

LET GOD ARISE!

Eastertide: The Resurrection of Christ

4.24.11 - 5.21.11



Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!

Matthew 28.1-10

Jesus' resurrection, to put it mildly, is simply amazing and spectacular. Every single Gospel account of our Lord's resurrection demonstrates its power and mystery. With the women coming to the Tomb toward the dawn of the first day of the week, the entire episode unfolded – the angel of the Lord's descent from heaven and the rolling away of the stone. We see the battle-worn guards fall like dead men at the shaking of the earthquake and the presence of the angel's splendor. The angel tells the women a message totally unexpected: the crucified Jesus is no longer in the tomb, but has risen from the dead, just as he said. He tells them to go and tell his disciples to meet the Lord in Galilee as he promised, and as they leave with fear and great joy, they encounter the risen Lord himself, and worship him. He comforts them, and tells them to go and tell his "brothers" that he will meet them in Galilee, as he told them beforehand.

What an amazing tale, a refreshing report, given to us by an awesome God! Even after all their drama – Peter's denial, Judas' betrayal, and the apostles' departure – Jesus still calls his disciples his "brothers"! Truly, this is a wonderful revelation: the Lord of glory considers his own lowly disciples to be his brothers, and counts his Father as their Father, and his God as their God. Like them, through faith in Jesus Christ, we are counted to be the very siblings of our Lord, who is the Firstborn, our Elder Brother, whose body of glory will become the very pattern of our own spiritual bodies, the time of refreshing to come.

To pray for revival in the city is to believe in nothing less than the real possibility of the full transformation of the lost in them to be regenerated into the very children of God. By faith in the risen Lord, those now without God are destined to become our very own brothers and sisters in Christ, and fellow-heirs with Christ of the glory to come. This is the hope of the resurrection, and the surety of our faith.



Pray for:

*Gateway Cities of
the 10/40 Window*

... see page 3

*Inner Cities
of America*

... see page 6

*World Impact's
Ministries*

... see page 7

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Jesus Has Risen! He is Not Dead!

An Easter Chorus • Don L. Davis

On Sunday at first light, the spices they brought
To set on his body, and do as they ought
The huge stone they found there, had been rolled away
The tomb there was empty, the place where he lay!

Jesus has risen, he is not dead!
The Lord rose victorious, just as he said!
Evil's been conquered, on death he has tread,
Jesus has risen, he is not dead!

Don't be alarm-ed! I know whom you seek;
The Crucified Jesus, the dear Nazarene
But, look, he is risen, and lives evermore
Death could not hold him for he is the Lord!

Why seek you the living among all the dead?
The Lord is not here now, he's risen instead!
Go tell his disciples to Galilee flee
For he goes before you, and there he'll be seen!

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Global Strategic Vision

Pray fervently and in faith for the following *Gateway Cities in the 10/40 Window*. Ask the Lord of the harvest to open up these great cities to the saving Gospel of grace, that humility, brokenness, and contriteness would occur, and that the Spirit would demonstrate clear evidence of power that would prepare the masses to hear the message of Christ.

- Northern Africa: *Addis Ababa*
- Middle East: *Baghdad* and *Tehran*
- Central Asia: *Kabul*
- Eastern Asia: *Sapporo, Kuala Lumpur, Chongqing, and Vientiane*

Pray fervently for these great cities, that the Father would reveal Christ to them, that the word of God would be preached with clarity and power in each of them, and that the Holy Spirit would allow the Gospel to powerfully penetrate these societies, being communicated in ways that the masses would understand God's loving offer to the Gentiles through faith in Christ.

Entreat the Lord on behalf of these key cities, believing God for his intervention:

- Pray for Northern Africa and for the great city of *Addis Ababa*. Pray that students in the Bible schools and seminaries would be filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed to preach the gospel powerfully. Pray that the government could lead the country into economic recovery, that thousands of high school graduates and other youth can find work, and that poor street children, beggars, and handicapped war veterans would receive food and the Gospel. Pray that God would raise up strong family structures that will model Christian homes and marriages.



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- Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit within *Baghdad* and *Tehran*, great Middle Eastern cities. In *Baghdad* pray for revival in the Orthodox and Catholic churches and continued growth in the evangelical house groups. Pray for the continued showing and distribution of the Jesus film, and that the Word of God (truckloads of Bibles went into Baghdad after the Gulf War) would produce a great harvest among the people. Pray for increased evangelistic efforts among the Muslims. Pray that government persecution of the Church will end in *Tehran*. Pray that the constitutional freedoms will be restored as the believers face increased opposition from the Muslim majority and that missionaries would again be allowed to work in Iran. Pray for the believers to remain bold and full of joy and for the Holy Spirit to renew the traditional Armenian and Assyrian Christian communities.
- Pray for *Kabul* in Central Asia. Pray that a godly leader would be raised up to establish law and order in the city. Pray for its reconstruction and the return of refugees from around the world. Pray for peace among ethnic groups and for human rights and freedoms to be granted to the people. Pray too that God would use even the violence in this city to advance his gospel and that a viable fellowship of indigenous believers will be raised up in the city.
- Pray for *Sapporo*, *Kuala Lumpur*, *Chongqing*, and *Vientiane* in Eastern Asia. Pray for unity with the churches of *Sapporo*, and that through cooperation, evangelistic outreaches would be extremely effective. Pray for believers as they continue to evangelize their neighbors and friends and for wisdom in planting new churches. Pray that the worship of God would replace any other form of worship and that the spirit of materialism in this city would be overthrown. Pray that families and strained relationships between the Ainu and Japanese would be reconciled through Christ. Pray



