

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

Kingdomtide: Remembering the Saints, Exalting the King

10.30.11 - 11.26.11



The Coming of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 • Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis

Come Let Us Join Our Friends Above

Charles Wesley (To the tune, "It Came upon a Midnight Clear")

Come, let us join our friends above, who have obtained the prize,
And on the eagle wings of love to Joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing With those to glory gone,
For all the servants of our King in Earth and heaven are one.

One family we dwell in Him, one Church above, beneath,
Though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death;
One army of the living God, to His command we bow;
Part of His host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.

Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly,
And we are to the margin come, and we expect to die.
His militant embodied host, with wishful looks we stand,
And long to see that happy coast, and reach the heavenly land.

Our old companions in distress we haste again to see,
And eager long for our release, and full felicity:
Even now by faith we join our hands with those that went before;
And greet the blood besprinkled bands on the eternal shore.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,
And shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear His trumpet sound.
O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given!
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in Heaven.

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Development.

Pray for:

**Gateway Cities of
the 10/40 Window**
... see page 4

**Inner Cities
of America**
... see page 6

**World Impact's
Ministries**
... see page 7

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The Coming of the Lord: What It Means to See the Big Picture in Urban Ministry

In our passage (1 Thess. 4.13-18), Paul laid out his purpose for his teaching: to encourage the Thessalonians about the reality of the resurrection with Christ at his Second Coming. He did not want them be uniformed about believers who had passed away, i.e., “those who are asleep” (v. 13), in order that they may not grieve about the dead in the same way as those who do not share our hope in Christ. He assured them that the dead in Christ would precede those who remained and were left alive at his coming. Believers who have died are in the presence of the Lord now: to be away from the body is to be home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5.8-9), to live for us is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil. 1.20-24), and we have been destined for salvation in Christ, not wrath (1 Thess. 5.9-10).

Having laid out his purpose, he then gave the protocol of the Lord’s appearing (1 Thess. 4.14-17). Christ will bring dead saints back with him when he returns (1 Thess. 3.11-13; 4.14), and believers who are alive until Christ’s coming will not precede those who have fallen asleep in him (1 Thess. 4.15). The Lord himself will descend from heaven, which will be visible (Acts 1.11) and glorious (Rev. 1.4-7). He will descend with a cry of command, the voice of an archangel and the sound of the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thess. 4.16). Those who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them, and so we will ever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4.15-17).

This great truth has important implications for intercessory prayer warriors, especially we who are laboring in prayer for the souls and communities of the unreached urban dwellers. First, our work in prayer is *significant*; every opening we make for the Gospel in prayer will pay off in transformed lives, changed families, and reborn souls for Christ. Second, our work is *transitory*; all our struggle on behalf of the lost, the least, and the last, however impacting, will ultimately come to an end. We must do all we can for his



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kingdom, while time remains. Finally, our work is *not in vain*; everything we do for Christ will have consequences, both in this world and the one to come.

Let the grace of God train us, so we can maintain the big picture, and persevere till the end! Let us remember Paul's message to Titus (Titus 2.11-14):

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

My prayer for you is that God would grant you the passion of Christ's soon return, in order that you being ignited by the flame of hope, may both enjoy fellowship together with other workers, and share the Good News with greater zeal. Time is short, and the payoff is great.

Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus (and *heal the cities of the world!*)



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 multiply the laborers in these difficult fields, to bring explicit unity and harmony among believers within them, and to demonstrate with power the truth of the Word through signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit.

- Northern Africa: *Niamey*
- Middle East: *Gaza*
- Central Asia: *Tashkent, Patna*, and *Kanpur*
- Eastern Asia: *Bandar Seri Begawan, Oseka-Kobe-Kyoto*, and *Jakarta*

Intercede for these great cities, seeking an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them, that the *Gospel of grace in Jesus might find free courses throughout these influential Gateway cities* (and that the Spirit of God would touch these eight key cities with their need for salvation and deliverance in Jesus' name).

