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International Prayer Connections

February, 2014

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Praying together in Groups

My wife and I were recently asked to recommend some guidelines for covenant groups at our church in order to pray effectively together. In case these ideas are helpful, we pass them on to you.

The purpose of praying together:

- 1) to exalt the Lord in worship and praise -vertical.
- 2) to intercede for the mission of Christ's people- missional.
- 3) to pray for the family of God, one another, and ourselves- internal.

The Lord's Prayer is instructive in modeling these dimensions. It starts with the vertical in which we are to "hallow" His name. It then reaches out to the world, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"- missional. Finally, it deals with us as far as our sins being forgiven, our needs provided and overcoming temptation and being delivered from evil-internal.

All three dimensions should be part of the experience of prayer groups. The tendency is to focus on ourselves and our own families, health and job problems, etc. However, Jesus wants us to start with a focus on His Father and on the wider world so that we are "big picture people", not myopic, introverted and ingrown. "The Lord inhabits the praises of His people". When we start with God, keeping centered on Him and His character, we invite Him to manifest His presence, which is crucial when we seek to connect with Him in prayer together.

Becoming aware of His almightiness and that He is with us as we meet, gives us a proper perspective and enables us to rise in faith to consider the horizontal and internal aspects of mission to our world and our own welfare from the perspective and position of being seated with Christ and sharing the authority He has given us. Then, as Jesus said, "If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed", you can speak to mountains and they will be moved (Matt. 17:20). Repeating such promises of Scripture out loud during the time of prayer also enables us to get a heavenly perspective, realizing the Lord's ability to answer us and releasing us to a higher level of faith and expectancy.

"Conversing with God" enables everyone to participate by praying brief prayers of one sentence or more (normally not more than one minute). Long prayers by dominant individuals tend to kill the sense of participation so the session becomes boring and deadening. Praying briefly and repeatedly, as people feel led, gives shy members the confidence that they can enter in. It brings a dynamic sense of the Holy Spirit's presence and leading, enabling everyone to be more sensitive to His voice and how they should pray about situations.

It is not necessary in such free-flowing prayer that is caught up with the presence of the Lord to always conclude with the words "in Jesus name" since the conversation is not ending but is simply passing from one to the other in interactive intercession. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17).

At such times, God often gives impressions, verses of Scripture, or words of encouragement that can be shared after such a season of corporate, listening prayer. This helps the group to sense His direction and any actions that He may be leading them to take together or individually.

As certain members of the group feel burdened to pray about particular issues such as caring for the homeless, nations in crisis, the healing of individuals, it can be an indication of where their spiritual gifts lie. Prayer group facilitators can and should be alert, as they see recurring patterns in members' prayers, to help them discover their particular gifts and callings for mission.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul reminds us of the awesome potential of our connecting with the Lord in corporate prayer: *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."*

John Robb
IPC Chairman

Iraq needs His deliverance!

Greetings from Erbil, Iraq where we are about to begin a much anticipated prayer initiative with Iraqi leaders, tonight through this weekend (Feb. 6-9). We want to see His breakthrough for the healing of the land so scarred by war, violence and idolatry for millennia.



This is the area where human civilization began around 4000 BC with many great cultural achievements. However, it is also the place where Satan first encountered humanity and subverted our devotion to God in the Garden of Eden, which is also thought to be here in Iraq. With the rise of

civilization came deep bondage to idolatry and false gods as well as perennial invasions and wars that have claimed multiplied millions of lives. It is a cycle of destruction that continues into the present.

Many thousands of Iraqis died last year and 733 last month alone. Most were innocent civilians caught in the fighting and suicide bombings as Al Qaeda-related Sunni forces battle the Shiite-controlled government for control of the nation.

Would you join your hearts to ours and please pray with us for the following?

- 1) His anointing, unity, guidance, and protection for all the participants and our international team of three- Sam (Germany), Elizabeth (South Africa) and myself (USA).
- 2) Travel mercies for all who are coming today and when we depart.
- 3) Spiritual discernment and boldness to deal with the wounds of history and the defilement of the land through ancient, pervasive idolatry (Babylonian, Sumerian, Assyrian and so on for thousands of years) and through massive shedding of innocent blood through successive invasions, including the two Iraq wars that the USA and its allies conducted.
- 4) That a strong, united, ongoing prayer movement will develop through the training and times of repentance, reconciliation and prayer so that this land and people that God loves can be set free and experience His transformation in every sphere of society.

Thanks so much for your help in this way.

Blessings from Iraq,
John

Pray for Pakistan and Afghanistan

The NATIONAL SITUATION of Pakistan is deteriorating rapidly. Bigger and bigger suicide bombings and terrorist activities are taking place. The Prime Minister was allowed to come into office because of agreements made between the Punjab Taliban and himself.

The Prime Minister continually talks about peace talks with these Taliban, who have no intention of making peace with him. He is fearful to say anything against them for fear that they will turn on him just like they have made some major attacks on the military. Talks with the Taliban will not work. It only puts the Taliban in a position to be able to do more of what they want to do.



