

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

International Prayer Connections

A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World

December 2014

In This Issue

[Light and Darkness](#)
[Micah Summit](#)
[Transformation in violent cities](#)
[Plea from Damascus, Syria](#)
[Pray for Iraq](#)
[Ukraine Needs Prayers](#)
[Vietnam](#)
[Martyrdom in Afghanistan](#)
[Republic of Congo](#)
[Faith- Filled Prayer Breakthrough](#)
[Scriptures to the Impossible](#)
[Intercessory Prayer - Pacific War](#)
[Pray for Pakistan](#)
[Boko Haram and Nigeria](#)
[WYPA 2016](#)

Quick Links

[IPC Website](#)
[Children in Prayer](#)
[WPA 2012](#)



Light and Darkness

"Darkness covers the earth and gross darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you," says God to Isaiah (see Isaiah 60.2). At this season of the year followers of Christ around the world remember his birth. He came as the Light of the world to begin to dispel the darkness. His coming was in a blaze of heavenly light - at night - when "the glory of the Lord shone around" the shepherds. His coming was accompanied by a "bright star in the East". Thank God for Jesus. Thank God that His coming has made a difference.

And yet - the darkness has not been entirely dispersed. In fact, it seems that spiritual darkness has intensified.

As we look at the world we see the acceleration of the kingdom of God in certain places, but we also see the increase of evil and the acceleration of opposition to the Gospel. When we consider the terror and trauma being meted out on millions of innocent people in the conflicts at present occurring, or we look at the political alliances and their use of power, or the subtle ways in which ungodly policies are being imposed on nations by governments, or the corruption endemic in various economies and economic practices, or the new alliances being created as power shifts take place, we are left in no doubt that the world is going through traumatic changes.

How alert are we to these changes and the challenges they bring?

If we look at the progress of the church since its beginning, we perceive that every advance has been fiercely contested by our enemy, Satan, and all his demonic powers. Paul, writing to the Corinthian church, shared that he had been in prison frequently, been flogged severely, faced death again and again, had been beaten and stoned, and had been shipwrecked. He had been in constant danger, often going without sleep and food, and faced many deprivations (see 2 Corinthians 11.23-29).

Today it is no different. There are many situations on this planet where, in the past year, believers have been driven from their homes and churches, beheaded or shot, narrowly escaped death, have had to move home frequently to avoid detection, have been imprisoned for their faith, and live in constant danger. Consider Iraq, where ancient forms of Christianity are in danger of being wiped out, and thousands of Christians have fled for their lives. Consider Syria, where the civil war has severely affected the church. Consider Nigeria, where despite the growth of the church in the south, the activities of Boko Haram predominantly against the Christian population, has brought kidnappings, burning of churches and the slaughter of hundreds of followers of Christ. Consider North Korea, where the church that experienced widespread revival a century ago is now a beleaguered minority with many thousands of Christians have lost their lives or been confined permanently to harsh concentration camps.

Whilst the gospel undoubtedly has spread (there are now more believers in Christ on the planet than ever before in history), it is true to say that collectively the body of Christ is more at risk than it has probably ever been.

However the prevailing darkness is expressed in many other ways. Millions are being brought into or left in modern forms of enslavement. The grip on power globally that strong secret societies have is also a severe threat to religious liberty. It seems that there are dangerous spiritual factors at work. The powers behind false religions, religious fundamentalism, global terrorism, political and financial alliances and the primary sources of manipulation need to be understood and counteracted by well-targeted prayer.

In the past year or more, the IPC has begun to bring into being a global task force to focus on the dark places and dark powers. There have been consultations with a few leaders in North America and in Europe. The working group for Europe has met three times in the past year, and has explored some of both the historical and contemporary influences that have been at work in the Continent, that God first chose for the Gospel to spread, but which is in urgent need of re-evangelising. A gathering in June in Macedonia sought to address some of the issues raised by the two 20th Century world wars (recalled and commemorated Continent-wide during the past year), which made Europe the most blood-stained Continent in the world. Over 100 million people were estimated to have died in these two wars! The Europe group, who met last month in Greece, wants to tackle in on-site prayer and through teaching some of the factors that we have been up against, and to release a spirit of hope in the Continent that things can change and that revival can again be experienced.

A day conference in South East Asia last September will, it is hoped, be followed by a consultation in South Asia in the first half of 2015. Those we have brought together globally have experience of spiritual warfare and knowledge of principalities and powers on each of the Continents. We are together seeking to understand better what we are up against, how the enemy has been at work throughout history, and where his power, time and attention is focussed today, and how modern forms of communication are aiding his work.

A book, examining in more detail how our enemy Satan works in individuals, communities, nations and through Governments and other institutions of power, and how we can combat him, is being written. The church, particularly in the West, needs to be reminded of what we are up against and how we can take our stand against the devil and his schemes. Interestingly, leaders in Africa are well aware of the demonic powers they face. Many have written books on the subject. But in Westernised nations there is religious debate even about whether Satan actually exists! Fortunately Scripture is not silent about this. Satan is mentioned over 50 times in the New Testament. Jesus Himself knew that his calling was to preach, heal the sick and cast out demons (see Matthew 4. 23-24). He commissioned his disciples to do the same (see Matthew 10. 7-8).

We are looking for connections with practitioners, researchers, those with knowledge of how Satan has worked in different cultures, with a view to seeing more regional consultations taking place. We are wanting to connect with people who are active in the seven pillars of society and have understanding as to what agencies Satan is using today, and has used in history. If you are such a person, or know anyone who is, please get in touch with us, with a short bio concerning what you have been involved with, and in which country you are based. We have a name for the group, but do not wish to release it in an open context such as this!