- Pray for *a spiritual awakening* in both *Niamey* and *Gaza*, that God would send workers to share the Gospel among the Muslims within them. Pray for God's revelation for Niamey's University, for a lessening of persecution of believers in both cities, for peace and reconciliation in Gaza, and for justice and peace among the poor in both cities, for the Christian social workers in Gaza that they might communicate the Gospel clearly to all those present.
- Pray for *Tashkent* and *Patna*, for the persecuted Christians in Tashkent, for a new openness to the Gospel and a dissatisfaction with Islamic doctrine and practice, that Christians could withstand family and community persecution and pressure, that both Hindus and Muslims would begin to show greater interest in the person of



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Jesus, for new signs of justice and compassion among these cities' poor, for the few believers in Uzbek, that God would raise up an indigenous church.

- Pray for *the Spirit's revelation to Kanpur*, that evangelism would be effective and robust in this city with such painful history with the West, for God's unveiling of Christ to the large Muslim population there, for openness from the students who live there, for the birth of an indigenous church there that would be effective in making the Gospel known.
- Pray for *Bandar Seri Begawan* and *Oseka-Kobe-Kyoto*, that these great Eastern Asian cities would sense their need for repentance, that Oseka would turn to Christ, and the pilgrims who frequent there would be impacted for the Lord, for relaxing of restrictions to the sharing of the Good News in both cities, that God would soften the hearts of the officials in both to Christian witness, and for disillusionment over false religions.
- Pray for *Jakarta*, that the Holy Spirit would move its government to allow greater freedom for believers there, that God would use the press and electronic media to make our Lord known, for continued growth of the Church there, that faith in Messiah would counter the rise of Islam there.



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National Strategic Window

Intercede on behalf of eight of the inner cities of America, (*Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; San Antonio, TX; Baltimore, MD; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Oakland, CA; Fresno, CA; Memphis, TN-AR-MS, and Newark, NJ*) that the Father would display the mighty power of the Cross among the believers and assemblies within these cities, that Jesus would be followed and obeyed as Lord among them, that an overwhelming burden for his glory would be felt throughout the cities, and that the Gospel would have free reign in its advance in the hardest-to-reach communities of these areas. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring genuine revival and brokenness to these communities, enabling us to see the salvation of thousands within these cities.

- Pray for *revival among God's people in these cities*, that pastors and Christians would repent from their powerlessness and pride, and that they would seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pray for renewed burden to win the lost and proclaim with boldness the Kingdom of God to the lost.
- Pray that God would *pour his power and grace upon believers in such a way that their lives would be transformed and renewed*. Pray that God would grant them new and fresh testimonies of God's victory in Christ. Pray, too, that they might receive new levels of clarity and boldness as they witness to Christ on their jobs, in their neighborhoods, and throughout their communities.
- Above all this month, pray for *an outpouring and visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the churches in these cities, especially upon those who minister the Good News of Christ among the least evangelized in these communities*. Pray that the power of the Cross would first be experienced among God's people, and then through them in vital witness to their neighbors.



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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

- Please pray for Wichita as we end our summer and begin our fall ministry schedule. Church plants are doing well and we will continue to implement goals/PWR's at various points to keep on track with the Spirit's leading. Please pray that we would be VERY responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading at all stages and make strategic decisions as the Lord leads. Lisa and Daren will be taking leadership of the CTV churches as they are planted and then Lord willing, multiply!
- Please pray for our time with Francis Chan in November. We are praying for a great evening where many new people can become acquainted with our ministry and with the need of the urban poor. Pray especially for new supporters and donors to come alongside us as well as for God to raise up more workers for the urban mission field through this event. The event will be November 3, 2011.
- Pray for our board as we are restructuring it some and adding a younger generation of board members. Praise God that Nick Marineau (former mobile coordinator) will be the new board chair! Our former board chair, Brad Welles, will be staying on as a board member, but the release from the chair role will allow him to focus on other regional board needs. Brad has done an exceptional job over the last few years and we have a good foundation moving forward.
- Pray for our property manager need. Chuck Knowles will be leaving on Sept. 30 to take a ministry position with Youth for Christ as well as pursuing his doctorate. Pray for him as he transitions and for us



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as we search for his replacement. We are praying for God to provide a fully supported missionary to take this position.