Is there hope that these talks will be stopped? PRAY to this effect. Local people are getting fed up with constant attacks. An unheard-of thing happened this week when a Shia leader was killed. Sunnis joined in demonstrations with them against the government across the country. The Prime Minister this week was called before Parliament by many in his own party to give an account of why terrorism is growing at such a rapid rate. Many were calling for war against the Taliban rather than negotiations.

Demonstrations against the government have taken place in most major cities. Electricity was promised within a month after the elections last year. Both electricity and propane gas have deteriorated to only six hours a day in many major cities, resulting in the closing down of many businesses and making hardships for families.

- PRAY people would join together in calling for the government to stand up against the Taliban, and for their own rights.

CHRISTIANS - PRAISE there have been no further major bombings against Christians in the last couple weeks.

- PRAY for UNITY Not without reason Christians are fearful and sometimes they are even fearful of each other. Pray for unity in this difficult time. Their only hope of true survival is to come together as one body in Christ so that God can protect them. Pray to this end.
- TALIBAN we have talked about three major Taliban groups.
 1. Afghanistan Taliban - led by Mullah Omar
 2. Pakistan Taliban - (Northwest) led by a new ferocious leader Mullah Fazlullah.
 3. Punjab Taliban - led by Malik- growing so fast that they are sending many warriors to some of the most troubled places in the world.
- PRAY for God to bring confusion between these groups, and to deal with their leaders.
- PRAY for preparation and needed papers for prayer teams going into both these countries this spring.
- On the other side, persecution and hardship are increasing for Christians. PRAY for their protection. We praise God that the Christmas holiday season is over with no attacks. Keep praying for a WALL OF PROTECTION "...and he has given us a WALL OF PROTECTION in Judah and Jerusalem".

An encouraging story:

One brother who had participated in a prayer seminar shared what God has done in his life. He said, "You gave me a verse and said God was going to change me and use me as an evangelist. The power of God came on me like never before. I began to go out witnessing." He went on to say, "I have just come back from X city (known as a hard satanic place) where I have made several trips. Five non-Christian families have come to Christ. You taught us to first teach them to pray. Now we have a small prayer group there. We are praying against satanic strongholds and seeing God answer."

He went on to say he lives in a city on the edge of the desert where there are 40 born-again Christian families. They have organized themselves into 24/7 prayers that continue throughout the whole week. During the day on Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons they organize into evangelistic teams that go out into the area. WOW! No wonder they are seeing lives changed all around them.

"In the seminar you taught us to teach our children to pray. We have small children's prayer groups." He told me that as soon as his four-year-old daughter gets up in the morning, she prays. Throughout the day she prays for many people. "Suffer the little children to come unto me.... Pray with faith as a child..."

Afghanistan

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT NEEDED: President Karzai still refuses to sign a very important agreement between him and the US government to allow NATO keep a limited number of troops in Afghanistan after most troops pull out at the end of this year. It would be crucial for the stability and the future of the country that enough troops would be left to support the Afghan Army and Police in their fight against the Taliban. If Karzai does not sign it soon, it would mean that all troops will pull out and there would be a great possibility for the Taliban to return. It is now known that he has been conducting secret talks with the Taliban.

Here some of his irresponsible statements and a statement of one of the generals:

- Afghan President Hamid Karzai has reiterated his refusal to sign a key US security pact until a peace process is under way with the Taliban. "Afghanistan will absolutely not accept or sign anything under pressure," he said at a news conference on Saturday. Mr. Karzai added that if he were to sign the deal, he would become responsible if US bombs killed Afghans. He called on the US to be a friend not a rival, but then compared them directly with colonial Britain in the 19th Century - imposing deals on Afghanistan that ultimately led to war, the BBC's David Loyn, in Kabul, reports.
- The US government is increasingly considering the zero option and recalled all troops from Afghanistan after this year, our correspondent says.
- Last month, the head of Afghanistan's ground forces, Lt Gen Murad Ali Murad, told the BBC the army would struggle without US support.
- "Without the foreign forces we will have challenges and problems when it comes to the equipping and training of the Afghan national army," he said.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KARZAI & US/NATO: President Karzai continues to verbally attack the US government and the NATO troops and makes irresponsible accusations against them. He seems to be bitter and even confused. This is very dangerous. Pray that he would stop his attack against those that have come to help his country and government and that he would make the right decisions for his country.

KARZAI FREES dangerous Taliban:

Afghanistan set to free 37 Bagram prisoners - Central & South Asia - Al Jazeera English

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=fl78ieab&v=001BqdlkAG71q7u...> 18/05/2015



"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." - James 5:16

Dear friend,

In December I emailed you asking you to pray for Christians around the world who often experience increased harassment and attacks because of their faith over the Christmas period. Sadly, this increase in violence happens so regularly at this time of year that it is almost to be expected. But I've got some encouraging news: after you prayed, Christians worldwide experienced a more peaceful Christmas than in previous years. Thank you so much for standing in prayerful support with them! Unfortunately we did hear reports of attacks or other persecution in some parts of the world. Please pray for the following situations:

Iran

Five Christian converts were arrested as they celebrated Christmas in a house in Tehran, the capital, according to Mohabat News. Another convert in the Karaj region was sentenced to one year in prison on evangelism-related charges. However, that said, Farshid Fathi, an imprisoned church leader reported that Christians in his prison were reported to be celebrating Christmas with "joy in Christ".

