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International Prayer Connections:

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World

August 2014

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Key Scriptures and Principles for Prayer Breakthroughs

In many diverse situations in 58 national prayer initiatives over the last 20 plus years, ministry team colleagues and I have found certain Scripture passages and principles to be especially helpful in releasing our faith and that of the local people who have participated. More than anything else, it is the release of our faith together in unity, through the enabling and guidance of the Holy Spirit, that "moves the mountains", accomplishing astounding breakthroughs in prayer:

1) John 14:13-14- "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it." The sky is the limit, we can ask the Lord for anything and we should use the blank check He has extended to us, releasing our faith in His enormous capacity to do the impossible.

2) Matthew 18:18-20- "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be given to you by my Father in heaven." Praying with others in corporate unity, even in twos and threes, can change the atmosphere of what is possible in communities and nations. More than 30 times in the book of Acts as well as all the great spiritual revivals and positive social transformation movements have been preceded by such united prayer. Theologian Walter Wink said, "History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being."

3) I John 5:14-15- "If we pray according to His will, He hears us and if we know He hears us, we know we have received what we have asked from Him." Praying according to God's will involves both hearing His word and following the leading of His Spirit. Faith will be built gradually within us as we listen to the Lord, follow His direction and then see His wonderful answers. In this manner we also avoid the presumption and flakiness that sometimes characterizes overly subjective praying that goes off in its own way.

4) Matthew 17:20- "If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be moved and nothing will be impossible for you." All of us are in an educational process of learning to trust God with more and

more of our lives. The Lord is always looking for faith and tries to provoke it from those who are with Him. For example, Jesus did this with the Syro-Phoenician woman whose daughter was ill, the father of the demon-possessed boy, the blind man Bartimaeus and His obtuse disciples (myself often included!).

I often take a bag of mustard seeds with me to hand out before we pray for breakthrough in difficult situations. They come from a real seed specialist in my church and are very tiny black objects, not the partially germinated yellow ones from the grocery store. As brothers and sisters in Christ hold these in their hands together, they realize that it does not take a lot of faith, only the willingness to exercise what we have. As we do, God's hand is unleashed by that faith to do His wonders.

5) Ephesians 2:6 affirms that we have been raised with Christ to sit in heavenly places with Him. It is past tense. Though we are still very much rooted in this material world, we are already joined through the Spirit to the one who sits on the throne of the universe. Through intimacy with the risen Lord, we share in His authority exercised by faith through prayer.

What an awesome position He has accorded us to rule and reign with Him! When we perceive that, trusting Him for miracles on earth becomes routine, normal behavior for those who live in the presence of the supernatural, all-powerful Lord of eternity. Let's begin to live and pray from that position and see breakthroughs for our world we have not yet dreamed of!

John Robb
IPC Chairman

National Prayer Assembly for the USA

Oct 29-30, Arlington, Virginia (Washington, D.C. area)



Are you sensing a call of God to a time of intense intercession for the United States? At this time of growing crisis in which our nation seems to have lost its direction morally, spiritually, politically and economically, a number of Christian leaders have heard that call and are inviting you to Washington DC, October 29-30 for a National Prayer Assembly. Scheduled just one week before our national elections, it comes at a crucial time in our nation's life. It is not a time for politicking or posturing, but for passionate prayer for a fresh move of God for the transformation of our nation. Our prayer focus is on repentance, reconciliation, and revival in the spirit of God's great promise for national restoration in 2 Chronicles 7:14. This gathering is being sponsored by America's National Prayer Committee, The International Prayer Council, Mission America Coalition, and Renewal of America.

The National Prayer Assembly will be held at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia near Reagan National Airport. Good nightly room rates of \$184 per night (for a single or double room) have been secured. A registration fee of \$55 helps us secure the meeting room and provides coffee, tea, and water for the two days of praying together. The hotel is located close to the Metro and allows us easy access to visit significant sites in the City for onsite intercession. The registration site is: www.nationalprayercommittee.com. Additional details can be found there. The hotel number for reservations is: 1 800 325 3535

Our mailing address is:
National Prayer Committee
c/o Harvest Prayer Ministries
3525 S 3rd Pl, Terre Haute, IN
Terre Haute, IN 47802

Please pray for the hundreds of ministry leaders and intercessors who God is calling to be with us that they will hear about this initiative and be able to take part. May it be a life-impacting and nation-transforming encounter with God that is used by Him to change our nation in significant ways!