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for the establishment of Christian ministries in *Kuala Lumpur* and that God would continue to reveal himself through dreams and visions to the people – pray that household evangelism to Buddhists and Hindus will bear much fruit. Pray that the persecution of Malay converts and believers who witness to them will cease and that the Church would be unified – pray that God would strengthen the pastors and leaders. Pray that TSPM members in *Chongqing* might grow in their walk with the Lord and in their knowledge of the Bible, for workers to reach the Tibetans living in Sichuan Province and that Tibetan churches can be established – pray that this city would become a hub for spreading the Gospel in southwestern China. Pray that the stronghold of Buddhism will be broken so that the light of the Gospel might shine forth, and that those Luo Han worshipers who seek to be released from greed and hate would realize only Christ can forgive sin and give release from condemnation. Finally in *Vientiane* pray for national pastors and teachers to be equipped and that training materials would become available. Pray for reconciliation and unity in the body of Christ and for more opportunities for tentmakers to share the Gospel in that city. Pray that all restrictions against evangelism, churches, and missionaries will be lifted and that the resurgence of Buddhism will be countered with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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National Strategic Window

Intercede on behalf of eight of the inner cities of America (*Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC; Omaha-NE-IA; Modesto, CA; Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, MI; Lexington, KY; Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX*), that the churches in these cities might discover a new vulnerability, humility, and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and through that preparation, become channels of love, hospitality, mercy, and truth that the unchurched in these cities might see Christ and come to him in faith. Pray for new movements of strong, deep, and lasting spirituality in new churches throughout these places, and pray for laborers among the unreached in each of them.

- Pray for humility, contriteness, and vulnerability among the various churches represented in these cities, that they would renounce all fleshly power and glory, that pastors and Christians within them will rediscover the filling and power of the Holy Spirit, and that they will blossom with a new passion to win the lost around them, and feel the burden of being custodians of God's true Word.
- Pray that God would pour out his power and grace upon the believers in these cities in such a way that new and fresh testimonies of the truth in Jesus would be given in neighborhoods that rarely if ever hear of the victorious reign of God in Jesus and his offer to cleanse the repentant through his shed blood.
- Above all this season, pray for an outpouring and visitation of the Holy Spirit that will result in thousands of new decisions for Christ, and the establishment of new Christ-centered, Bible-based churches in these cities. Pray that God would grant the churches in these cities deep grace to see what is at stake in the telling of the Good News, and that all believers in them would sense the need to share the powerful riches of the truth of God within their particular circles of influence. Pray for a new awareness of God's mandate to make disciples in these cities, and for fresh, vigorous efforts to plant churches among the poor in these cities.



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Regional, Local, and Inter-Ministry Strategic Focus

Let us claim together the power of the Word of God on each ministry area listed below, trusting the Holy Spirit to manifest his wisdom and presence within each area, filling the members who serve within them, and empowering a new generation of believers through them to spark fresh revival and a new awakening among the unreached urban poor within Wichita, and throughout our entire geographic region.

Wichita Office

Easter greetings brothers and sisters! Thank you for lifting up our Wichita ministry in your prayers. We are excited at what the Lord is doing. Of course, we have our share of hurdles and challenges, but Christ, our Victor, helps us to meet these challenges in a spirit of joy and freedom as we overcome in His name! Please lift us up in prayer.

Challenges

- Finishing our fiscal year in the black and even paying down on some debt to national if possible. We are doing pretty well so far and asking the Lord to bring in the funds so that this can be accomplished.
- Raising additional support for some of our under-supported missionaries. It is still quite difficult to raise new funds as the economy is still slowly trying to rebound. Pray for contacts of new churches, individuals, or small groups that our missionaries can share at and pray for favor as they share.

Opportunities

- We are heading into our strategic planning time where we again look at everything that we do and seek the Lord on how we can continue to be more effective (doing the right things) and efficient (doing things right). Please pray the Lord would reveal His will to us and give us creativity as we seek be excellent in stewarding our resources.
- Christ the Victor is starting to look like a MOVEMENT!! Praise the Lord, we are continuing to pursue what/who we are (fundamentally starting with our identity in Christ) and then aggressively pursuing all



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avenues to kingdom expansion. Please pray for traction as we continue to look for indigenous leaders who can be equipped and empowered to launch our CTV movement (now in English and Spanish!).