- Pray for our thrift stores. They are doing well under Miles's leadership and he is making good progress in unifying our staff at both locations and providing needed training for staff and volunteers. Pray for God's continued blessing in adding customers and sales at our Waco location especially. Continue to also pray for the mobile clinic as it is now making two stops a week at Lighthouse Church and Restored Church.

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 - Please pray as they do outreach in a new area on Broadway. They have had 3 people from this area give their lives to Christ and feel there is potential for some Bible studies to start there.
- 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.



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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.

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 (94 satellites, with 9 satellites in 11 countries), and close to 900 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 our satellites and our local Hope School classes that are going on right now. Pray for the students to persevere and excel in their studies as they seek to fulfill the call of ministry on their lives.

New Initiatives and Potential Partners

- Pray for potential new partnerships with COGIC whom we are in conversations with regarding leadership training and ministries like Streetlights who are developing resources to help equip urban youth and leaders.
- Continue to 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 recent re-connections with Prison Fellowship (the fundraiser at the Reagan Library), and the opening of prisons throughout



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California as potential TUMI sites; pray for the AWANA Malachi Dads program, and the potential for connection with TUMI as leadership curriculum for them.

- Pray for God's leading with recent conversations about translating Capstone into French and Romanian, with possibilities of new satellites in Zambia, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica; pray for timing, contacts, and clear direction as we pursue new relationships.
- Pray especially for our current strategic 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 for contacts with church plant movements in Los Angeles, Guadalajara, Denver, Colorado Springs, India, and other places which are considering establishing TUMI sites.
- 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

- Continue to pray for Cathy Allsman for accurate diagnosis and complete healing. Pray for her transition as TUMI's Administrator of Prison Ministries involving the ongoing operation and administration of our prison and jail satellites.
- Thank you for praying for Don Allsman's mother. Her latest scan indicated all the cancerous tumors are completely gone! This is amazing news; praise God with us, and continue to pray for her complete restoration to health.
- Pray for TUMI staff family members whose needs continue to require fervent intercession: Continued prayer for 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



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home, Don's family members (Robbie, Alicia, Norma, and the children of deceased Veronica) and all his family members.

- 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 Don's upcoming speaking engagements for inspiration, clarity, and blessing as he addresses diverse audiences on various themes.
- Pray for Fernando and Telma Argumedo as they transition fully onto TUMI National Staff (based in LA).
- Pray regarding our need for support and financial support, and wise use of our funds as we pursue our next projects.

TUMI Satellites

- Praise for the success of the recent fund raising event for TUMI and Prison Fellowship; pray for the expansion of our training of inmates as well as support to handle the growth.
- Praise God for the arrival of Fernando and Telma Argumedo to our TUMI national team, to help us expand our TUMI training to more students, and to provide additional resources for church leaders.
- Pray for the many new relationships with ministries and denominations showing interest in TUMI, that they will take the steps beyond just showing interest.

CAP

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

World Impact Health Ministries

Mobile Clinic

World Impact Medical Ministries Wichita is shepherding in a new site.

Please pray for the leadership while we go through the blessings and pains



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during genesis phase. Pray for me (Miles) as I also begin to coordinate the summer activities with the Mobile Clinic schedule. We truly desire to exalt Christ in our work and we are blessed with excellent Christian physicians. Pray that they would have continued openings in their busy schedules to serve.

Good Samaritan Clinic

For the GraceMed's Good Samaritan Clinic the medical director is stepping down; his last day is July 1st. Please pray for the right medical director to replace him, and for a smooth transition as we wait for the right person. We could also continue to use prayers for the Spirit's wisdom upon all of our staff.

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/Denver TUMI

- Pray for the staff and ministry of Deer Creek Christian Camp.
- Pray for the expansion of Denver TUMI. The English class is in progress and the Spanish class will start very soon. Pray that our condo in Denver would close. We signed the contract March 29 with a scheduled closing date of May 10. Over a month later there is now no closing date. It is a Fannie Mae (bank owned) property so we got it very cheap and we would like to start renovations so we can move to Denver and be able to get our new TUMI ministry there started in earnest in the fall. I am still helping Hendrik at the camp this summer as needed.