Nigeria

The Christmas period was quiet in Nigeria; however, this did not last through the new year.

Two people were killed and sixteen severely injured when armed Fulani Muslims stormed a New Year's Eve service at a church in Maikatako village, Bokkos, Plateau State. Another person was killed in the Manguna area of Bokkos. The following day, 16 more were killed in attacks on villages.

On Monday 6 January, 33 people were killed during an attack on Shonong village in Bachit District, Riyom, in Plateau State. Victims were given a mass burial the following day. There have also been similar attacks on villages in Kaduna State - all a continuation of events last year.

Vietnam

While Christmas was mainly peaceful in large, urban areas, we received reports that some rural villages in the Central Highlands were being surrounded by officials threatening to arrest any Christians discovered celebrating Christmas or even praying in their own homes.

Sri Lanka

We didn't ask you to pray specifically for Sri Lanka, but sadly there were three attacks on churches on Christmas Eve. No one was reported to be hurt in the attacks, which largely consisted of mobs throwing stones at the

windows, and demanding the services stop. During December another pastor was shot at, and yet another had petrol bombs thrown into his home. Again, thankfully no one was hurt, and police protection was subsequently provided.

Egypt

The Christian community was greatly encouraged when We were delighted that Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, recently visited St Mark's Cathedral in Cairo. However, a Coptic man was shot in the head outside Mar Girgis Church in Cairo on New Year's Eve, and died in hospital. There was a significant police presence for the Coptic Orthodox Church's celebration of Coptic Christmas, which falls on 67 January.

Central African Republic

Although Christians were able to meet on Christmas Eve, continued fighting in the capital city Bangui prevented people leaving their homes on Christmas Day. The continued targeting of Christians by the Seleka rebel coalition has led to the fourth consecutive Sunday where churches were unable to hold meetings. Christians have instead been gathering together in small groups in homes across the capital.

Mexico

Over the Christmas period, a group of 180 Protestant Christians were finally able to return to their village in Altamirano, Chiapas, thanks to the intervention and mediation of local Christian groups and government officials. The community had been forcibly displaced because of their religious beliefs for almost three years. However, a number of Catholic priests were forcibly disappeared, one was beaten to death and another is in a critical condition after being attacked with a baseball bat. Two more were murdered in another state. It is believed that these are all crimes committed by large criminal groups which are increasingly targeting religious leaders who refuse to cooperate with them.

Please don't be discouraged by what you've just read. Remember that generally we have just had an unexpectedly peaceful Christmas, and we serve an awesome God who has his hand over the whole world. Thank you again for your prayers.

As every in Christ,
Mervyn Thomas, Open Doors

A Prophetic Message for 2014

By Rick Ridings

There are four Scriptures I hear the Lord highlighting in a special way this year to express some ways in which I believe He will be both shaking and awaking:

1. "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).

I believe this year we will see the beginning of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on very small children (ages 2-10). They will be prophesying things that are beyond their natural ability to understand at that age. They will be awakened in the middle of the night to hear the Lord as did the child Samuel. They will receive key visions and dreams that will bring direction not only for their own lives, but for adults. They will operate in a surprising way in words of knowledge, healing and miracles. It is important that we do not quench, but gently pastor this move of the Lord among children. We must pray to help give birth to, and to protect, this move of the Holy Spirit upon children.

2. "Surrounding the throne were twenty-four elders... They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads" (Rev. 4:4).

Even as the "Harp and Bowl" (Rev. 5:8) was greatly emphasized in these past fifteen years, so this year Even as the "Harp and Bowl" (Rev. 5:8) was greatly emphasized in these past fifteen years, so this year will be very key in the prayer movement for the raising up of an emphasis upon the other two things that characterize the elders around The Throne: their own thrones and crowns. There will be an increased understanding of the exercise of governmental intercession.

Similar to Rees Howells, many intercessors will not pray so much in reaction to what is reported in the news, but will receive detailed visions and instructions as they learn to enter into the council room before the Lord's Throne. They will proclaim His Throne-room decrees upon the earth with increasing accuracy, detail, and authority. High governmental authorities in their city or nation, who will seek their counsel concerning security issues and decisions, will recognize certain intercessors.

3. "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come" (Mark 3:24-26). I believe this is a season where the prayer movement will use against Satan the tool he has so often used against the Church: division. This will be especially true as we learn to proclaim division upon the nation and house of Islam.