Planted Churches in Wichita

Please pray for our church plants, for their growth and impact on their respective communities, for the glory of God.

- Lighthouse Community Church in Oaklawn
- La Iglesia Cristiana Vida En Cristo Jesús in Planeview
- Living Hope Church

Christ the Victor (Wichita Church Planting)

Please continue to lift up Christ the Victor Church as we are in the midst of strategic decisions for our future. We are working hard to figure out our next steps in planting two more churches (one in English and another in Spanish). We have a potential Latino couple who is interested in planting a church with us so please be in prayer for that, especially for Lisa Entz (church planting director) who meets with this couple and discerns the timing and the plan for this. We are hoping to start a second English-speaking church soon, the main thing is to figure out the leadership of that. Please pray God would raise up leaders within our current church and that the faithful core would continue to develop and use their collective gifts to reproduce in another church plant.

Please pray for our Spanish-speaking church plant on Market St. as our indigenous leader couple, Gerson and Myra Berrios, are looking to purchase a house and move into the neighborhood. Please pray that they could find the right house and sell the one they are in now.



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TUMI

Satellites, Hope School, and Growth

- Praise God with us for the continuous, steady growth of the number of TUMI satellites in America and across the world (83 satellites, with 9 satellites in 11 countries), and close to 670 students being equipped for ministry and mission through them.
- Pray for the entire TUMI satellite network, all the site coordinators, mentors, and students, applications in process, and new sites recently accepted into our family. Pray for their vision, commitment, resourcefulness, and protection as they lead their students into the Word of God more fully.
- Pray for Don Allsman's oversight of the last phase of the Spanish translation process, especially with the final edits being made on the modules, and the duplication of the videos.
- Pray for our Satellite Summit 2011 which will be held this weekend: "Back to the Future: Retrieving the Great Tradition." Pray for our satellite delegates, the conference logistics, and the Spirit's leading for our gathering in Wichita for worship, fellowship, and networking.
- Pray for our newest satellite in Milwaukee, WI, the site coordinator is a Vineyard pastor who grew up in an urban Puerto Rican neighborhood of Chicago, and graduated from Trinity, now finishing his doctorate at Fuller.

New Initiatives and Potential Partners

- Pray for the WI Associates program, designed to identify, equip, and release indigenous pastors and leaders into church planting initiatives. Pray for God's leading as TUMI is involved in every phase of this program; pray for funding, partners, contacts, and openings to work with emerging indigenous leaders for church planting.
- Pray for God's leading with recent conversations about translating Capstone into French and Romanian, with possibilities of new



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satellites in Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica; pray for timing, contacts, and clear direction as we pursue new relationships.

- Pray especially for our partnerships with Prison Fellowship, Evangelical Free Church of America – for our existing sites and administration, along with possibilities of new connections with prisons, potential church plants, and the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions; pray also that God would supply funding, personnel, and vision to expand our partnership with Prison Fellowship with new sites in both Michigan and Florida, with the makings of a three-year prison program in our Florida site using TUMI curriculum as its core.
- Pray for contacts with church plant movements in both Denver and Colorado Springs, who are considering establishing TUMI sites in both cities.
- Pray for possible connection and partnership with the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, who are considering Capstone in their leadership education offerings. Individual Rescue Missions are being encouraged to explore the possibility of hosting TUMI satellites, and a number are showing interest.
- Pray for possible partnerships with Logos Bible software, and a Capstone preaching resource program connected with Francis Chan and others. The initial discussions have been favorable to a partnership; pray God's leading and blessing on this attempt to digitize Capstone for the Logos Bible Software.
- Pray for God's providential direction as we follow through on numerous leads from various quarters regarding TUMI expansion, partnerships, and new directions.

Staff and Personal Requests

- Pray regarding our need for support and financial support, and wise use of our funds as we pursue our next projects.



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- Pray for Don's upcoming speaking engagements for inspiration, clarity, and blessing as he addresses diverse audiences on various themes.
- Pray for TUMI National, especially the transfer of new staff members, Dr. Fernando and Telma Argumedo to TUMI (based in LA).
- Pray for TUMI staff family members whose needs continue to require fervent intercession: continued health of August Davis McElligat who was born 7 weeks premature and whose health is improving daily. For Cathy Allsman's health, Don Allsman's mother that her cancer marker would continue to go down; Lorna's brother Odrey's healing from diagnosis of Lou Gehrig's disease, ongoing healing for Dan's mother's health, Carolyn's sister-in-law, Nancy, who has struggled with recurring cancer, Beth's mother in a nursing home, Don's family members (Robbie, Alicia, Norma, Janice, and the children of deceased Veronica).
- Pray for our protection and health, our spirituality and growth as we pursue new exciting directions in leadership training with the Great Tradition, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us as we seek to strengthen our World Impact church planters in their prospective endeavors.
- Pray for our TUMI Staff vacations this summer, that there would be rest and refreshment for us all.