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Morning Star Ranch

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

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



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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.

Chester

Chester church plants: Chester chartered our church plant team on August 15th to plant reproducible simple churches. Please pray for the team, Glen Geraghty- leader, Tom Anthony- primary, Candy Gibson- primary, Vicki Anthony- support, Sharon Geraghty-support. Please pray that the Lord will empower those that the team has built relationships with, to be leaders of His church in Chester.

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.

San Francisco Bay Area

Please pray for our summer interns. Pray that God blesses them as they ministry along side us.

San Francisco

We are celebrating our first TUMI - SF graduation. So please pray for our graduates that they will continue on in their ministry. We are praying that they rise up and begin a new work for the Lord.



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Oakland

Please pray for our summer as we ministry with Bible clubs and have volunteer groups and an eye screening.

Los Angeles

Los Angeles Christian School

- A key parent in our school body is battling a recurrence of cancer. Need a breakthrough with insurance company and complete healing for her body!
- Our spiritual life theme this year is “Be/Love/d.” We are discovering together what it means to be the beloved of God. Pray that our students and families would be changed at a heart level in accordance with this theme!
- We have families continuing to battle daily to put food on the table and make ends meet. Pray for jobs for those that are looking and willing!

Watts Christian School:

- Pray for students to grow in their knowledge of God and academic subjects.
- Pray for strength and consistency for the teachers.
- Pray for the finances and staffing we need to continue running the school in years to come.

TUMI LA

We are asking God's blessing on:

- Our current students as they study, work, try to make ends meet, and prepare for further ministry opportunities;
- Those sites, such as the Union Rescue Mission and some of our church plants, where newly formed TUMI classes are beginning again after a period of no classes;
- Our work of promoting the mission and ministry of TUMI-LA throughout the greater L.A. area;



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- Our planning and strategizing for our mission.

LA Church Plants

- Powerhouse Church of Watts, located in Imperial Courts, is moving towards planting a church in Nickerson Gardens. Imperial Courts and Nickerson Gardens have a history of gang rivalry which lingers to this day. Pray as we begin a chartering process for this exciting new church plant endeavor. Pray for a receptive harvest field in Nickerson Gardens and the establishment of another church.
- Jefferson Christian Church is making plans to reproduce themselves. Pray for the chartering process that will take place.
- A Charter has just been established for Loren Miller Simple Church. A small group is meeting in a community person apartment. Pray that the foundations of church would take solid root and the DNA of reproduction be transferred. Pray also for Bryan, Ryan and Danielle as they lead this effort.
- The Urban Church Association continues to slowly take root. Our prayer is that a full-fledged network of churches and leaders would be dedicated to each others' growth and welfare and be boldly evangelical in the sense that they want to multiply hundreds and hundreds of churches that would join it.

The Oaks

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

Harmony Heart Camp

Please pray for our summer camps from the inner cities of Newark, NJ and Chester, PA. Please pray that they will enjoy God's creation and be drawn closer to Him and each other because of their time spent at Harmony Heart Camp.



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Winnipeg - TUMI

- Pray for both of our satellites as we continue classes in this school year. We are hiring a new part time co-ordinator for SOUL to start on January 1st. Pray that we make the right decision. Also pray for our Spanish satellite (EdenB) as we expand to offering Saturday morning classes for students unable to meet in the evening. Pray that more students will apply for both of our schools. Praise Him too as generous givers continue to support both of these schools and our financial needs are being met each month.
- 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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Niamey

(nee-uh-may)

Day 4

Meaning: unknown

Country: Niger*

Population: 430,000

Poverty: Slum communities, strained resources because of rural migration

Religious Breakdown:

90.5% Muslim

9.0% Traditional Religions

0.38% Christian

0.1% Evangelical

Status of the church: The number of evangelicals have doubled since 1980

Major Religious Sites:

New Grand Mosque,
Old Grand Mosque

City Significance/History:

Niamey began as an agricultural village where three different ethnic groups—the Maouri, Zerma, and Fulani—formed a village on the banks of the Niger River.