So, at this season of the year, our call is for more intentional prayer for more of the light of God and less of the darkness of the evil one in society

around us, and in the rest of the world.

Brian Mills
IPC Senior Advisor
Email contact: office@ipcprayer.org

Micah Summit, December 7-9, 2014

"In 2000 the Millennium Declaration was a moment when the world made clear promises to the poor. Fifteen years later, global leaders gather to evaluate those promises, with current world crises in mind. In the heart of Manhattan, The Micah Summit opens up a unique space for visionary Christian faith to embrace our calling to the public square. We think effective Christian witness can find a road-map between fear and faith in our post 2015 world.



As the world reflects on the promises of the Millennium Development Goals and anticipates the future beyond 2015, Christians - as people of faith - have an immense opportunity to engage. The Micah Summit will provide an opportunity for crucial reflection and strategic debate. By the end of the Summit we hope delegates will have a greater awareness and appraisal of progress and gaps in our promises to the poor. And that you will gain a better understanding of the processes of engaging with civil society and institutions such as the UN. There will also be renewed commitment to the post-2015 agenda as embodied in a new 'Micah'."

Please pray for the Micah Summit to accomplish all its goals effectively during this important gathering of those from various development and ministry organizations as they meet at the United Nations. Pray that the participants "will leave inspired to be even better and more effective servants of God who calls everyone to act justly, love mercy and walk with humility into a future filled with promises and possibilities."

www.micahchallenge.org

Transformation through United Prayer in the World's Most Violent City

Please have a look at the video on the front page of this website. It is a report on the work of Poncho Murguia and others in his network in the former "murder capital of the world" that is now being transformed through united prayer. You will be encouraged by the Lord to believe Him for His breakthrough in your own city no matter how difficult the situation may be!

Website link:
www.transformourworld.org/en/blogs/14940-transformation-now-cuidad-juarez-mexico

A Plea from a Pastor in Damascus, Syria

"Please keep praying. More than 50 mortars fall today on the houses and streets in Damascus. God is protecting. Open a door for Christians to go out"

Let us pray for the protection and strengthening of our brothers and sisters in Syria and for the healing of this nation so devastated by ongoing civil war.

Continue to pray for Iraq and the struggle with the Islamic State terrorists

Some dear friends from Kurdistan, Iraq have written, asking prayer for the awful situation that the Islamic State terrorists have caused in the country. They write:

"Please join us as every morning we pray to God:

- 1.That ISIS will leave the country.**
- 2.Families can go back to their homes.**
- 3.Protection for believers and churches.**



Last June, because of terrorist's attacks, thousands of people, from different cities, left their homes and moved to Kurdistan, seeking safety... lost everything to gain their lives! At first, because the weather was very hot, all what they needed was ONLY water Tents/shade were the next urgent need Soon food was a great need also, then mattresses, then toilets, then...We found ourselves in an endless demand draining our time and energy, and dragging us out of our goal of building spiritual movements everywhere. But, as a result of this work; 1) Some young people developed a good relationship with Jesus, and started a youth meeting, and 2) Visiting groups of families for Bible sharing and prayer.

With the humanitarian aid, we distributed Bibles, several printed materials and FM radio receivers that help people listen to our special radio programs. Tens of thousands of people join our programs via the radio Facebook page. Bibles: 1,830 - FM Radio Receivers: 1,300 - MP3: 443 - Christian Lectures: 1,190

Please pray for the Christians in Iraq to be encouraged and that God will use them greatly to reach many for Christ during this time of upheaval and uncertainty. They ask us to pray for:

- the need for prayer lead to start a Prayer Network, to stand against the spiritual powers behind the Islamic State.**
- wisdom for creative strategies to reach people with the message of Jesus**

Pray too for the Iraqi government and military to become united and effective in dealing with the IS threat, pushing them back and reclaiming the huge swath of territory that IS has invaded.

OK friends, the time is NOW! No more, "I'll check this out later".

Today is December 1st and for the next 31 days, I'm inviting you to join me in being part of The Syrian Circle of prayer.

The magnitude of the tragedy and the hopelessness of their situation demand an urgent response from Christ's church. Prayer is the one absolute thing we can do to release the powerful hand of God into their situation. Our prayers will alter history, as the Living God is their Hope.

As believers, we cannot wait one more day.

- They are cold as winter weather is harsh.
- They are hungry.
- They have experienced great personal loss, continued fear, and trauma.
- They are asking new questions about who they can trust and there is fresh spiritual hunger.

Now is the time to jump in with me as we together intercede on the behalf of the Syrian people!

1. Click [HERE](#) to let us know you're praying. You will receive daily prayer points.

http://thesyriancircle.com/?utm_source=The%20Chase&utm_campaign=acaa431282-Syrian_Circle_Launch_Email11_18_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3c572c72fc-acaa431282-167335725

1. Choose how you want to participate: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Website, Prayer Wall, or as a Circle Starter to mobilize others
2. When you sign up as a "Circle Starter," you will have access to other resources to mobilize others to pray.

Let's come boldly to His Throne in behalf of the Syrian people,
Carol Davis

Ukraine Still Needs Our Prayers

Please see below our perspective of current situation, as well as the prayer points for Ukraine.

It is quiet peaceful situation in Kiev now, despite many alarmist news reports. As you may know, our congregation together with Jewish Voice International Ministries have been conducted an International Festival of Jewish Music and Dance 'Listen, O Israel!' in Kiev on September 26-28, 2014. Despite the difficult situation in the country, and little attempts to disrupt the event, a total of 4 concerts, the packed venue on 3500 seats were held peacefully, without any provocation of any of the parties.



So, as you see, some information statements do not reflect reality. The atmosphere is quiet also in other regions of the country that are not under control of separatists and Russian troops. The only exception is the frontier area of the country.