TUMI Satellites

- Thank you for praying for Don Allsman's mother, whose latest cancer treatment has been proving effective. We praise God that her cancer marker has gone down close to normal. She appreciates your prayers.
- Pray that God will open further TUMI opportunities with Prison Fellowship.



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CAP

Please pray for our recent CAP graduates and preparations for the next CAP session.

World Impact Health Ministries

Mobile Clinic

Currently two locations are in need of Christ-centered physicians. Pray that the Lord would reveal his direction and wisdom for future dental outreaches and continued opportunity for furtherance of salvation through compassion care.

Good Samaritan Clinic

Pray that we would look through the eyes of the Lord with open hearts while the clinic expands its building and during the implementation of expanded services including all of its extremities that are involved. Pray that the physicians and nursing staff would be recipients of God's provision to allow for effective medicine as well as for his gospel to be made known.

Wichita Thrift Stores

Please pray for the staff and ministry opportunities of the World Impact thrift stores.

Dallas

Pray for the staff and various ministries of World Impact Dallas.

Deer Creek Christian Camp

Pray for the staff and ministry of Deer Creek Christian Camp.

Morning Star Ranch

Pray for the Ranch staff and students, for their work, study, and ministry opportunities.



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St. Louis

Please pray for the safety of our neighbors and staff as their have been several close shootings this past week. Please pray for the funding needed for the copper theft on the building. Please pray for much needed staff.

Other Regional Items

Please pray that we can work together more with our church plant efforts and have a coordinated vision. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek to follow and strategize for the plans that we believe the Lord has given to us.

San Diego

Pray for the staff and various ministries of World Impact San Diego.

Newark/TUMI-NJ

- Please pray that a relationship can be established with Emmanuel Christian University. This is a theological seminary that focuses on preparing Hispanic emerging pastors and Christian leaders. They are looking for a more centralized location to reach Hispanic leaders in the Tri-State (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) area.
- We have formed a World Impact Pastor's Association for the inner city of Newark, New Jersey. Pray that this will also be an outlet to train, equip, prepare, and disciple the next group of church planters, pastors, evangelists, and other Christian leaders to strengthen our inner city Newark churches.
- We are in the process of reaching Filipino and Brazilian church leaders to present the work that TUMI is doing in preparing Church leaders for the 21st Century. This opportunity to prepare their Christian leaders at a fraction of the cost of the more expensive theological schools and seminaries has attracted a great deal of interest.
- Please pray that through the work of TUMI the poor and disenfranchised people within our community may be reached through the various ministries of World Impact, Newark, NJ.



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Chester

We are in transition in our church planting. Pray for relationships with indigenous leaders for future church plants. We will also be adding new team members transitioning from Watts. Pray for a smooth transition and good team relations.

Fresno

Our biggest prayer request here in Fresno is that God would build his church, in particular with Home Fellowship Celebration Church. Having eager disciples and dedicated leaders is so important in the work that we have been called to. Please pray for more of both. Continue to pray for Bethany and Manchester churches, that they both would grow and thrive in the ways that God desires for them. Finally, pray for volunteers for our thrift store and that the Lord would do a new work in the Kings Estates area in Fresno.

Oakland/San Francisco

- Please pray as World Impact Oakland and World Impact San Francisco join together.
- Please pray for our TUMI Student and resident during the Christmas season. Many are separated from their family.
- Please pray for our staff as they travel about this Christmas season.

Los Angeles

Watts Christian School: Pray for guidance in assembling a “Re-start Team” to research and develop a Spirit-led strategy for re-opening the Watts School in fall 2011. Pray that God would lead us to significant local stakeholders, influencers and community assets that can contribute to this process. Pray for a partnership to formalize with Biola University, Pepperdine University and WI to work together for the success of this school. Let the eyes of our hearts (faith) lead us to great new things in Watts.



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TUMI LA

Please pray for:

- Mentors and Students who are taking classes this quarter.
- God's provision for this quarter.

LA Church Plants

- Praise. We had 94 delegates for The Urban Church Association Conference. 11 stood to affirm God's call on their life to plant a church.
- Pray for discernment as we now are seeking the Lord for key leaders from the city whom we can associate with in planting multiply churches, leading associations and directing TUMI satellites. We know they are there and are believing that God will lead us to them and call them to join us in taking our cities for God and His Kingdom.
- Praise. We were able to bless 26 pastors and their churches with over 400 Thanksgiving Baskets and 600 blankets. The pastors were touched by the blessings of other churches.
- In January we will host another School of Church Multiplication for those interested in planting Simple Churches. Pray now for the Spirit to move among the right people and for Bryan Cullison as he leads the School.