If you would like to take part in this historic gathering, you are warmly invited. Also, please feel free to share this invitation with other ministry leaders and intercessors you think should consider coming. Here below is more information about how to register.

Thanks so much for your prayers!

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR I, IN PRAYER AND IN REPENTANCE

A Conference Call on Monday, July 28, 2014

This summer marks the Centennial of the outbreak of World War I, which began on July 28, 1914. In response, a team of intercessors came together who were each stirred to examine some of the root issues of that time, in order to offer repentance before our Lord, and to ask for cleansing and healing in our generation. We realized that, unlike



World War II, the First World War has almost become a "forgotten war," but forgotten perhaps because men do not want to remember the horrors that came with that war. These included: the first use of nerve gas and chemical weapons; the total overwhelming grief of millions of families on both sides of the conflict who lost husbands, sons and fathers in this war; even the reality of the fearful pain of "shell shock" that many soldiers experienced when they came home from the trenches; the countless ones who, though they survived, would be disabled for life with blindness, lost limbs, and even insanity; and the poverty of money and soul that many faced in the end.

This was a horrible, brutal war. But working together, our intention was not to forget, but to remember, and to learn from the lessons of World War I. On the anniversary of this centennial, 50 intercessors joined a panel in a three-hour conference call, carefully examining these root issues and asking repentance for each one. There was a true move of the Spirit as we worked our way through the list of issues so that, in the end, we could trust our Lord to help us to not repeat the sins of the past.

As we dug into the history of WWI, we identified a series of roots of iniquity. These included: the failure of President Wilson to call for a day of prayer and fasting before sending our soldiers to the battlefields; the fact that the church was silent; the fact that the nations sought the mind of Babylon as they went to war, and did not seek the LORD; the creation of the Federal Reserve to control our money, which to this day is an independent entity and does not function under congressional oversight; the establishment of the League of Nations - the beginnings of global government; the weakening of the economies of the European nations, which led to the rise of Hitler's Germany; the fall of Czarist Russia and the rise of Communism; the collapse of the Ottoman (Islamic) Empire - the original caliphate, and finally repentance for the persecution of the Jews in eastern Europe and for the rise of anti-semitism.

As we worked our way through this conference call, the Presence of our Lord was very tangible, growing stronger by the minute, and we all sensed His deep pleasure in this work. Indeed, we were all gripped by the drama of that era, and by the helpless estate of mankind during "the great war." The next day, one of our listeners sent in this message: "Last night's repentance for WWI was incredible. I wept a lot of the time. It was so great to hear the heartfelt sorrow in all the intercessors. God was listening to all this. Oh, how it has affected our nation. Only God can change us! I have been waiting a long time to hear the moans and the sobs of repentance. Hallelujah!"

In summary, the same root issues are still in force in the human race today, which is why the situation 100 years ago looks so similar to what we are facing now. At this juncture, the roots of the war are being exposed. The enemy wants to reinforce and strengthen those roots, but God wants to revisit in order to break them up. We have a lot of work to do as a nation to reverse the trajectory of our choices. We have brought our current state upon ourselves - just like the European nations before WWI.

We were all richly blessed to take part in this unique effort, and we now leave the outcome in Father's hands. Amen.

Sara Ballenger
Capitol Hill Prayer Partners

Israel / Palestine Conflict: Believers in the region need our prayers

Tuesday 15th July, 2014

The director of an agency working for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians writes, 'The desire to maintain the moral high ground has been very evident among both Israelis and Palestinians.' Then he goes on to say that every now and then he hears of people praying for the other side. He has heard believers from both sides call 'Death to Arabs,' or 'Death to Israelis,' or quotation of Bible verses in a context condemning others. Then, he says, just a few days later he hears the same people say, 'Let us get together and pray.' There is no doubt that the escalated cycle of revenge, violence, and hatred is driving people to re-evaluate their views, seek fellowship, and take a united stand in the situation.