This is a season for proclaiming increased division between the demonic powers behind Islam, especially that the Sunni and Shiite movements be distracted from Israel, as they act upon their deepening divisions. I felt the Lord spoke to me that "I will shake everything that can be shaken, and Islam can be shaken. A house divided against itself cannot stand, and the nation of Islam can be divided. The harvest from Islam can be harvested."

The great harvest that is exploding in Indonesia (and which followed their own great shakings) will gradually move westward, with nations falling like dominoes before the hand of the Lord.

Look for increased shakings and upheaval in the Middle East, especially in Egypt, Turkey, Iran, and among the Kurdish people. Look for the Lord to supernaturally intervene to protect Israel, further exposing the lies of Islam. As the shakings become increasingly violent, the true face of Islam will be exposed for those seeking truth to see. There will be a quick movement of houses of prayer across the Middle East to pray their nations through these shakings into a place of harvest. Much of this harvest will start amongst children and youth. In a vision concerning Syria, I saw it like the scene after a forest fire, mostly ashes. But young seedlings were springing up

everywhere, and angels were pouring "Miracle Grow" fertilizer on these young trees to cause them to quickly grow into "oaks of righteousness". Tied in with this will be a huge "Student Volunteer Missions Movement" mobilizing young adults from the Far East into Central Asia, and the Middle East to establish houses of prayer, and to help reap the harvest. Market place "apostles" from the Far East will release wise counsel, and help with visas and finances into this movement.

4. "At least here is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant" (Job 14:7-9).

In some places we have thought beyond hope, prayer and worship will water ancient roots of the Kingdom of God, which will send forth new branches of life.

I believe this will be especially seen in Israel, in the Middle East, around the Mediterranean, in France, and on the East Coast of the United States.

I just spoke for a national seminar on houses of prayer in France. This nation has been so dark for so long, but I was greatly encouraged by the testimonies of many houses of prayer quickly being planted there, and by many reports of the Holy Spirit moving upon small children in prophetic ways. I had gone there to proclaim that this is a time where the Lord is going to bring new branches from the roots of an outpouring upon children that occurred during the time of the

Huguenots in the late 1600s, but most of the Huguenots were killed or forced to flee in the face of severe persecution. I was so encouraged by reports of how the Lord is already bringing forth new branches from those old roots.

In a similar fashion, I (and others) have had visions of flames of fire around the Mediterranean in areas many had thought of as without hope.

There is a new stirring as well on the East Coast of the United States (in the thirteen original Colonies). I recently had a vision of an eagle circling over Philadelphia, who then swooped down to pull out a serpent which had been laced through thirteen original Colonies, and whose head and mouth were over Massachusetts. This serpent had swallowed a generation of young people into its belly, where they were trapped in deep darkness. I understood this serpent to be the spirit of the "Prince of Greece", of secular humanism, and it had especially swallowed young leaders attending Ivy League universities in the North East of America. As intercessors cried out, the eagle grabbed this serpent between its claws, took it up and then ripped it apart, with this young generation released from the prison of its belly, and parachuting down on the East Coast to become points of burning fire in the darkness. I saw it had the potential, if guarded and fathered, of growing into a "Third Great Awakening". At the same time, we can expect increasingly violent persecution to come from secular humanists against Christians; but if we persevere, it will only fuel great growth in this new move of the Lord. May we hear the Lord in this season to press in for a great outpouring upon children; for greater authority to be exercised in governmental intercession; for the protection of Israel, and a great harvest amongst Muslims; and for new life and fruitful branches to spring up from old roots.

North Korea

Continue to hold Ken Bae up in your prayers (an American missionary imprisoned in North Korea). While there were some hopeful signs that the North might be thinking of releasing him soon as part of their seemingly increased conciliatory stance toward South Korea, the latest indication is that the official line has not changed. He must serve out his fifteen year term in prison. He was permitted a press conference recently where he appealed to the U.S. government to help him. Pray for his health and that he will be released soon.



Signals out of North Korea continue to be mixed with the North asking to renew visits between families divided by the Korean war, then agreeing with the South as it responded but being reluctant to set a date as the South sought to move forward and began to press for it to happen soon.

Even as the North is trying to build up its external image, the ramifications of the execution by Kim Jong-Un of his uncle, Jang Song Taek continue to ripple out with reports of the recall and execution of his close supporters and family members. So far there has been an [official list](#) sent out to foreign embassies that 16 people have been executed but [other reports](#) indicate that the purge may extend far beyond that. In any case, there appears to be a [heightened sense](#) of insecurity in the North. Ironically, Choe Ryong-Hae, the new second-in-command who may have the downfall of Jang, is now finding that his situation [may not be so secure](#). As all of this is happening, North Korea's economic situation is also taking a hit as China has imposed a [partial embargo on fuel](#).

In the face of this, North Korea is acknowledging the need to [improve the economy](#) and improve things in relation to South Korea because of that. This includes [sending teams](#) to the Asian Games to be held in Incheon, South Korea later this year.

They continue to [crack down](#) on the border [jamming](#) cell phone service and using more sophisticated equipment to catch callers; however, human ingenuity and need constantly find ways around including the use of [international calling cards](#).