The Oaks

Pray for the staff and various ministries of The Oaks Camp.

Harmony Heart Camp

Please pray for our summer program. During these spring months we will be hiring our summer staff – please pray for discernment throughout the hiring process. Also, please pray for many campers to be able to come to Harmony Heart Camp this summer.



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Winnipeg - TUMI

- Pray for our Spanish satellite as we complete the first two years of study. Especially pray for the unity of the churches and pastors who send their students to Escuela de Entrenamiento Biblico. And for new students for the new school year!
- New doors seem to be opening to the launching of a new satellite/school in Brandon Manitoba, a city almost 3 hours west of Winnipeg. We are seeking to find a solid Coordinating Council to help determine whether we launch a new satellite or use it as part of our Winnipeg based school. Pray for the right pastors and leaders to rise up if He wants this to become a reality.
- Continue to pray for healing for Fred Stoesz.

Friends and Partners

God's continued leading and direction through our WI national and local Board members, God's blessing, protection, and wisdom for Dr. Phillips and the executive team, for all the Directors of WI ministries nationwide, for all our supporters and volunteers; pray for our partnership churches, here in Wichita and throughout the nation, that God would bless them, empowering them to grow, mature, and multiply so that the Gospel of Christ would spread in their own communities, and from them across the country and world.

Continue to pray for our elderly parents, and for those who have recently lost their parents and other loved ones.

Lift up all those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray that the Lord will comfort all of our family (and their families) during this time of loss and that the Lord will use this time of sorrow to direct the attention of any in their circles who do not know the Lord to our Savior.

Please continue to pray for the health of our ailing parents. Please pray also for all of the parents of staff who are aging and beginning to experience health concerns.



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Please pray for our staff children across the country. Pray for their encouragement, safety, strength, and growth as they serve with their families in the city. Pray that each will follow the Lord's leading in their lives and that all will be radical disciples of Jesus.

For the National Office Ministry

Pray for wisdom for the leadership and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our entire staff. Pray for health, nurture and joy along with vision and encouragement among our staff. Pray for their provision and refreshment as they serve us all!

Pray fervently for God's great favor and leading upon Dr. Phillips, and for strength and anointing as he travels and speaks. Continue to pray for his family, and for all the members of our excellent National Board, and all the ministries, staff, and friends of World Impact.

For World Impact

Please pray for more laborers for the harvest in partnership with World Impact. Pray that we would have more applicants to join World Impact staff.

Pray for God's blessing on our urban church plants around the country, for church plant team leaders and members, for outreaches in new neighborhoods, and prospects of new teams.

Pray for a new level of power and spiritual passion for our workers on the field, for their health and stamina, and for a new vision of how God wants to use them to make disciples of Jesus, both in their own communities and around the world.

Pray for God's financial blessing upon our local and national ministry, that we would gain the resources to do effectively and excellently what God is calling us to do.



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Addis Ababa

(*ad-is ab-uh-buh*)

Day 5

Meaning: "new flower"
Country: Ethiopia
Population: 2,419,000
Poverty: Plastic shantytowns surround the city
Religious Breakdown:
40.0% Muslim
45.0% Ethiopian Orthodox Church
5.0% Traditional Religions
10.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: Ancient Orthodox church, 10 evangelical churches.

Major Religious Sites:

Grand Mosque,
Ethiopian Orthodox Church,
Menilik Mausoleum

City Significance/History:

The Amharic people of Ethiopia's highlands built their capitol at Addis Ababa, a natural 8000-foot-high fortress. From there, they could control most of the lowlands.

The "King of Kings," Haile Selassie, had reigned almost 50 years as the 225th emperor—claiming descent from the union of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon of Israel. Ethiopians believe that the ark of the covenant is in Ethiopia. The Christian church started early when the Ethiopian eunuch encountered Philip in Acts 7.

The Ethiopian Marxist revolution of 1974 moved the whole country from the 13th century into the 20th century through 17 years of excessive violence. Drought and political extremism allowed one of the greatest famines in modern history to kill more than a million people. The Derg (communist) political party used extreme fear and coercion to keep people under control. Today this party has been outlawed. Developments have taken place with modern buildings now rising behind the mud-walled huts.

Addis Ababa is the headquarters for both the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Commission for Africa.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that students in the Bible schools and seminaries would be filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed to preach the gospel powerfully.
2. Pray that the government could lead the country into economic recovery and a higher quality of life for the people.
3. Pray that the poor street children, beggars, and handicapped war veterans would receive food and the gospel.
4. Pray for God to raise up strong family structures that will be a model of a Christian home and marriage.
5. Thousands of high school graduates and other youth cannot find work—pray for the creation of jobs.



