer, and most of all, listening to the voice of God for us individually and as a region.

So, what is God doing in SE Asia anyway? South-East Asia is a strategic region. The biggest revival will take place in this region. We are going through shaking. It is time to strengthen one another and constantly help each other. We will experience the greatest awakening, but first, the shaking: in government, economy, etc. Every piece of "bad" news we read and hear about is God's hand of mercy on that nation. God is preparing a throne for Himself in our region, but He cannot come and dwell among us in our current condition. He has to shake everything that can be shaken and clean up the land before the King of Glory can take His rightful place.

For many of our nations, the harvest is already coming in. For others, we have yet to see the waves of people coming into the Kingdom. One thing is for sure, this is God's time for SE Asia. The church is rising up to build the Kingdom. Intense prayer by local Christians in each nation is being lifted up to heaven. The reality of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Habakkuk 2:14 is finally sinking in. We are going to see God's glory cover SE Asia.

Lena Wan South-East Asia Prayer Council

6. WHAT IS GOD UP TO IN HONG KONG?

Hong Kong may be on the verge of a spiritual breakthrough for children! Based on a poll of only 3000 students, the local newspapers have reported that many children in the area no longer know the difference between right and wrong*, but that is not the consensus of a group of local children's ministers who are seeing the lives of children change on a regular basis.

The group known as the Hong Kong Children's Ministers' Prayer Network with attendees from Island Evangelical Christian Church, International Christian Assembly, 611 Bread of Life Church, Hong Kong City Church and The Vine Christian Fellowship recently met to formalize intentions to hold an area-wide conference for children, parents and teachers that will help children to live out their faith and make an impact on others through an upcoming children's rally in February.

Unlike the evangelistic rally hosted by Franklin Graham in 2007, this one would be organized by locally with two distinguished speakers; Lenny LaGuardia of International House of Prayer, Kansas City, Missouri Children's Equipping Center and Dale Kauffman, a Hongkonger who founded Kings Kids International, a missions outreach.

LaGuardia has promised to mobilize his 200 children in Kansas toward prayer stating that, "God is about to break open something powerful with children in Asia, and I want our children to be a part of that prayer movement". Kauffman also stated, "This is a generation of destiny who have a special mandate from God to reach out to Hong Kong, mainland China and beyond."

Given the dynamics of Hong Kong with its expatriate, western-educated Chinese and Cantonese-speaking communities, it was decided that the conference would be bilingual and encourage local churches to create workshops on their specialty to discover hidden areas of local talent. Workshop submissions are due in December.

Tamilla Palmer, a former employee of World Vision International Children's Prayer Network, is now the group organizer as the Children's Pastor of The Vine Christian Fellowship in Central. She spearheaded the group in May for the primary purpose of socializing and prayer, but the group has metamorphosised into a

whole new direction with new churches signing on regularly and wanting to reach children effectively across Hong Kong.

Recently Sharon Lau, an American born in Hong Kong and married to a local Chinese pastor, Samuel Lau of Revival Church added, "We had been wanting to do more with English-speaking churches; and here it is!". Sharon's group of children, predominantly Cantonese, led the prayers at the Global Day of Prayer in Hong Kong back in May 2008. They are also leading the children's movement in many ways through lively prayers, praying over adults and words of prophecy.

<http://www.thevine.org.hk/>.

7. STAYING THE COURSE

"Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. So David went up in obedience to the word that Gad had spoken in the name of the LORD" (1 Chron 21:18-19).

In 1857, an American businessman named Jeremiah Lanphier was sent out by his local church to begin a noon-day prayer meeting on Fulton Street, right around the corner from Wall Street in New York City. A simple prayer, a willing heart, and an act of obedience resulted in city transformation throughout the United States.

However, at that very first meeting, no one showed up in the first 35 minutes. But Jeremiah waited. Gradually, six people wandered into the room at 35 minutes past the hour. Six months later, 10,000 people were meeting for prayer throughout New York City. This led to one of the greatest spiritual renewals in the United State's history.

What would have happened if Lanphier had decided to abandon the idea after 30 minutes?

In a small, darkened room, in the back of one of New York City's lesser churches, a man prayed alone. His request of God was simple, but earth-shattering: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" He was a man approaching midlife, without a wife or family, but he had financial means. He had made a decision to reject the "success syndrome" that drove the city's businessmen and bankers. God used this businessman to turn New York City's commercial empire on its head. He began a businessmen's prayer meeting on September 23, 1857.

*The meetings began slowly, but within a few months 20 noontime meetings were convening daily throughout the city. Thousands met to pray because one man stepped out. This was an extraordinary move of God through one man.**

It only takes one man or woman who is willing to be obedient to be used by God to impact a workplace, city, or even an entire nation. Simple obedience can lead to things you cannot imagine. Are you willing to be used by God?

8. CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
2008		
01 - 31 October 2008	Praying Through The Window 9: <i>Global Terrorism and World Religions</i>	www.WIN1040.com
16 - 19 October 2008	Christ Day in Finland	paivi_heikkila@hotmail.com
2009		
20 - 30 May 2009	10 Days of Prayer preceding GDOP	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
31 May 2009	Global Day of Prayer	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
1 Jun -29 Aug 2009	90 Days of Blessings	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
10-13 November 2009	South-East Asia Prayer Consultation Bangkok, Thailand	seapc2003@yahoo.com
2010		
12 - 22 May 2010	10 Days of Prayer preceding GDOP	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
23 May 2010	Global Day of Prayer	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
24 May – 21 Aug 2010	90 Days of Blessings	www.globaldayofprayer.com www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
October 2010	Third Congress on World Evangelization to be held in Cape Town, South Africa	jgodson@lausanne.org

9. WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Please have a look at these great websites!

www.ipcprayer.org

www.wycliffe.org/documents/Curriculum/ChildrensPrayerJournal.pdf

www.atfp.org

www.dprindia.org

www.unreached.org/unreached-email.php

www.GlobalAIDSPrayer.net

www.interprayer.com

www.ethne.net

www.xtremepayer.com

www.global24-7.org

www.jwipn.com

www.injesus.com

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 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.

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.

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

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