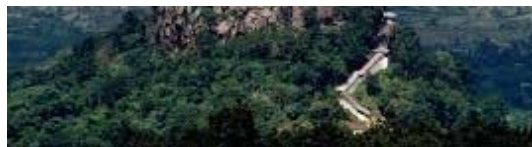
As you pray for the people in North Korea facing all of these pressures, remember the chronic shortage of food and the bitter cold. Also pray that international leaders, especially South Korea, China and the U.S. exercise great wisdom in their dealings with the North.

Assessment of the current situation in Burma

Burma is in the midst of change and we want to report to you what is happening, both good and bad. We are grateful for



those who have brought greater freedoms to Burma. We also want to stand with those who have not yet experienced those freedoms and are still under attack. Thank you for your prayers and support.



A summary of the situation as we see it now in January 2014

Good news and improvement in some areas:

1. Aung San Suu Kyi holds a position in parliament and she, along with others continue to work for more freedom, reforms and justice in Burma.
2. There are some in the government at higher levels who do want to change the constitution and establish reforms before the 2015 elections.
3. Many political prisoners have been released and there is greater political freedom.
4. Censorship and travel restrictions have been eased.
5. Ceasefire negotiations are ongoing with many of the ethnic groups and there is an overall reduction in fighting and displacement. Ethnic Armed Groups are negotiating with the government regarding political dialogue, credible monitoring mechanisms, and the need to consolidate existing ceasefires.
6. Burma Army leaders have signed an agreement to end forced labor and there has been a reduction in some areas.
7. The FBR had the opportunity to meet U Aung Min in 2012, as well as some of the leaders of the new government.

New attacks and ongoing oppression:

1. In spite of and during ceasefire talks, the Burma Army attacks against the Kachin continue with over 100,000 Kachin people displaced since 2011. In November and December 2013 the Burma Army attacked a Kachin IDP camp burning shelters, looting rice stocks and displacing over 2,000 people who had to flee again. Attacks continue in this area as of January 2014. [See FBR report.](#)
2. In northern Shan State, fighting and displacement continue against the Shan and Ta'ang people, through 2013 and into 2014. Attacks are especially heavy in Kut Hkai, Nam Kham, Nam San, Mon Ton, Mu Se, and Kyauk Mae townships. Victims are Kachin, Shan and Ta'ang villagers. In January 2014 the Burma army continued attacks into Kyauk Mae township, Northern Shan State, capturing villagers and torturing local leaders. **Report pending.*
3. In Karen State the Burma Army is using the ceasefires to supply their camps beyond the normal supply rate and continue to use forced labor. In December 2013, they fired on villagers on 9 different occasions in Luthaw Township, Muthraw District, Northern Karen State. They have also built new camps and reinforced existing camps. [See FBR report.](#)
4. The constitution has not been changed and the military retains control of power.
5. In Arakan State, over 140,000 people have been displaced by inter-ethnic violence between the Rohingya and Arakan. This has been partially fueled by repressive Burma government policies and actions. Rohingya refugees suffer brutal living conditions and live in

constant fear of attack. [Please see Fortify Rights Report on the Rohingya.](#)

6.Humanitarian access is still blocked for IDPs in parts of Karen, Karenni, Shan, Arakan and Kachin State.

7.There has been no apology, expression of remorse or establishment of a truth and reconciliation process to address Burma Army attacks, oppressions, human rights violations, war crimes and displacement.

8.Karen and Karenni refugees continue to live restricted lives with a decrease in food supplies.

9.Land confiscation and land rights abuses have become worse due to government and business encroachment.

We see two things continuing to happen at once: positive changes and ongoing oppression. The Free Burma Rangers will continue giving help, hope and love to those under attack, to get the news out and to stand with the oppressed. FBR has added land-mapping to help villagers retain their land in the midst of changes. We pray for more positive changes and for a closer relationship with the Burma government. We continue to pray for and work for, reconciliation, justice and freedom for all.

Thank you and may God bless you,

Dave Eubank,
Free Burma Rangers

Syria's children call for Peace

As world leaders meet to discuss Syria's future, children are sending a message to the leaders explaining what peace means to them.

When all you hear about in Syria is war it's important to listen to the voices of children calling for peace. Please share this heartbreaking video below with your friends and give, pray and advocate in any way you can. Amplify the voice of Syria's children as global leaders and Syrian delegates meet for the first time in three years.

Watch this video <http://www.wvi.org/syria-crisis/video/starvation-war-crime> please pass it on to all your network.