Kabul (*kah-bool*)

Day 15

Meaning: "straw bridge" or "Cain"
Country: Afghanistan
Population: 2,051,000
Poverty: Civil war has caused food shortages and increased poverty
Religious Breakdown:
99.0% Muslim
.9% Buddhist
.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: Only a handful of secret believers

Major Religious Sites:

Shire of Ali,
Khair Khaneh Temple,
Asmayi Temple
(Hindu),
Poli Khisti Mosque,
Pious
Martyrs Cemetery

City Significance/History:

The memoirs of Babur the Great say Cain built Kabul. Located on a 5000-foot-high basin surrounded by mountains, Kabul developed as a trade center. People would sift the sand of Kabul River seeking gold dust. Surya, a sun god was worshipped with blood sacrifices. The central Asmayi Mountain is named after an eight-armed Hindu goddess of nature (sister of Durga and Kali in India), whose shrine lies at one of the gates of the city.

Kabul has been repeatedly conquered by invading armies such as the Greeks, Mongols, Arabs, English, and Soviets. The Kabul wall was breached by Muslims in the 7th century after being resisted for 100 years.

In 1978 a Communist coup set the stage for the Soviet invasion a year and a half later. The ensuing war left 80 percent of the villages destroyed. During the eight-year Soviet occupation Kabul was protected from destruction. When Najibullah's "puppet" regime fell, the victorious *mujahidin* factions turned on each other and have largely destroyed the city. The vicious fighting between Muslim groups has caused many to question Islam. Different *mujahidin* groups control certain sections of the city. Mortar shells blow out windows and cars are stolen at gun point. Rockets have reduced at least half the city to rubble, and life is cheap.

Prayer Points

1. In 1973 the government destroyed the Christian international church in Kabul, bringing what seems to be a curse over the city and government. Pray that the curse would be turned into the blessing of knowing Jesus.
2. The country is in need of a strong leader. Pray that a godly leader like King Cyrus would be raised up to establish law and order in the city.
3. Pray for disarmament of the many factions and for peace among ethnic groups. Pray for human rights and freedoms to be granted to the people.
4. Pray that God would use this meaningless violence to advance his gospel and for the reconstruction of the city and the return of refugees from around the world.
5. Pray that a viable fellowship of indigenous believers will be raised up in the city.



Baghdad

(*bag-dad*)

Day 12

Meaning: "God's gift"
Country: Iraq
Population: 4,511,000
Poverty: Military mobilization has kept the oil wealth from the needs of the people, UN sanctions have crippled the economy
Religious Breakdown:
95.4% Muslim
3.3% Christian (mainly Catholic)
0.03% Evangelical

Status of the church: Orthodox and Catholics have ancient roots, a few evangelicals.

Major Religious Sites:

Marjan Mosque,
Kadhimain Mosque

City Significance/History:

The people after the Flood built an extremely high tower. From the Tower of Babel all the ethnic groups in the world migrated after the confusion of languages. The site later became the city of Babylon, center of the empires of Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar. Split in half by the Tigris River, it was world famous for its Hanging Gardens.

Persians, Greeks, and Romans fought for and dominated the area because of the agricultural potential of the fertile Tigris valley. By the 9th century, Baghdad had grown to be almost one million people and part of the predominately Muslim empire of Adu Jafur al-Mansur. His empire stretched from western China to northern Africa. People would travel to Baghdad because it was the educational center of the known world.

Many other powers controlled the area after al-Mansur's empire lost power and wealth. The city went into economic decline and the population dwindled.

In the 1930s, Iraq became an independent country, with Baghdad as the capital. Villagers flocked to the capital to better their life. The Persian Gulf War inflicted heavy damage to the city. Electricity and water systems have slowly been replaced and repaired.

Prayer Points

1. After the Gulf War the government allowed a truckload of Bibles to go into Baghdad. Pray that the Word of God would produce a great harvest.
2. Pray that Saddam Hussein would stop his repression of ethnic minorities and discrimination of Christians.
3. The Muslim majority has recently shown a greater interest in the gospel. Pray for increased evangelistic efforts among the Muslims.
4. The *Jesus* film was shown on national TV in 1991. Pray for its continued showing and distribution, and that a great harvest would result.
5. Pray for revival in the Orthodox and Catholic churches and continued growth in the evangelical house groups.



Tehran

(*te-rah-n*)

Day 12

Meaning: "plain" or "pure, beautiful"
Country: Iran
Population: 7,509,000
Poverty: Slum communities in and around the city
Religious Breakdown:
98.0% Muslim
0.5% Baha'i
0.4% Christian
0.03% Evangelical

Status of the church: Evangelicals are currently facing great persecution

Major Religious Sites:

Aramagh-e Imam
Khomeini (Khomeini's grave),
Sepahsalar Mosque,
Armenian Cathedral,
King's Mosque

City Significance/History:

Located in the foothills of the Alborz Mountains, Tehran was a little village along the trade routes. With time, a fortified city protected the merchants and travelers. In the late 12th to the 17th centuries, Mongol and Safavid invaders captured and developed the city.