Pray for an end to damaging propaganda, for believers on both sides to speak words of redemption hope and peace. for positive dialogue that addresses the roots of the conflict and may believers continue praying together, serving each other without hypocrisy, worshipping with pure hearts, and to fellowship with love for one another. (1 Jn.1:5-10)

Historical notes to help intercession

This conflict has been brewing for months, long before the murder of three Israeli youths and the revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager. Broad shifts in the political landscape of the Middle East have created huge pressures on Hamas. The twists and turns of the Arab Spring left them with few allies and very little money.

- In the past Hamas had the backing of Iran and Syria. Hamas is an offshoot of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood and when they sided with Sunni-led rebels opposed to the Alawite Bashar al-Assad and his Shia backers, Iran turned off Hamas financial taps. Iran used to donate enough to run the Gaza government - \$20m a month

- Mohammed Morsi of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood strongly identified with Hamas. He closed some tunnels running under the Gaza-Egypt border during his time in office but many remained open to bring in weapons and smuggle consumer goods which Hamas was able to tax. The new Egyptian government of Abdul Fattah al-Sisi considers the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation and sees Hamas as being cut from the same cloth. Many more smuggling tunnels have been closed down, and with them another source of revenue for Hamas. **Pray for Egypt's new leadership to step into the position of mediator.**

Hamas has come to a political reconciliation with its bitter rival Fatah, the Palestinian Authority running the West Bank under Israeli occupation. So far that link has brought Hamas no concrete benefits and many believe that huge differences remain between the rival Palestinian groups.

- Hamas could calculate that the sight of Palestinian civilians suffering under terrifying aerial bombardment will force the Palestinian Authority to show much greater solidarity and prompt Arab governments to show more support.

- Hamas could reason, 'Now hostilities have started they can demand concessions for agreeing to end them.'

Pray that both Hamas and Fatah would seek the wellbeing of the Palestinian people and not their own ends.

Israeli sources say militant groups in Gaza probably have 10,000 rockets and they admit they don't know where some of the long-range ones are hidden. Finding and destroying them from the air might take a very long time, civilian casualties would mount, and so would international criticism... Many rockets in Gaza are workshop weapons (even after a ceasefire success home-made rockets could resume).

Pray for an end to the desire or excuse to fire weapons from or upon Gaza and for the people of Gaza to be able to live in peace, free from the fear of violence from within and without.

Benjamin Netanyahu's International image is of the uncompromising right-winger but his political instinct is probably to triangulate between the conflicting views of the hawks and doves around him. Short of that elusive permanent stop to the rocket fire it's hard to see what looks like a win from his point of view. From the outside, it seems as if both sides find it easier to fight than make peace. The strongly-held emotions that beget violence run deep in this land.

Pray against pride, perceived 'loss of face' and rhetoric in all communications; for action that brings long-term solutions, not just political populism; for the people of Israel to know that true security is not found in might or power, but in a loving Father; and for people

who understand the root causes, and who can truly love both Jew and Arab.

Andy Page, www.prayer-alert.net

Keep praying for North Korea and North Koreans

I have a number of friends who have been working in China with North Koreans and Christians. Some have fled the country and others are under house arrest. Currently 8 South Korean families, including 16 children, 15 years old and under, are confined by house arrest. The Tumen River Technical School has been shut down and the Chinese authorities are investigating all graduates. The director, Peter Han is currently being confined to his quarters. His wife came to South Korea earlier for medical care where she is currently. The Yanbian University of Science and Technology (YUST) has been merged by the Chinese authorities with Yanbian University and all South Korean teachers, staff and volunteers sent home. Only foreign professors who have a contract with Yanbian University are allowed to stay and teach there. Also, 61 Chinese-Korean house churches in the Yanbian area have been closed.



Orphanages across the country that had been operated by Christians have been taken over by the Chinese authorities. They are actively tracking down North Korean refugees, focusing on the southwest area of the country where many North Koreans cross into Laos, Thailand, etc.

We had heard earlier that the situation in China had been growing increasingly dangerous for Christians. This is the latest news along those lines. The danger to North Korean refugees is very great. Please be in prayer for all of this and that God sustain and protect His people inside China.

The situation in North Korea for those who have been detained there continues to be grim. Here's a note about Jeffrey Fowle and Matthew Miller facing trial. We don't have any further news yet. We continue to pray for Kenneth Bae and Pastor Kim, Jung-Wook.