The former president together with his team practically deprived the Treasury of Ukraine and undermined the economy. Because of the events that occur in other regions of the country and the economic situation, our current government is in quite a difficult position.

In Crimea and the Eastern part of Ukraine, the situation is critical. These areas are controlled by various forces of separatists, who often conflict with each other. But together they all are under constant control of Russia. The major part of military forces fighting against Ukraine is the Russian army.

Evangelical churches are under great pressure in the Eastern part of Ukraine. There operates a so-called Russian Orthodox Army, which declares the only Orthodox Church policy and, moreover, it is only the Moscow Patriarchate Orthodox Church. And they not only proclaim, but also implement this policy, treating all other churches accordingly.

The prayer points:

- 1) For the schemes of the enemy be exposed and neutralized. For confusion and disagreement in the enemy's camp (meaning the spiritual forces of evil).
- 2) Against the spirit of death, the Assyrian spirit, and the spirit of Rezin (according to Isaiah chapter 7).
- 3) For salvation of the people of Ukraine, repentance and contrition before God.
- 4) For protection of believers in the Eastern part of Ukraine.
- 4) Also, please bless the governments of Ukraine and Russia.

We appreciate your prayer support in such difficult time for our country.
God bless you! Shalom!

Kiev Jewish Messianic Congregation

Vietnam

Please stand in the gap for our faithful and dedicated brothers and sisters serving God in Communist Vietnam. There is definitely a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing across the nation and plans are being made for many outreaches over the Christmas period. Outreaches and evangelistic programs are also in the planning for 2015. The devil does not want the Gospel going forward with power and authority and will try to unsettle and frustrate plans for the preaching of the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.



1. Pray for the government of Vietnam; bless them and ask for salvation to come to these leaders and their households.
2. Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, signs wonders and miracles.
3. There are good things happening in Hanoi (Vietnam's capital) with reports of certain "important" people coming to Christ. Pray that it continues!
4. Pray against the spirit of intimidation and the demon forces behind communism.
5. Earlier this year we saw a dramatic turn around and victory over another attempt of the enemy to destabilise the situation there. We will see another victory, now, in Jesus' name!

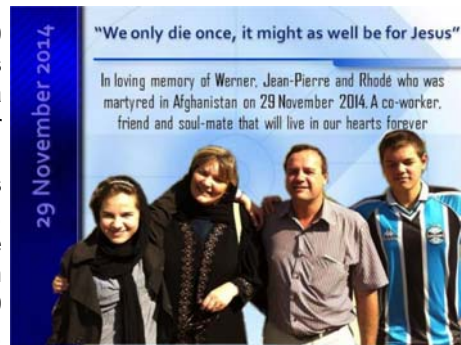
From an Australian intercessor who prefers to remain anonymous

Martyrdom in Afghanistan: Please pray for Christ's people there

29 NOVEMBER 2014

Werner Groenewald and his two children martyred in Afghanistan

This morning (Sunday 30 November 2014) our hearts are broken. We have lost a dear friend, a faithful worker and a precious soul-mate. Werner Groenewald and his two beautiful children, Jean-Pierre and Rhodé, were killed in a Taliban attack in Kabul on Saturday 29 November 2014. Hannelie, his wife, was not at home during the time and survived the attack but lost everything.



Three gunmen and suicide bombers stormed the compound where Werner and his family lived in Kabul on Saturday, exchanging fire with security forces before leaving Werner and his two children dead. Six other hostages were rescued after the afternoon attack while one Afghan worker also died in the attack.

The bloodshed began around 4 p.m. local time, when a grenade was lobbed at the gate of the compound, after which the militants stormed the building. The men were carrying machine guns, grenades and wearing suicide vests. A Taliban spokesman said in a statement that it was targeting "a secret Christian missionary and foreign invaders' intelligence center."

This report is not an attempt to explain another theology of martyrdom. It is simply an expression of grief and anguish and an appeal for the wider body of Christ to share in the pain of the Groenewald family, especially Hannelie and Werner's parents.

How do we express our deepest empathy and condolences with the family members who now have to face the reality of losing a son, a brother, a husband and two children in one horrific incident of terror? What words or theology can relieve the pain?

Like Jesus at the grave of Lazarus, we can only weep. Words are insufficient but tears can be offered on their behalf before a loving Father who understands the acts of violence against a beloved Son. Yes, we celebrate the life of three martyrs who loved Christ more than they loved life but we mourn the death of three dear servants, friends and co-workers.

Our last time of fellowship together was a month ago in Asia when we contemplated the joy set before us of serving Christ. In Werner's last message to the international group of co-workers he spoke on "Counting the cost of following Jesus". His words will remain in our hearts forever as he closed the session with these words: ***"We only die once, so it might as well be for Jesus."***

Together we also listened to Bill Drake sing the song "The Martyr's Crown" and the words rang in our hearts ***"It is your time to wear the crown"***. We did not know that soon it would be their time. Together we worshiped, we laughed and we cried. Together we knew that the call to carry our crosses and deny ourselves is not a theology but a reality. Today we know that Werner, Jean-Pierre and Rhodé are wearing the coveted crowns set apart for an elect few.

May we appeal to you to set some time apart in your service today to pray for Hannelie and the family. Weep before God as you share in the pain of a loving wife and mother who lost everything and an extended family who lost a son, brother and grand children.

We also pray that their death would not be in vain. May the blood of the martyr truly be the seed of the Church and ignite something in the hearts of believers across the globe, especially in South Africa, to follow Christ unconditionally, whole-heartedly and faithfully. May we be inspired to be Kingdom-minded and pursue the redemptive purposes that Werner's family so faithfully pursued in Afghanistan. May our live be a testimony of Christ, and our deaths ultimately point to His glory

We honour these three heroes of faith who have given their lives for those who hated them. We celebrate the invisible victory that can only be seen by those who understand the cross.