A period of turmoil followed until Agha Muhammad raised an army that conquered the whole of Persia. His capital was Tehran, where he had himself crowned Shah (the monarch of the area). Other shahs took his place as the city continued to develop. Adobe homes were built with little thought to city planning 200 years ago.

As the 20th century arrived, so did modernization. The streets followed a grid system, the population expanded (arriving mostly from rural Iran), and pollution became a rising health concern. The Shah was replaced in 1979 by the Ayatollah, and Iran moved from looking to the West to Islamic fundamentalism.

The Iran-Iraq war forced many people living in western Iran to seek jobs and safety in the capital. Tehran continued to grow, with many slum communities filling the southern suburbs. With the rapid population growth, it is expected that Tehran will soon be one of the ten largest cities in the world.

Prayer Points

1. Several Christian leaders have recently been martyred. Pray that government persecution of the church will end.
2. Pray for the believers to remain bold and full of joy and that constitutional freedoms will be restored as they face increased opposition from the Muslim majority.
3. Pray that this center of Islamic fundamentalism would no longer export its tyranny to other Muslim countries.
4. Pray that missionaries would again be allowed to work in Iran.
5. Pray for the Holy Spirit to renew the traditional Armenian and Assyrian Christian communities.



Sapporo (suh-poor-oh) Day 30

Meaning: "dry, big river"
Country: Japan, Hokkaido*
Population: 2,300,000
Poverty: Very little
Religious Breakdown:
90.0% Buddhist/Shintoist
8.0% Atheist
1.0% Christian
0.5% Evangelical

Status of the church: 113 indigenous churches starting new churches themselves

Major Religious Sites:
Hokkaido Jingu Shrine

City Significance/History:

Sapporo developed as a small Ainu village. The Ainu were a distinct people from the Japanese, but would interact with them in trade. The Ainu traded bear meat and salmon for cloth and iron goods.

The Iyomante Festival was the climax of the bear worship, one of the animal god/spirits they worshiped. The spirits of the animals were central to their lives. And Ainu women would raise (including breast feeding) a bear cub in honor to the animal. The fur and meat of the bear was extremely important to life, and each animal received prayers of thanksgiving and requests for the animal's afterlife.

As the number of Japanese increased, the islands to the south needed more land. The outnumbered Ainu people were crushed and forced to move north by the advancing Japanese. The northern island of Hokkaido fell to the Japanese in the mid-19th century, and Sapporo was then established as their territorial capital in 1869.

In the last one hundred years, the city has grown to be the island's cultural, political, and economic center. In 1972 the Winter Olympics were held here. Ainu culture has mostly disappeared, as the two groups have intermarried.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for unity within the churches—that through cooperation evangelistic outreaches would be extremely effective, and for wisdom in planting new churches.
2. Most homes have a *Butsudan* (Buddhist family altar) for the worship of ancestors. Pray that the generational hold of these family altars would be broken, and that the worship of God would replace any other form of worship.
3. Pray that the spirit of materialism over the city would be overthrown.
4. Hokkaido has the highest rate of divorce in Japan. Pray that family life will be strengthened and families reconciled through Christ.
5. Pray for believers as they continue to evangelize their neighbors and friends.
6. Pray that the animistic beliefs of the Ainu would be broken and that the strained relationships between the native Ainu and the Japanese will be healed.



Kuala Lumpur (kwah-luh luum-poor) Day 29

Meaning: "muddy river confluence"
Country: Malaysia
Population: 1,800,000
Poverty: 36% of population is poor
Religious Breakdown:
34.2% Muslim
30.9% Buddhist
17.7% Chinese Religions
10.2% Hindu
4.5% Christian

Status of the church: 113 churches

Major Religious Sites:

Masjid Jame Mosque,
Masjid Negara Mosque,
Shah Alam Mosque,
Sri Mamariamman Temple,
International Buddhist Pagoda,
Batu Caves (Hindu)

City Significance/History

Prospecting for tin brought an influx of people in 1857 to where the Klang and Gombak rivers converge. Soon after tin was found, Kuala Lumpur became a boom town. People came from as far as China to mine tin.

The city never looked back. It has grown to be the capital and largest city of Malaysia—a cultural hub and business center, particularly for the rubber and tin industries. The make-up of Kuala Lumpur includes Chinese, Indian (brought in by the British to work the rubber plantations), and the ethnic Malay.

These three groups have vastly different religious beliefs (Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam). Yet in a region most often associated with Buddhism and animism, the Malays stand out as a strong Islamic force. To be Malay is to be Muslim. For a Malay to become a Christian means to leave his or her cultural roots.