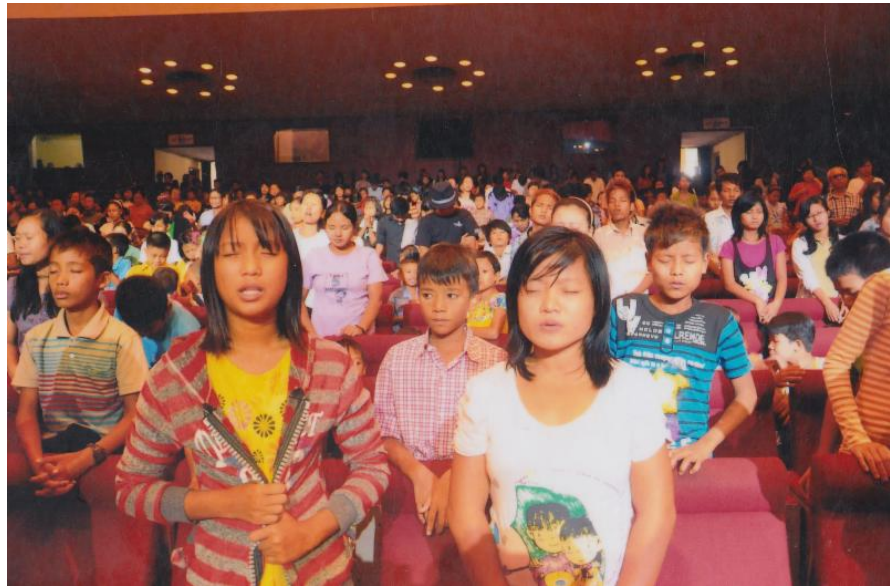
World Vision are inviting churches and prayer networks around the world to hold a prayer vigil with a candle or mobile phone on March 14th (the 3rd Year Anniversary) for the children of Syria. We ask the Lord to soften the hearts of leaders and to listen to the pleas of peace. <http://www.wvi.org/syria-crisis/video/starvation-war-crime> Please post this and share this for your local church Calendar.

Lilian Schmid

National Prayer Strategy for the Ten Domains

Prayer Initiatives: Transformation through strategic intercession





Believing that "with God all things are possible", a prayer initiative is an internationally coordinated, united prayer effort for the holistic transformation of a nation or city. It is holistic in that informed prayer is focused on the unique needs of a society whether they are in the social, political, economic, ecological or spiritual realms. Such needs may be ethnic conflict, war, political oppression, economic corruption, exploitation of the poor, religious persecution, or the need for spiritual renewal due to laxness or division in the church. As people come together to seek the Lord for their nation, He promises to bring healing, forgiveness and restoration (2 Chronicles 7:14, Is. 41:17-20, Ez. 36-37, Rev.22:1-3).

Prayer initiatives normally combine an on-site visit by an international team of prayer leaders in a conference or seminar with local leaders from the churches, para-church organizations, and prayer networks. If appropriate and possible, it is valuable to include representatives from other spheres such as the business community and government. During the conference, local leaders present the current situation in the nation with key concerns for intercession. Members of the international team give teachings on strategic intercession, as well as case studies and stories of how God brings healing, reconciliation and restoration through prayer. All of this happens in a dynamic, free flowing sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and what He wants to do to bring transformation to those who participate and to the wider society.

In addition, prayer networks around the world are alerted in advance and given specific information on the initiative for that nation, so they can provide the informed support of many thousands of gifted prayer warriors. With this mixture of both a locally and internationally coordinated prayer focus, we have seen the hand of God breaking through in numerous previous initiatives, often with supernatural demonstrations of His power and direction as well as bringing tangible changes reflected in the newspaper headlines. The way He does this is always fresh and unique to that particular nation.

Prayer Initiative/Seminar Program

"Uniting in Prayer, Transforming Our Nation"

2 Chronicles 7:14

.I Prayer and Social Transformation (International Team)

Discussion- "What are the key issues for prayer for the nation?"

Political/economic situation (local speaker shares key prayer concerns)

United prayer in small groups or twos and threes

II. Reconciliation and Identificational Repentance (International Team)

Church and its mission situation (local speaker share key prayer concerns)

Time of prayer

III. Building a United Prayer Movement (International Team and/or local facilitator)

Discussion and time of prayer

IV. Process of National Deliverance and Restoration (International Team)

Discussion: "How can restoration come? How can we pray and work together?"

Prayer

V Local conflict with spiritual powers of evil (local speaker shares key prayer concerns)

Conflict with Spiritual Powers of Evil (International Team)

Discussion

United Prayer

VI Establishing a United Prayer Network (International Team and/or local facilitator)

Discussion: Planning for the Future

VII Commissioning as Intercessors

Note: all presentations will be interwoven with times of intercessory prayer, discussion and response to the work of the Spirit among us. Our team and the local leaders will together submit ourselves to one another and to the Lord for direction throughout the initiative. This is only a rough draft for general direction and communication. It can be modified if necessary as the local leaders and international team confer together.