<http://incontextministries.org>

<http://muslims4jesus.wordpress.com/2014/11/30/werner-groenewald-and-his-two-children-martyred-in-afghanistan/>

[South African pastor killed in Afghanistan suicide bombing](#)

30 NOV 2014 16:05

A church in Pretoria is reeling after their part-time pastor, Werner Groenewald, and his two teenage children were killed in a suicide bombing by the Taliban in Afghanistan on Saturday.

"We are in shock," said Willem Badenhorst, pastor for the Moreleta Park Dutch Reformed Church in Pretoria East. "It is a very, very difficult time for us and the congregation."

Groenwald, 46, was based in the Afghan capital Kabul for several years, according to Badenhorst. He lived in the country with his wife and two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter who were both killed in the attack, which lasted for several hours.

One Afghanistan local was also killed, according to local police, who did not release the person's name.

Groenwald's wife Hannelie Groenewald appears to be unharmed but the compound they lived in, where the attack took place, is thought to have been destroyed during the bombing, said Badenhorst, meaning Groenewald's wife had lost her documents and may not be able to travel home to South Africa immediately.

An online bio for Groenewald on funding website GivenGain notes that he was born in Johannesburg on 31 July 1968 and grew up as the last of three boys in the family. He married to Hannelie in 1990, became a pastor in 1997 at the Moreleta Park Dutch Reformed Church in Pretoria, South Africa and "received a calling for cross-cultural work in Afghanistan in April 2002".

Groenwald worked for an American-based aid organisation called Partnership in Academics & Development (PAD), which helps educate poor and orphaned children in various countries in the middle east and central Asia.

Taliban responsible

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack on Twitter, stating that the compound was that of a "secret Christian missionary group".

However there is no mention of religious affiliations on PAD's website, which describes its goal as "empowering and developing communities through educational efforts." One example of their projects is the Seeds of Hope school, which caters to about 200 children whose parents cannot afford to send their children to public schools.

Afghan police confirmed on Saturday that several armed gunmen had attacked a compound that housed employees from an NGO.

The police did not release the name of the NGO but PAD released a statement on its website on Sunday describing the attack on its compound, which seems to include its offices and accommodation for staff.

"The attack which occurred on November 29, 2014 by multiple gunmen included one who detonated a personal explosive device killing three and injuring other staff members," read the statement.

Battle

Afghan officials said three gunmen were involved in the attack. Authorities managed to kill two of the attackers in a battle that raged for several hours, but the third suicide attacker was able to detonate the explosive he had strapped to his body, according to news reports in the country.

The attack comes as the US-led Nato presence in Afghanistan is set to withdraw ahead of the deadline set for the end of 2014. The country's fragile new government will take responsibility for security in the country. In response there has been an uptick in attacks the past few weeks by the Taliban, who ruled the once prosperous country from 1995 to 2001,

Insurgents have targeted foreign compounds, embassy vehicles, US troops and a female member of parliament in recent weeks, according to reports. There have been a dozen attacks in just two weeks in the troubled country.

Saturday's attack which killed Groenewald appeared to have been the final straw for Kabul's police chief General Zahir Zahir, who resigned shortly on Sunday shortly after the attack, telling the Interior Ministry he "no longer wanted to continue his job", according to a ministry spokesperson.

Zahir was himself the target of an attempted suicide attack this month, according to one report. On November 9 a militant snuck into Kabul police headquarters and blew himself up just outside of Zahir's third-floor office.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-11-30-south-african-pastor-killed-in-afghanistan-suicide-bombing>

Please keep Hannelie Groenewald and the rest of the family in your prayers along with the wider Christian community serving through various humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan. Pray for their comfort, encouragement, strengthening and protection. Pray also that the new government and the Afghan military will be able to effectively overcome and eliminate the threat of the Taliban and their terrorist strikes.

Democratic Republic of Congo

We have received disturbing news from the brother who leads the reconciliation ministry in North East Congo. Apparently a militia group associated with Al Qaeda has been on the rampage. Beni is where the ministry is based and where Daniel and many of the team live. I'll quote from his emails:



In Beni town and territory, this militia group is causing unimaginable atrocity to the population. From 1st to 16 October, they have massacred around 80 people. 31 of these people were killed in the night of 8 October, in Beni just 1km beside the Christian university... We thank God for His unfailing Grace. It has been unimaginable and no one can really say what is the intention, but God is sovereign!

Thanks for your prayers and let us keep on praying increasingly. This is terrorism having the same nature in many places. Trauma is being very high. Children are much more severely affected. Your prayers out there are the only hope we have.

All national authorities have passed through Beni, but we have not seen anything to guarantee the security so far. It seems to be devilish politics going on, and money is playing a big role amongst those who should protect or take proper decisions. MUCH PRAYERS PLEASE.

Rhiannon Lloyd

Let's pray for the situation in DRC for His peace and stability to be restored. Pray that this militia associated with Al Qaeda will stop its atrocities and that the government will be effective in combating them and protecting the people of DRC

WHY NOT HERE, LORD? FAITH-FILLED PRAYER BREAKTHROUGHS

By John Robb

My cell phone spurs me on each time it powers up with AT&T's motto, "Rethink Possible!" Marketers, in this case, are good theologians-and Christians in the Western world would do well to take this exhortation seriously.



When it comes to praying for God's miraculous intervention, why is it so easy for us in the West to default to the position of unbelief? Why do people in the Third World seem to experience more of the miracle-working power of God?