The North also continues to express its belligerence by its repeated missile tests and threats to bomb the US. However, the impact value of those tests has worn off as they are tending to be ignored. However, we do see evidence that the North Koreans are expanding their launching facilities to enable them to fire much larger missiles even as Kim Jong Un calls for a "revival of the 'war spirit.'" Even so, things are not going all that smoothly within the military as shown by a recent shooting incident where a member of Kim Jong Un's security detail was killed, the purchasing of extended leave in exchange for beans and the need for soldiers to buy their own uniforms if they want something wearable.

On a more positive note, food distribution is increasing in areas, the guitar is becoming an increasingly popular instrument, the North is preparing their large precision dance team cheering squad for the 17th Asian Games in September in Incheon, South Korea, and they are inviting an increasing number of overseas young people to an all-expenses-paid exclusive summer camp on the beach at Wonsan. Tragically, fifty students from

Pyongyang's elite First Middle School were killed on their way to the camp when their bus plunged off a narrow mountain road into a valley this past May.

At the same time the ordinary folk still have a rough time as many students are forced to drop out of school because of rising costs and people traveling into China are being tracked electronically and shaken down for any money they may have by members of the Department of State Security. Of course, that is better than being shot or thrown in prison, which is the penalty for violations of the new Article 60 stipulations. Agents are also becoming increasingly skillful in tracking down cell-phone users but, again, are usually extorting money sent to them from relatives in South Korea rather than arresting them.

As always, there is a lot to keep praying for.

Ben Torrey

Director

The Fourth River Project, Inc.

www.thefourthriver.org

Islamic State Releases Its Vision for a Caliphate

Monday, June 30, 2014 (2:57 pm) | Worthy News / World News

BAGHDAD (Worthy News)- According to a world map released by the "Islamic State" on Twitter shows the jihadist organization's 5-year plan to establish the Caliphate across the entire Middle East including Israel, North Africa, Spain, Greece, Pakistan, Georgia, China and parts of Russia.

"The legality of all emirates, groups, states and organizations becomes null by the expansion of the caliph's authority and the arrival of its troops to their areas," Islamic State in an audio release. "Listen to your caliph and obey him. Support your state, which grows spokesman Abu Mohammad al-Adnani said every day."

"The time has come for the Ummah [nation] of Mohammed (peace be upon him) to wake up from its sleep, remove the garments of dishonor, and shake off the dust of humiliation and disgrace," Adnani said.

"For the era of lamenting and moaning has gone, and the dawn of honor has

emerged anew. The sun of jihad has risen. The glad tidings of good are shining. Triumph looms on the horizon. The signs of victory have appeared," he continued.

"The Shura (council) of the Islamic State met and discussed this issue (of the Caliphate)... The Islamic State decided to establish an Islamic Caliphate and to designate a Caliph for the state of the Muslims," Adnani added.

The spokesman, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, said all Muslims worldwide will be required to pay allegiance to al-Baghdadi. He characterized the establishment of the caliphate as "a new era of international jihad."

PRAY that the government of Iraq and the international community will have God's wisdom and resolve to deal decisively and strongly with ISIS and its establishment of this jihadist state that could seriously imperil surrounding nations and beyond

.

Call out to God for Iraq and our Christian brothers and sisters there

Please pray for brothers and sisters in Christ caught behind the lines in the territory of the new Islamic State in Syrian and Iraqi territory. They are being made to become Muslims, pay a large tax or be executed. Those who leave have been robbed of everything they possess by these bloodthirsty extremists that have already killed so many that have been unfortunate enough not to escape in time. Pray for the Lord's protection and that He will give them favor even in such dire circumstances so they can get out alive.

Pray that the ISIS forces will be put to flight and be thrown into confusion and disunity so that these territories can be reclaimed by their governments. Pray for the binding and overthrow of the evil spiritual powers behind ISIS and for the defeat and downfall of these wicked murderers and destroyers of all that is good. "Bring down, the wicked, Lord!"