The government has closed the doors for Christian outreach to Malays, but there are no restrictions on witnessing to non-Malays. It is illegal for anyone to proselytize the ethnic Malay. For Christians to reach out to Malays means prosecution and even imprisonment.

Prayer Points

1. Pray against a spirit of superstition among the Malays, who employ the service of the local *bomoh*, "spirit magician," to deal with spiritual issues. Pray that God will continue to reveal himself through dreams and visions.
2. Divorce is a common element in Malay society because of a lack of trust in many marriages. Pray for the establishment of Christian ministries to answer this problem.
3. Pray that government restrictions against evangelizing the Malays will be lifted—that persecution of Malay converts and believers who witness to them will cease.
4. Pray that household evangelism to Buddhists and Hindus will bear much fruit.
5. Pray for unity in the church, despite persecution, and that God would strengthen the pastors and leaders.



Chongqing

(chong-cheeng)

Day 25

Meaning: "repeated good luck"
Country: China, Sichuan Province
Population: 3,646,000
Poverty: Rich in agricultural products
Religious Breakdown:
59.1% Nonreligious/Atheist
30.1% Chinese Religions
1.4% Muslim
6.1% Christian
5.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: TSPM 53,00 members (see [Jinan](#) for TSPM explanation)

Major Religious Sites:

Luo Han Temple,
Beiwenquan Temple Complex

City Significance/History:

Chongqing was established on the peninsula created by the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers. Around 200 bc, the Ba Kingdom used the peninsula as a capital and important trade center. The peninsula provided natural protection on three sides to resist outside invasion.

The Yangtze River is one of the main arteries across China, and the world's third longest river. The river connects Chongqing to Shanghai. Barges dock at Chaotiamen as dock workers balance bamboo poles on their shoulders to unload the cargo. On the banks of the river, smokestacks spew pollution into the air. Behind the smoke, the hills of the city rise and homes can be seen.

Even though the Japanese heavily bombed the city during World War II, it still retains some of its ancient homes, narrow alleys, and winding stairways. Many refugees from the northeast fled before the murderous Japanese forces as they moved south. The population of Chongqing grew to almost two million.

After the war, peace treaties were signed and the city became the most industrialized city in southwestern China. Industrial growth, a north-south trade location, and a river hub have enabled the city to swell to over 3 million people.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for believers seeking to establish the church in this transportation center, that it would become a hub for spreading the gospel in southwestern China.
2. Chongqing has traditionally been a bastion of Buddhism. Pray that this stronghold would be broken so that the light of the gospel might shine forth.
3. Pray that TSPM members might grow in their walk with the Lord and in their knowledge of the Bible.
4. Pray for workers to reach out to the Tibetans living in Sichuan Province and that Tibetan churches can be established.
5. Pray that worshippers at Luo Han Temple who seek to be released from greed and hate would realize only Christ can forgive sin and give release from condemnation.



Vientiane (vye-tyahn) Day 27

Meaning: "city of the moon"
Country: Laos*
Population: 491,000
Poverty: Subsistence economy
Religious Breakdown:
58.7% Buddhism
33.0% Animist
5.1% Nonreligious/Atheist
1.53% Christian (mainly Catholic)
0.72% Evangelical

Status of the church: Steadily growing

Major Religious Sites:

Great Sacred Stupa,
Wat Si Muang,
Wat Ong Teu Mahawihan,
Wat Sok Pa Luang,
Wat Si Saket

City Significance/History:

The Mekong River and fertile plains made Vientiane a natural site for the Lao people to settle and start a small kingdom. Tradition tells that the city was established in the 16th century, when Wat Si Muang's pillar was laid.

Buddhist religious leaders wanted to build a new wat (sacred place where monks live) with a stone pillar as the centerpiece and Buddhas surrounding. A hole was dug, a rope balanced the selected stone pillar above it; however, a sacrifice was needed. Gongs called the villagers to the site. Whether voluntary or not, a pregnant woman jumped into the hole and was crushed under the heavy pillar. The temple's name means "sacred city."

The lack of military power allowed the area to be overrun by every neighboring empire. The Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, and later French, Americans, and Russians all left their mark on the city. Since the 16th century, it has been a capital, but as early as the 2nd century Buddhist monks passed this way.

For the last 30 years, the communists have held power. Even though most of the country is very fertile, Laos has an extremely poor standard of living.

A sacrifice was needed...

Prayer Points

1. The church suffered much under communism, with many believers falling away or backsliding. Pray for reconciliation and unity in the body of Christ.
2. Pray that all restrictions against public evangelism, church building, and missionaries will be lifted.
3. Pray for the tentmakers working in the city and that opportunities to present the gospel would arise.
4. Most of the church's trained leaders left in 1975. Pray for national pastors and teachers to be equipped and that training materials would become available.
5. Pray that the resurgence of Buddhism would be countered with the gospel.