How can we grow in faith and pray history-shaping prayers for our community and nation and world-and rethink possible?

A few weeks ago, while I was pondering a new development that could result in a new ministry opportunity, some friends from Southeast Asia came to visit my family. I had pretty much concluded that this "possible opportunity" was a long shot. But in that moment of wondering, my visiting friends presented my wife and me with a beautiful pewter wall piece etched with the words, "Nothing is impossible." I had jumped to an unbelieving conclusion. And their gift was a loving rebuke.

Assume the Possible

Why do we so readily assume that things will not go our way or that they're impossible to attain? I can hear the Lord saying to me as He did to His slow, unperceptive disciples, "Where is your faith?"

Our same visiting friends had been in Myanmar in 2010 to help launch the Children in Prayer movement in that much oppressed nation. And in January 2011, I had the privilege of joining hundreds of ministry leaders for a second, similar effort. Out of those two events, an estimated 40,000 children mobilized to pray for their nation.

Nothing seemed to budge in Myanmar-spiritually or politically-until the children began to intercede. Then, in short order, the whole nation seemed to shift. The military junta, which had dominated the land with an iron grip, released political dissidents from prison, including the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Greater economic freedom was granted. Reconciliation efforts suddenly began between some of the ethnic groups that the government had been fighting for many years.

Political news commentators did not know how to explain such a precipitous turn-around in a nation so long accustomed to tyrannical oppression. But the prayer ministry leaders believed that "God's secret weapon," the prayers of children, were a major factor.

When I was with World Vision, an international humanitarian and childcare organization, we witnessed the same phenomenon. As director of prayer ministries, I asked field staff in five countries to have the children in the program pray for their very poor communities for one year. All of us were astonished by the miracles that occurred in those communities where the kids were praying for specific needs: the infrastructural changes, such as digging wells and establishing new clinics, resolving community splits, the healing of people with terminal illnesses, and the prevention of terrorist invasions in the places where the prayer was happening!

Staff people asked if we could renew the children's prayer effort for another

year. After a second consultation, people recited an even longer litany of miracles to the wonderment of all. The Children in Prayer (CiP) effort spread by word of mouth to 20 national offices, and later about 50 of our World Vision national offices continued developing CiP efforts. Even after I left World Vision, the prayer movement spread beyond that organization with an estimated 75-80 countries supporting CiP efforts. This is all to the glory of the Lord who loves the prayers of children!

Learn the Children's Secret

Why are children's prayers so powerful? How can they serve as a model to us more skeptical, slow-to-believe adults?

Jesus taught that He has delegated authority to believers so we can even bring Satan down in our communities and nations. Jesus said He saw Satan "fall like lightning from heaven" and that the authority of Jesus will enable us to "trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:18-19).

Moments later, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was rejoicing as His people overcame the devil and brought deliverance. He joyously praised the Father for revealing these things to "little children" (v. 21). Apparently children have a greater openness to receiving such a revelation from God. The implication is that His adult disciples will be slower to grasp such a reality unless they cultivate the same childlike hearts. In other places, Jesus said that the Kingdom of God belongs to people who are like children, and that we adults should seek to be like them (Matt. 18:2-4, 19:14). Why? Because adults tend to be encumbered by the baggage of doubt, fear, and wrong belief systems that keep us from simply trusting God to do what He promises to do.

We have become captive to a materialistic and non-supernatural worldview. We may not realize how deeply we have become affected by this corrosive influence. But if we ignore God's promises to do the impossible (if we will simply ask, trusting Him like small children depending on their parents), it is as if we, in effect, have taken scissors to Scripture.

I believe this is a major reason why serious and persistent prayer is not on the agenda of most Christians and ministry leaders in the West. We live in a material world seemingly controlled only by laws of nature, so we have imbibed the idea that prayer makes little or no difference. Humanism's teaching that "man is the measure of all things" has also crept into our thinking. Both are false philosophical teachings that cut off the realization that God is the One in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

For the rest of this article go to this link:

<http://www.prayerconnect.net/magazine/issue-18-faith/why-not-here>

Applying Scripture to the Impossible

Throughout 20-plus years of ministry, and in many diverse situations in 58 national prayer initiatives, my colleagues and I have found certain Scripture passages and principles to be especially helpful in releasing our faith-and the faith of the local people who have participated in prayer with us. It is the release of our faith together in unity, through the enabling and guidance of the Holy Spirit, that "moves mountains" and accomplishes astounding breakthroughs in prayer.

Here are some of those Scriptures:

John 14:13-14: "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

The sky is the limit. We can ask the Lord for anything. We can accept the invitation He has extended to us, releasing our faith in His enormous capacity to do the impossible.

Matthew 18:18-20: "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

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, and in all the great spiritual revivals and positive social transformations of modern history, we see that these movements have been preceded by united prayer. Theologian Walter Wink said, "History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being."

1 John 5:14-15: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him."

Praying according to God's will involves both hearing His Word and following the leading of His Spirit. Faith will gradually build 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 its own way.

Matthew 17:20: "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

God has enrolled all of us in the educational process of learning to trust Him with more and more of our lives. The Lord is always looking for faith, and He tries to draw it out from those who are with Him. Jesus did this with the Syro-Phoenician woman whose daughter was ill, the father of the demon-possessed boy, blind Bartimaeus, and Jesus' own obtuse disciples (me included).

I often take a bag of mustard seeds with me to hand out before we pray for breakthroughs in difficult situations. They come from a seed specialist in my church. The seeds 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 it does not take a lot of faith. It takes only the willingness to exercise what we have. As we do, that faith unleashes God's hand to do His wonders.

Ephesians 2:6: "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."