(Very Rare Footage) Muslims Create A Literal River Of Human Blood By Butchering 1500 Innocent People

by Ted on July 29, 2014 in Featured, General, Highlight
SHOEBAT Exclusive by Walid Shoebat and Theodore Shoebat



ISIS just released a video showing what they claim are Iraq's Army POWs captured by ISIS, driven away in truck loads and then shot them all dead. The video caption stated that there were 1,500 individuals. The video shows their end being shot at point blank in several horrific mass slaughters reminiscent to what we see during Nazi Germany. The young teens begged for their lives as they were made to curse Al-Maliki but to no avail while they were forced to chant "long live the Muslim nation".

The voice speaks how they captured soldiers covering their uniforms with civilian cloths. Then they show soldiers pleading cursing Maliki while other chant "long live Islamic Nation". The last man they slapped as they went down to the river had part of his back showing as his shirt was short and they blurred his skin lest it was sexually arousing. Then they are seen shooting the captives in the head and tossing them in the river under a pool of blood as the narrator from the ISIS stated victoriously:

We will revenge and will return measure with measures ... soon the Muslim will walk everywhere dignified with his head high ...

After the men were executed and tossed in the river the voice goes to say **"Here was the spark ignited in Iraq. It will arise Allah willing until they burn the armies of the cross in Dabiq"**.

According to Islam, Dabiq is a prophetic battle which speaks of the Last Hour (Day of Judgment) would not come until the Christian masses would land at Dabiq (in Syria) and they will be defeated and then the cross is finally destroyed and all Christian survivors that are left will convert to Islam.

The reason for throwing victims in the river stems from Khalid bin Walid. When the Christians and Persians from Ullays turned down a peace offer by Khalid bin Al-Walid, the most respected Muslim general in Muslim history.

The story goes that when Khalid made a vow to Allah during the battle that if he defeated these resistors, he would make the canal that surrounded their village literally run with their blood. When the outcome was in Khalid's favor, it actually took a day and a half to behead all of the captives. The obstacle for Khalid was that the ravine of blood coagulated and Khalid's troops were forced to eventually release water into the canal in order that it would run red with the blood of the slain lest Khalid's vow be left unfulfilled.

Some of Khalid's men wanted to meticulously fulfill his wishes:

Even if you were to kill all the population of the earth, their blood would still not run... Therefore send water over it, so that you may fulfill your oath.

Khalid had blocked the water from the canal. Now Khalid brought the water back, so that it flowed with spilled blood. Owing to this it has been called Blood Canal to this day.

But this is not an ancient phenomenon. Today the world can watch it in the clip.

Shoebat.com

Religious persecution on the rise

On July 28, 2014, Secretary Kerry submitted the 2013 International Religious Freedom Report to the United States Congress. The reports, now in their 16th edition, are available on State.gov and HumanRights.gov. Mandated by Congress, the International Religious Freedom Reports help inform U.S. government policy and foreign assistance. They also serve as a reference for other governments, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, legal professionals, scholars, interested citizens, and journalists.

Key Developments

In 2013, the world witnessed the largest displacement of members of religious communities in recent memory. In almost every corner of the globe, millions of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and others representing a range of faiths were forced from their homes on account of their religious beliefs. In conflict zones, mass displacement has become all too common. Around the world, individuals were subjected to discrimination, violence and abuse, perpetrated and sanctioned violence for simply exercising their faith, identifying with a certain religion, or choosing not to believe in a higher deity at all.

Government Repression of Religious Freedom

Governments from all regions subjected members of religious groups to repressive policies, discriminatory laws, disenfranchisement, and discriminatory application of laws. These governmental actions not only infringed on freedom of religion themselves; they often created a permissive environment for broader human rights abuses. Restrictive policies included laws criminalizing religious activities and expression, prohibitions on conversion or proselytizing, blasphemy laws, and stringent registration requirements for religious organizations.

Repression of fundamental freedoms creates a more fertile environment for violent extremism to take hold, as people denied their right to practice their beliefs freely become more alienated and resentful and vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. The actions of violent extremist groups led some governments to invoke draconian anti-extremism laws and impose restrictions that increasingly infringed on the religious freedoms of members of religious minorities.