If you are interested to arrange a prayer initiative for you nation, the IPC may be able to assist you. You may contact our office at office@ipcprayer.org

Malaysia and Religious freedom

In view of the serious developments subsequent to the recent raid by the Islamic authorities of the state of Selangor (JAIS) on the Bible Society of Malaysia, where sixteen boxes of Alkitab and Bup Kudus Bibles were confiscated,

PU is calling all Christians and churches to come



together in concerted and vigilant prayer
for the following:



1. Uphold the **church leaders** in prayer. Pray for unity, wisdom, courage and strength as they work towards resolving this matter with the authorities, and in their exercise of God's call to leadership in the Malaysian Church at such critical times.
2. Pray for the **national leaders**, the government and relevant authorities involved in dealing with the delicate race and religious issues. Pray that they will discharge their duties responsibly, with integrity, justice, and a genuine concern for the well-being of the nation.
3. Pray for the **police** that they would be fair and just, properly upholding law and order. Pray that the police will protect and defend the rights of minorities in this country, and not be compromised by those who are seeking to use the law improperly for their own agenda. Pray that they will always act to ensure the safety and security of church members and the sanctity of all places of worship.
4. Pray for the **Church** to be strong in the face of systematic pressure, intimidation and orchestrated attacks. Pray that Christians in this country will continue to be a peace-loving people who will not allow themselves to be easily provoked but actively seek to be agents of peace and reconciliation instead, committed to loving those who treat them unjustly.
5. In the words of the CFM Media Statement, pray that "**all Christians** will be vigilant, both in standing up for their constitutional rights and in prayer, and remain calm in the midst of these trying times. We call on Almighty God for good sense and wisdom to ultimately prevail in this beloved land of ours."
6. Finally, please uphold the Catholic Church's leave to appeal which will be heard by the Federal Court on Feb 24, 2014. Pray also for the Jill Ireland Lawrence Bill and the SIB Sabah cases which are also up for mention in the High Court.

Joint secretaries ~
Rev Andy Chi (NECF)
Chrisanne Chin (CCM)

Pray for Liberia

Please continue to pray for us. As the Lord opens doors, the adversary tries to close them through diverse machinations. The creation of the one-thousand-voice choir and three-hundred-plus intercessors team to promote reconciliation, forgiveness, etc through singing, praying, etc are initiatives that the Lord laid on our hearts to help redirect the country spiritually, politically, etc. Our folks are slowed to pick up - they can be more individualistic than collective. It's hurting the church and purpose of the nation.

That's why we wanted to bring a cross-church-group team that could have gotten re-oriented and energized for such initiatives. Time is of an essence. Christian Liberia believes God has a special mission for the

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nation. They believe that the church is supposed to birth that mission. In fact, many believe the timing is coming when the next leader of the nation could come directly from - the support of - the church. It's a cry, yearning, etc - that Liberia will return to its roots.

That's why a group of young ministers solicited thousands of signatures last year to lay groundwork for a petition to revert the Christian nation phrase into the national Constitution. We also did one for homosexuality not to be legalized in the country. Those two efforts have scared a lot of people.

But aah! Libeeriens! They, or we need prayer. **In 2014, we hope we can expose church leaders to effective potential of prayer that your initiatives present. Please continue to pray for us - and groups like the council of churches that has a lot of sway on the country but is threatened by a lack of spirituality, etc.** This is my desire!

God Bless,
Brother Brown

An Encouraging story from Liberia

That's what they called him:

Milton Blahyi, a satanic high priest, cannibal, warlord and mass murderer in the Liberian civil war. He admitted to being personally responsible for the death of more than 20,000 civilians. He and his men fought naked to obtain "spiritual protection," which earned him the nickname of "

General Butt Naked." Dedicated to satanic worship from his early childhood, he sacrificed humans on a regular basis as the high priest of his Krahn tribe. One day - with the blood of a child who had just been sacrificed on his hands -

Jesus Christ appeared to him saying, "My son, why do you live as a slave?" And he called him to repent.

After a series of miraculous circumstances Milton Blahyi bowed his knees before Jesus Christ, who, out of the indescribable depth of his mercy and grace, saved the satanic warlord. Joshua - as he called himself after his conversion - later turned himself in to the Liberian war commission and confessed his crimes. Due to the special Liberian situation and his obviously changed life and positive influence on society, he was not convicted.

For more than 10 years he has now been working as a pastor and evangelist ministering especially to former child soldiers and seeking to establish reconciliation with his former victims and their families.

Joshua's heart is to reach his fellow Africans who are still living in darkness as he once did - including the numerous people who are still sacrificing human beings and practicing cannibalism.

After hearing about G.O.D., Joshua was extremely excited about the opportunity to reach the whole of Liberia with the gospel. He is now working as one of our local G.O.D. coordinators and preparing the mobilization of churches all over the nation for a joint gospel outreach.

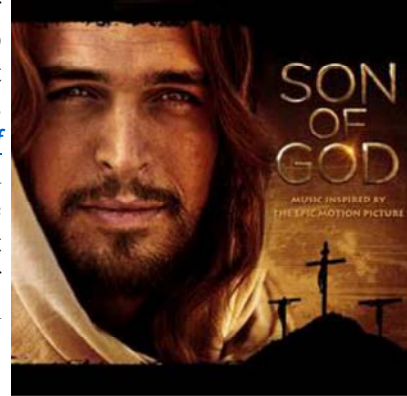
We will be supporting that outreach by printing one million gospel tracts and providing training material for Liberian Christians.