Notice this is past tense. It has already been accomplished. We have been raised with Christ to sit in heavenly places with Him. 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 understand that and live in the presence of the supernatural, all-powerful Lord of eternity, trusting Him for miracles on earth becomes routine, normal behaviour.

Let's begin to live and pray from that position so we can see breakthroughs for our world we have not yet dreamed of!

-John Robb

Excerpt from

<http://www.prayerconnect.net/magazine/issue-18-faith/why-not-here>

Intercessory Prayers for the 70th Year since the Pacific War

Article Subheading

In Babylon, the prophet Daniel found the promise that God made through Jeremiah.

"in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years." (Daniel 9:2 ESV)

What did Daniel do when he received the words from the Lord? What he did was that he prayed before the Lord, asking for forgiveness. He humbled himself and prayed before the Lord, recognizing not only his sins, but sins of his ancestors that they committed before God.

There is a 70th year anniversary that has a significant meaning to Japan: the Pacific War. Recently, Prime Minister Abe went worshipping at Yasukuni Shrine, where approximately 2,100,000 soldiers who died in the war are worshipped. He also went to war memorials in other countries. In this time of increasing darkness, I sense that there is something that the Lord is saying to us, the churches in Japan. That is, the reality that there are "spiritual debts" toward Asian countries that have not been paid.

The 70th year anniversary of the Pacific War, we, SIR (Strategic Intercession and Research) Network have sent prayer teams to various places of the war on the days that have meanings in the context of the 70th year. Those teams stood on the land to pray with the local churches and Christians.

Below is where we have gone to pray. Starting out at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii on December 8th (7th in Hawaii) in 2011, we went to Hong Kong (Dec 28th), Singapore (Feb 15th, 2012), Kalijati, Indonesia (March 8th), Corregidor Island, the Philippines (May 7th), the Battle of Midway (prayed at a ceremony in Hawaii, Kokoda, Papua New Guinea (Sept 8th), Tarawa and Makin, Gilbert Islands (Nov 23rd, prayed at a National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii), Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (Feb 7th, 2013), Singapore (the Shonan Shrine Site, Feb 15th), Buin in the Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea (April 18th), Dutch Harbor, Allusion Islands (May 30th), Kokoda and Sanananda, Papua New Guinea (July), Majuro, Marshal Islands (Feb 6th, 2014), Sandakan in Sabah and Labuan, Malaysia (April), Biak Island, Indonesia, and Imphal India (May), Guam (Aug 15th), Rabaul, Papua New Guinea (Sep 20th), Leyte Island, the Philippines (Oct 20th), and Clerk Air Base on Luzon Island, the Philippines (Oct 25th).

As we stood on these fields and prayed together with the local church and Christians in those countries, the Lord spoke to us the promise of "restoration and healing." Standing on the lands that were once battle fields where much blood was shed, I felt the responsibility of releasing the curses on those lands in the name of Jesus who died on the cross.

We also faced the reality that many of those battle fields had been kept tied in curses through groups of family members and relatives from Japan coming to the lands after the war. They built memorial monuments for the dead soldiers so that they could hold memorial services, but it resulted in inviting evil spirits to the lands by them praying to and calling down the dead spirits at those services. Without exception, that lands that were once battle fields were groaning under such curses, manifested as volcanic eruptions, conflicts, wars among tribes, and the prevalence of idol worship.

We prayed to the Lord on the lands, repenting of our sins, asking for forgiveness and reconciliation to the local people, and asking for the removal of the curses poured onto the lands. The Lord heard those prayers, and also the local churches and Christians accepted our repentance and forgave us.

I met many people who would point at us, Japanese, saying, "my family was killed by the Japanese. But today, I forgive the Japanese." There were also many people who would say in their prayer, "Heavenly Father, first, I forgive Japanese people, "I believe that the reconciliation was a gift given to us in the promise of "restoration and healing" through the intercessory prayer on the lands on the 70th year.

The "spiritual debts" the Japanese churches owed have already been paid off in the Gospel of the cross. And now, I feel the coming of "God's Time," the time when we shall be sent to those countries with the Gospel.

The Apostle Paul appealed that he was "under obligation"(Romans 1:14), having the responsibility of preaching the gospel. I believe that Japanese churches are "under obligation" to those countries that we hurt, infringed, and invaded during the Pacific War to deliver the Gospel. And, that is necessary for the revival in Japan.

It will have been 70 years since the end of Pacific War in 2015.

The battle of Iwo Jima, the battle of Okinawa, the air raids to around 130 cities, and the dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were events that took place during the last six months of war. We have already been led to careful and thorough research on those events through intercessory prayer, but on this 70th year, *I feel that the Lord is laying His hands on the whole nation of Japan to give the "restoration and healing" through sending us to stand on the lands and pray.*

Missionary work after the war in Japan was began by the missionaries sent from European and American churches right after the end of the war. The Gospel was delivered in the towns burned to ashes by the countries that were once enemies. It is not an exaggeration to say that churches in Japan were built up through those missionaries' tears and prayer in hardship and the support from their home countries that sent them.

For 70 years since the end of the war, churches in Japan have been devoted to preaching the Gospel and praying for the revival in Japan. The reality, however, is that the ratio of Christians to the whole population has not been changed; some say that it is declining.

There are words that are used to express one's refusal of Christianity. Those are words that Christians in Japan have heard at least once; that is, "Christianity is a religion of the United States." These words make me think what is behind them. Those missionaries came to the town that burned to

ashes by the air raids, offered many supplies, and delivered the Gospel. It is said that Japanese people, in their extreme poverty, crowded around the supplies and surged to churches. Having lost in the war, many people who were disappointed at the gods they had believed in received the Gospel and became leaders of Christian churches later.