Discrimination, Impunity and Displacement of Religious Minorities

The failure of many governments to combat religiously motivated discrimination creates an environment that emboldens violent and discriminatory actions by some in the society. In many instances, governments increasingly failed to investigate or prosecute crimes targeting members of religious minority groups, creating a climate of impunity. Members of minority religious communities were disproportionately affected by violence, discrimination, and harassment. In many regions of the world, religious intolerance was linked to civil and economic strife and resulted in mass migration of members of religious minority communities throughout the year. In some of these areas, the outward migration of certain communities has the potential to change the demographics of entire regions permanently.

Countries of Particular Concern

Governments that engage in or tolerate particularly severe violations of religious freedom are designated by the Secretary of State (under authority delegated by the President) as "Countries of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The International Religious Freedom Act defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, including torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention of persons, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons based on religion.

Today, the Secretary announced the following countries as Countries of Particular Concern (CPC): Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan has been designated a CPC for the first time this year.

Read the Report at state.gov/religiousfreedomreport/ and HumanRights.gov/reports.

While marking International Religious Freedom Day on October 27, 2013, Secretary Kerry stressed that "nations that protect this fundamental freedom will have the partnership of the United States and the abiding commitment of the American people as we seek to advance freedom of religion worldwide." It is our hope that this year's report not only identifies the abuses, problems and violations, but also highlights areas for change, action, and accountability. We invite governments, community groups, faith-based and secular organizations, students, activists, human rights defenders, change makers, and citizens to use this report to defend and advance international religious freedom, a universal right to which we are all entitled.

For further information, please contact Carole Jackson at the DRL Press Office at DRL-Press@state.gov, or at (202) 647-4129. Learn more about U.S. government engagement on international human rights at www.HumanRights.gov, and follow the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on Facebook and Twitter at [@HumanRightsGov](https://twitter.com/HumanRightsGov). Join the conversation on Twitter at [#IRF13](https://twitter.com/IRF13).

Pray for Christians and those of other faiths who are being persecuted or killed for their religious convictions and that the governments of the world will act concertedly to uphold religious freedom as a basic human right.

Church attacked, pastor assaulted in Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

18 July, It is reported that the Nazarene Church at Sehkari Nagar, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh was attacked on July 16 by activists of the Hindu extremist group, Bajrang Dal.



In the attack, the gang ransacked the church; physically assaulted the pastor and vandalised church property.

In a media report, the pastor said, "Today, while service was going on as usual, suddenly a mob of people from the Bajrang Dal entered the church premise and started beating us up. They also desecrated the altar, broke furniture and objects of worship. Even our women were not spared as the attackers misbehaved with them. After beating us up the attackers hoisted a saffron flag on the top of the church building and threatened us with dire consequences if the church was not closed down."

Prayer points:

- * Pray for God's protection and comfort over the pastor and the congregation;
- * Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance upon the pastor and the leadership of the church;
- * Pray for those attacking Christians in Uttar Pradesh, that they would experience a change in heart, repent and turn away from violence.

Source: Evangelical Fellowship of India

Pray that the government of India will protect the Christian minority from these kinds of attacks.

Issues from the United Nations for Prayer

July 29th: Weekly World Updates from UN News Centre

You can see the huge issues the UN has to deal with. Click on the links to find out more about ones you are interested to pray for. Please continue to pray this influential organization and for our world.

Peace and Security

Hailing recent roadmap, Security Council calls on Malian parties to advance peace efforts

- Security Council, in emergency session, calls for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza

- Gaza: UN renews appeal for humanitarian ceasefire leading to political talks

- Deploing attack on Afghan civilians, UN mission calls for prompt investigation

- UN and partners urge humanitarian ceasefire, return to dialogue by Israelis, Palestinians

- UN chief welcomes roadmap adopted by parties at inter-Malian peace talks

- Security Council, UN officials welcome signing of Central African Republic ceasefire

- Amid audit delay, UN in Afghanistan proposes criteria for ordering recounts

- Nigeria: UN envoy condemns renewal of heinous Boko Haram attacks on civilians

- Ban underscores UN support for secure, inclusive, peaceful Iraq during visit

- Libya: Security Council condemns ongoing violence and its use to pursue political gains

Afghanistan to resume election audit on Thursday, UN confirms

- Iraq: UN envoy demands Islamist forces end 'horrific terrorist acts'