We are very excited about what the Lord is doing in Liberia! The war-torn country still has so many open wounds and bleeding hearts - the message

of the true Healer is urgently needed. Joshua's story reveals how God's incomprehensible love can reach even into the deepest darkness.

Hollywood Prayer Network

UPDATES: * 2014 is the year for the Biblical epic in theatres. Keep praying for the upcoming films that point people to God's stories and His truth. The first one to open is [Son of God](#), produced by Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. Let's ask God to use Mark and Roma's influence to point people to Jesus as they promote their film around the country and in Hollywood.



* It's awards season for the film industry, starting with the Golden Globes which aired this past Sunday night, followed by a list of other televised awards shows, culminating with the Academy Awards on Sunday, March 2nd. Please keep praying for the nominees and the winners, as everyone in our industry prepares for some of the biggest nights of their careers. May they find their identity in Him and not in the awards they win, as they angst over these competitions!

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS: * HPN wants to start the year with a commitment to UNITY. We ask that you join us wherever you are in the world in the spirit of unity and not to let yourself or others talk against Hollywood or the people here. Remember to ask the Lord to bless the people in the entertainment industry, touch their hearts, bring loving Christians around them to share His hope, and to build up the community of believers here. Let's [start here](#), as Actress Meagan Good has publicly asked the Christian community to love Kanye West.

* The Winter Olympics are coming up! They begin in three weeks in Russia from February 2 - 23rd, 2014, and the American telecast will be on NBC. The Olympics are a major part of our culture, so let's pray for the people involved in the airing of the events. May they give us a balanced view of all of the competitions and great inspirational stories about the contestants, and may the games bring hope to everyone, especially young people all over the world. As you're watching, remember to pray for the contestants!

* The 2014 TV Pilot season has begun. Most of the networks have chosen what pilot episodes they want to invest in, and the casting and pre-production are under way. Would you pray for the writers, producers, casting directors, agents and network executives as they produce the shows that are contestants for this fall's new TV season? A Nielson report states that "The average American over the age of 2 spends more than 34 hours a week watching live television." May these new shows bring beauty, truth, love and hope into our culture!

* Every project that gets produced and distributed is a MIRACLE! The average feature film takes 10 years from conception to opening day in theatres and most TV series don't make it past the pilot episode. Let's pray for the people involved with creating the faith-based children's messages in the

VeggieTales TV series that is now being produced by Dreamworks. VeggieTales has gone through a 20-year journey from Phil Vischer's Big Idea, through bankruptcy, then two other corporate purchases, and now to Jeffrey Kassenberg's Dreamworks Classics.

Online

ACT ONE Writing for Hollywood is offering the *Writing for Film Online Program*. To register or for more information on how to sign up for their spring online writing course, offering premium writing training from home, click [here](#).

In his grip Karen, Lisa, Daniella and our new intern Taylor!

Seek God for the City

Dear friends:

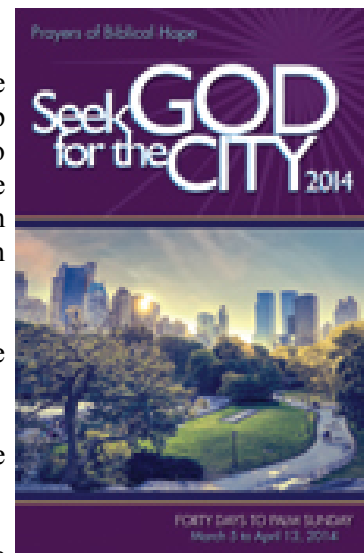
We are excited to let you know that the Seek God for the City 2014 companion app has been released! This is a great tool to use alone or alongside the Seek God for the City booklet. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices and it works on most smartphones and tablets.

Here are a few of the great features of the companion app:

- * Easy-to-set reminders that encourage consistent, regular prayer.
- * Links directly to Operation World, the top site for helping you pray effectively for every nation.
- * It's portable for use anywhere, anytime.
- * Ease of searching for a specific word or phrase.
- * Encourages the ability to pray in unison with other believers in any place around the world.

You can download the app from [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) for only. \$0.99. Search "Seek God for the City 2014" or get the link directly from our website: www.waymakers.org

This app makes it possible for many more people to pray when reminded in the midst of their daily activities. We've learned that people are much more likely to pray with their mobile device than at a computer screen. That's why we are excited to tell as many believers as we can to get and use this app to deepen and stretch their praying.



Sincerely,

The WayMakers team
Steve, Barb and Stephanie
www.waymakers.org

IPC Calendar

10th-12th March, 2013 - ***Standing in the Gap Conference***

13th- 14th June, 2014 - ***12th Preventing Abuse Conference in Tampa Florida***

19th- 22nd June, 2014- ***2nd All Malaysian Convocation***

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, 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.

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