However, once the occupation, the so-called "seven golden years," were over, people started leaving churches. Now, more than one million people go to shrines and temples on New Year's Day for their first visit of the year, where Japanese people once went to pray for victory in the war. I cannot think but that there is a hidden "hostility", that turns into the resistance to the Gospel.

I believe that on the 70th year since the end of the war, we are asked to have intercession and prayer that bring "putting to death the hostilities" and the "restoration and healing". I am also certain that intercessory prayer from the United States, who was once our enemy, is needed in this process of reconciliation.

Finally, I believe that the time is coming, the time when Christians in Japan and countries of the Allies, including the United States, England, Australia and Holland, shall take each other's hands and bring "the Gospel of Reconciliation" to the countries that became the battle fields during the war.

The 70th year, to receive God's time.

SIR Network, Nozomu Takimoto- nozomu.takimoto@gmail.com

Please pray for the work of the Lord in Japan and that the hearts of the Japanese people will be able to respond to the Gospel, no longer thinking it is from the United States or is a Western religion. Pray also for the work of the SIR Network in bringing reconciliation and healing to Japan's war enemies and to the Japanese themselves.

Pray for Pakistan's Fight against the Jihadists' Threat



"The recent suicide bombing at the main border crossing between India and Pakistan does not portend any new jihadist threat to either country. The Nov. 2 attack -- which follows attacks in Iran by Balochistan-based Pakistani jihadists -- shows that jihadists, although weakened, are launching attacks across a wide area. Striking at the jihadists on Pakistan's

western border with Afghanistan is necessary but insufficient; Islamabad will have to expand its campaign against the jihadists into the Pakistani core and into regions along its borders with India and Iran...

On Nov. 2, some 60 people were killed and 130 others wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up on the Pakistani side of the main Wagah border crossing with India during the daily flag-lowering ceremony held by Indian and Pakistani security forces. Multiple groups including Jundallah and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar -- linked to both al Qaeda and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan -- have claimed responsibility for the attack.

Both Pakistani and Indian security agencies had intelligence on a possible attack on the crossing. India's foreign intelligence service, Research and Analysis Wing, reportedly issued a warning about an imminent threat to the flag-lowering ceremony on Oct. 15. This warning came after India's Border Security Force personnel spotted their Pakistani counterparts building new fortifications on roads leading up to the border, which they interpreted as a measure to pre-empt a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack. It is unclear whether or not India and Pakistan shared intelligence about the threat.

This attack occurred in a different atmosphere than the one that existed in late 2008, when India and Pakistan nearly went to war after Pakistan-based militants staged attacks in multiple locations in Mumbai, India's commercial capital, killing 164 people and wounding more than 300 others. Since April 2009, Pakistan has been on the offensive against jihadists based in its northwestern Pashtun areas, especially the tribal belt along the border with Afghanistan. Just this past spring, Islamabad sent its forces into the last remaining jihadist sanctuary of North Waziristan. In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Stratfor explained how Pakistan-based jihadists and their supporters benefit from conflict between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan's Jihadists Weaken

Pakistan's military and intelligence offensive against jihadist forces on its soil has disrupted Pakistani jihadists and their transnational allies' plans to trigger an Indo-Pakistani conflict, which they could exploit in their efforts to weaken the Pakistani state and establish an emirate or caliphate in the southwest Asian nation. Despite the blows to the jihadists -- including the Pakistani offensive and U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle strikes -- al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri on Sept. 4 announced the formation of a new entity called al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. Although India has been alarmed at the creation of a new jihadist structure committed to attacking its territory, a spokesperson for the group said its priority is striking in Pakistan. Moreover, the central al Qaeda leaders' U.S.-born spokesman Adam Gadahn released a video Oct. 21 in which he urged Pakistanis to redouble their fight to overthrow their government...

That the jihadists have only been able to carry out one major attack in response to the operation in North Waziristan (now in its sixth month) underscores the weakness of the jihadist movement as a whole. That three separate Taliban splinter factions are claiming responsibility for the border crossing attack also highlights its internal divisions...

These jihadist flare-ups on multiple borders at roughly the same time are not part of a coordinated effort among the various jihadist groups operating in Pakistan. Those striking at Iran have their own logic and timing related to the threat Tehran faces from the Islamic State on its western flank. Meanwhile, the Pakistani offensive against jihadists on its border with Afghanistan has led to their displacement across the country.

Pakistan must follow through on its offensive in the tribal areas along the Afghan border, which will not be easy. Border operations, however, will not be enough to seriously damage Pakistan's complex jihadist enterprise -- a view shared by Lt. Gen. Khalid Rabbani, commander of the Peshawar-based 12th Corps of the Pakistani army who oversees the North Waziristan offensive. During a briefing on the operations, he said that

intelligence-based operations throughout the country, particularly in Southern Punjab and Sindh (two provinces that border India and constitute the Pakistani core), would be necessary to eliminate terrorism.

The destruction of the jihadist facilities in Pakistan's tribal badlands, and the subsequent scattering of jihadists and their resources throughout the country, means that the next stage of Pakistan's fight against jihadists could take place in more densely populated areas. Many urban areas in the country's core between the Indian border and the Indus River could see more jihadist attacks at a time when Pakistani forces will be on alert on the country's three main borders."

Excerpted from Stratfor, Nov. 5, 2014

Please pray for further division and weakening of the various jihadist factions in Pakistan and that the government and military will be able to effectively combat them. Pray for peace between Pakistan and India and that the jihadists will not be able to exploit past differences between these two nuclear-armed nations causing any new tensions.

Boko Haram and Nigeria

"Boko Haram insurgents have so far seized control of over 20,000 square kilometers of territory in three North Eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, Daily trust reports... The land mass under the control of the insurgents is about the size of Wales in the United Kingdom or the state of Maryland in the United States, and bigger than Northern Ireland. It spanned across ten local government areas and home to more than two million people.