- In Jerusalem, Ban meets with Israeli, US officials, reiterates call for Mid-East ceasefire

Humanitarian Aid

UN warns of 'hunger catastrophe' for South Sudanese children

- During Skype call, Ban voices gratitude for courageous efforts of UN staff in Gaza

- UN agency hails Suriname for eliminating gender discrimination in nationality laws

- UN agencies urge greater support to fight mounting hunger crisis in Africa's Sahel region

- UN agency urges Europe to act to stop rising refugee, migrant deaths at sea

- 'Appalled' by attack on UN-run school in Gaza, Ban urges halt to all fighting

Climate Change, Environment

- UN agency calls for urgent action to protect global soil from depletion, degradation

Human Rights

Eastern Ukraine: UN rights chief says downing of plane may be 'war crime,' urges probe

Arms race in Syria must be stopped to reduce civilian suffering, says head of UN panel

Impact of Iraq conflict on minorities 'devastating and irreversible' - UN rights experts

As civilian casualties rise in Gaza, UN Rights Council agrees probe into alleged 'war crimes'

UN Affairs, Secretary General

Persistent vulnerability threatens human development, warns flagship UN report

Ban appoints former head of UN Liberia mission to lead operation in South Sudan

Women, Children, Population

Abducted Nigerian schoolgirls not forgotten, UN chief declares as worldwide vigils begin

New UN data shows need for urgent action to end female genital mutilation, child marriage

Law, Crime Prevention

Troubled by escalating violence in Libya, ICC Prosecutor urges halt to fighting

UN panel pays out nearly \$1.2 billion in reparations for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

Health, Poverty

Marking World Hepatitis Day, UN appeals for boost in global momentum to tackle disease

Marielle Ali

Assistant to the UN Permanent Representative, World Evangelical Alliance

Pray for the Balkans: Possible Backlash after the European Trumpet Call conference



Pastor Venco Nakov, one of the organizers, writes: "In Skopje we believe we have done an excellent and historic work of reconciliation. One of my greatest concerns was - will we be able to rise to the level of maturity to continue this momentum?...Maybe you have heard on the news maybe not, but right now for more than a week there is such violence in Skopje, Tetovo, and big demonstrations in Prishtina and Tirana because our high court sentenced some Albanian Muslim extremist to life sentence after two and half years of trial. The reason for this was, about three years ago, just before Easter (on the night when Christ was arrested), these extremists had killed 5 young people from the age of 18-25 years in one village near Skopje. At that time the Islamic Wahabists had been planning a much bigger uprising, but ended up 'only' with these murders. After some time, the police managed to catch them and after two and half years they have been sentenced. Now, the Islamic extremists are making such violence. Last weekend was not a good time to be in Skopje. Buses were burned, cars smashed, buildings demolished, many people being hurt and so on and so on.

Please continue to pray for the Balkans. We have to resist in prayer this contra attack of the enemy who is trying to use the same means to destabilize Macedonia and the Balkans once again. Pray too for the organizers of the ETC and the churches to be strong and continue this life-giving, healing prayer movement that has begun in this conflicted region.

Pakistan and India Tensions and the Ever Present Danger of Nuclear War

One veteran Christian worker who lived and worked in Pakistan for decades asks us to keep on praying for that nation which he describes as "about the most dangerous situation on the planet". Both Pakistan and India have hundreds of nuclear weapons between them and they have been in a state of recurrent conflict for decades, having fought three wars. They are currently in conflict over the issue of water, with India using most of the water from rivers flowing from their territory into Pakistan.



Our friend affirms: "Wars have almost always taken place when a leader is weak. It's an effort to get people behind them. Nawaz (the prime minister of Pakistan) is very weak right now, so there are many against him. India has a new pretty inexperienced leader. Both are noted for having terrorist groups behind them."

He says that it is also crucial that the Afghanistan election dispute be settled amicably and effectively so that Afghanistan can unitedly fight against and subdue the Taliban; otherwise these terrorists will be redeployed against from Pakistan against India.

Please pray for the reconciliation of Pakistan with India and that current tensions will be reduced and even eliminated. Pray that the nuclear weapons on both sides will remain off-limits in any face-off that may develop in the future and for His peace to be upon these nations and upon their neighbor Afghanistan.