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has since declared the annexed territory part of an Islamic caliphate with capital in Gwoza. But Shekau is thought to be holed up in his Sambisa Forest sanctuary, from where he administers his own brand of Islamic law across the areas his fighters hold sway. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the occupied territory and are now sheltering in displaced people's camps in safer areas in the three states. Tens of thousands more have crossed the borders into neighboring Niger Republic and Cameroon. However a great deal of people, who remained behind, including women and children, are now trapped. Many among them are being killed in a systematic manner. First the insurgents seek out and kill community leaders and government officials. Next, they go after religious leaders and youth who don't share their world view.



"Life in Boko Haram land is brutish. They kill, harass and brutalise people for unjustifiable reason. They take away young women and girls; and they treat businesses left behind by fleeing residents as war booty," said a man who fled Bama when the militants struck in september. President Goodluck Jonathan revealed during his recent trip to New York for the UN General Assembly session that over 13,000 people have so far been killed since the Boko Haram violence erupted in 2009. Military authorities wouldn't comment on the number of troops so far killed trying to put down the uprising.

The conflict has taken its toll on all spheres of life in the region. Billions of naira in businesses have been ruined in the North East, especially in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. Students have not been to school in many parts of the three states where insurgency is strong. In Borno state the government announced lately that schools will reopen this month after seven months of forced closure. The insurgents began to annex territory on the onset of the rainy season, and today the farmlands lay waste as residents fled for dear life from the affected areas. Commenting on the

states of the military campaign against insurgency, two retired military officers told Daily Trust that both the government and the military high command must show greater commitment than they are doing at the moment. "The President must be sincere in his approach to the war. The country is losing territory; soldiers are being killed and losing equipment to insurgents. That does not speak well of the government and the country," said a retired colonel who preferred not to be named."

Daily Trust, Monday, 03 November 2014 05:01

Written by Abdullahi Idris

Please pray with our Nigerian brothers and sisters in Christ that the government and military will be able to find and overcome the Boko Haram terrorists so that people in the occupied areas can go back to their homes and normal lives. Pray also for the release of all who are being held and abused by the Boko Haram fighters.

World Youth Prayer Assembly



An ambitious project that is on God's heart is ***the raising up of a whole new generation of leadership for Christ and His mission in our world***. Consistently through Scripture and history, the Lord has called children and youth to unique missions in life through encounters with Him in prayer. This was clearly the case with biblical characters like Joseph, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther and Mary, the mother of Jesus. God called them through personal prayer encounters with Himself for their particular missions that changed Israel and our world for great good.

Over 30 times in the book of Acts, it was times of united prayer by the early Christians that resulted in amazing signs and wonders and mission breakthroughs that ultimately brought the Roman empire and its emperor to Christ as the early church "turned the world upside down" for Jesus Christ. Connection with God through prayer ignites mission and results in the transformation of both individuals and the nations.

Two years ago, the International Prayer Council in cooperation with the Indonesian and Korean prayer movements and many other international networks and ministries, organized the World Prayer Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia. It united more than two million believers in that country in 378 cities including tens of thousands of youth and children, and millions more through the Internet and satellite TV throughout the rest of the world. During the WPA, my colleagues and I saw the power of such united prayer.

The "My Home Indonesia" project that came out of the WPA continues to mobilize hundreds of thousands of believers there in practical loving service and sharing Jesus within this largest Muslim country on earth. As a result, many Muslims, including their spiritual leaders are coming to faith in the Lord now. Some estimate that 30% of the Indonesian population profess to be followers of Jesus.

We in International Prayer Connect believe with all our hearts that it is time to bring together the youth and children of our world for an international encounter with Him and one another that will mark and guide them into the unique missions and callings He has for them. In the summer of 2016, in alliance with many other youth movements and networks, we hope to bring together up to 8,000 youth and child leaders (under 35 years of age) along with a thousand senior mission and marketplace leaders to serve as mentors from every nation on earth to the World Youth Prayer Assembly. We believe that bringing together the future leaders of Christ's Church and mission will have an explosive impact on our world even for generations to come.

Many details need to be settled as far as venue and exact timing. Would you please pray with us and if you have any suggestions regarding the WYPA, please write to us.

John Robb
IPC Chairman
office@ipcprayer.org

IPC Calendar

7-9 December - Micah Summit
www.micahchallenge.org

January 9-11, 2015 - National Weekend of Prayer to End Slavery and Trafficking <http://www.nwoprayer.org>

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 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.

Donating to IPC Through PayPal

PayPal is an online banking service that can receive donations from over 30 currencies worldwide through automatic draft and credit cards. It is safe and secure. International Prayer Connect is a non-profit ministry funded through the Transformation Prayer Foundation and relies on individual donations to keep the work going. If you are willing to provide support, please click below. Thank you for your sacrificial gift to IPC! [Click Here to Donate](#)

Contacting the IPC Office

Email:

office@ipcprayer.org

Amazing Grace Cruz, IPC Administrator

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

www.ipcprayer.org

NOTE: Constant Contact is our mass e-mail service. If you have unsubscribed from the newsletter through Constant Contact, you will not be sent other information you might be expecting from IPC. To get back on specific database mailing lists, you will need to sign up again at www.ipcprayer.org

. You may choose from 3 e-mail lists (IPC Connections Newsletter, Children in Prayer, and International Prayer Alerts). You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting the office or hitting the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the newsletter.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to andyandhelenpage.t21@btinternet.com by office@ipcprayer.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

International Prayer Connect | P.O. Box 66771 | Albuquerque | NM | 87193