Taliban execution of Afghan woman triggers public outcry

By Benjamin Gottlieb

Outcry over the public execution of an Afghan woman accused of adultery by alleged Taliban assailants reverberated across the Web on Monday, with government officials and netizens taking to social media to express their disgust.



Footage posted by the AFP depicts a disturbing scene, as a man is handed an assault rifle and then walks up behind a seated woman facing away from the camera. The video then fades to black as the gunman fires three rounds from his Kalashnikov. When the image returns, the 22-year-old woman lies dead; her death celebrated with a chorus of cheers from witnesses.

Pray for the Containment and Eradication of the Ebola Virus Epidemic

New York Times, August 1



"First recognized in March in Guinea, the Ebola outbreak has surged through porous borders to invade neighboring countries, quickly outstripping fragile health systems and forcing health officials to fight the battle on many fronts. Past outbreaks have been more localized, but the current one has spread extensively over a vast region.

The stepped-up effort is long overdue, according to some analysts. They say the initial response was inadequate on both the national and international level and allowed the disease to mushroom from a local outbreak to an international threat.

The viral illness has exacted a terrible toll, killing 729 people, including top physicians in Liberia and Sierra Leone, nations that already faced an acute shortage of doctors. The outbreak has also sickened two American aid workers, who were being rushed back to the United States for treatment.

"The whole thing has been very incompetently handled," said Lansana Gberie, a historian from Sierra Leone. "If the government had quarantined this area" where the outbreak started, in the remote northeast, "they could have contained it. Instead they opened a treatment center in Kenema, a major population center."

On PoliticoSL, a widely followed website in Sierra Leone, a journalist, Umaru Fofana, has written recently that "the country seems leaderless in the fight." Now that cases have spread so widely, controlling the outbreak will be more costly and difficult.

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the director of the C.D.C., warned on Thursday that the worsening outbreak could take at least three to six months to bring under control, "even in a best-case scenario." Hostility and violence directed at health workers are making the job harder, he said."

1. **Please pray for the quick containment and eradication of the Ebola epidemic as well as for good medical treatment and hopefully healing for those who have contracted it.**
2. **Pray that government authorities and medical personnel will be given wisdom to do what is necessary to protect vulnerable populations in West Africa and to keep the virus from spreading to other nations.**

IPC Calendar

1-5th October - National Day of Prayer and the Hollywood Prayer Network - "The Summons"

Lisa Crump- lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org

29-30th October - National Prayer Assembly for the USA
www.nationalprayercommittee.com

The IPC Website

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

1. Home: Please send us news of *international prayer-related* interest such as upcoming initiatives and conferences. We will update our calendar regularly with such dates.
2. Regions: Please send us strategic prayer requests and alerts for your nation or region.

Please send your suggestions to the IPC administrator Amazing Grace Cruz at office@ipcprayer.org

About International Prayer Connect (IPC)

OUR VISION:

"Compelled by God to seek Christ's glory worldwide for the blessing, healing, and transforming of the nations, International Prayer Connect 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."

HOW WE OPERATE:

The IPC is not an organization as such. We are a fellowship of people involved in mobilizing prayer throughout the world. We function as an international "network of networks", connecting international, regional, and national prayer ministries and networks. We also arrange or support special prayer initiatives that bring prayer leaders together from time to time to pray for matters of regional and global concern to the Body of Christ. Regional prayer summits have been arranged or supported by the IPC in most regions of the world as well as international prayer initiatives for the United Nations, Hollywood, and other issues.

The IPC is led by an international leadership team, now called the International Prayer Council, is composed of twenty leaders who coordinate regional prayer networks or international prayer initiatives of various kinds. We seek to be catalysts and connectors within the global prayer movement towards the fulfillment of Habakkuk 2:14- that *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

We do not have an official membership but connect with individuals and networks through *IPC Connections*, a periodical newsletter distributed via e-mail to give prayer information to interested people. Please share this newsletter with prayer coordinators, prayer network leaders, and others who have an interest in the global prayer movement so that they can be informed about different prayer initiatives, existing prayer networks, and how to participate in them.

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Amazing Grace Cruz, IPC Administrator

IPC Website (free resources and information for all ages):

www.ipcprayer.org

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