At the turn of the century, Niamey became a small French military outpost to help navigators on the river and to control the inland interests of France. Its river location allowed for travel into many of the surrounding countries. For many people in West Africa, the Niger River is a source of life and income.

In 1930 the city had about 2000 people. This little village on the river has grown to over 400,000 people today. It is Niger's capital and largest city. Drought has forced many people to move to Niamey from rural areas and other neighboring countries. These people have brought an international flavor with them and turned Niamey into a trading center.

"As the river is eternal, so will my work be eternal"

—Niger proverb

Prayer Points

1. Pray for workers to evangelize this Muslim city that is open to the gospel.
2. Pray that God would supernaturally reveal himself to students at the Islamic University near Niamey.
3. Emigration and migration has forced rapid growth in the city. Pray that the needs of the poor would be met and that Jesus would be known.
4. Pray that young Christians would be able to find work and not be pressured to abandon their faith in exchange for job security—that their faith would grow strong.
5. Pray that God would raise up more Christian leaders from the local population.
6. Many are attracted to Christianity, but fear possible persecution. Pray for a lessening of persecution, strength to believe, and boldness to live for Christ.



Gaza (gozz-uh)

Day 10

Meaning: "strong, fortified"

Country: Gaza Strip

Population: 1,073,000

Poverty: 73% are refugees

Religious Breakdown:

98.0% Muslim

1.5% Jewish

0.39% Christian

0.03% Evangelical

Status of the church: 1500 believers, Greek Orthodox, Baptist, and Roman Catholic churches

Major Religious Sites:

Said Hashim Mosque,
Umar Mosque,
ibn Uthman Mosque,
Church of St. Porphyrius

City Significance/History

From ancient times, Gaza has been ruled by the Egyptians, Philistines, Jews, Arabs, and Turks. Biblically it is known as the city of Samson. The British oversaw it until the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 after which Egypt took control of the area.

In 1967 Israel occupied the Gaza Strip. They desired a buffer zone between themselves and Egypt.

Many Palestinian Arabs live in Gaza but work in Israel. Years of violence have led to talks focused on allowing the Palestinians to control the area. Many Palestinians were killed in the Intifada, which protested the Israeli soldiers occupying the territory.

After 27 years of Israeli military occupation, a settlement was reached that set up a Palestinian homeland. The land is not completely Palestinian because sixteen Israeli settlements with 5000 people yet remain. The settlement is still being worked out, and violence sponsored by the radical group Hamas has not stopped.

In May of 1994, Palestinian limited rule began, but within two days Israeli soldiers were shot at the new border. The political situation remains tense, as Palestinian and Israeli extremist groups work to destabilize the fragile peace.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Arab pastors who are willing to live and labor in Gaza. With newfound nationalism and the ongoing violence it is an extremely hard place to minister.
2. Pray for increased outreach from the "House of Light" bookstore. If people read God's Word, God will draw them to himself.
3. Pray for peace among the residents, and reconciliation between Arabs and Jews.
4. Pray for a better standard of living to alleviate the poverty.
5. Pray for protection of believers who are caught in the political crossfire—that they would remain strong for the Lord during the hard times.
6. Pray that the Christian social work done in Gaza would effectively demonstrate the love of Christ to the Muslim population.



Kanpur

(kahn-poor)

Day 18

Meaning: "ear city"

Country: India, Uttar Pradesh Province

Population: 2,378,000

Poverty: Many slums

Religious Breakdown:

77.8% Hindu

18.6% Muslim

3.53% Christian

0.34% Evangelical

Status of the church: 37 fellowships

Major Religious Sites:

JK Glass Temple,
Memorial Church

City Significance/History:

From early on, northern India has been a Hindu territory. Millions of different gods and goddesses are worshiped and feared. The Mongol invaders brought Islam with them and some of the people started to follow Islam. Kanpur was a city where a larger number of Indians turned to worship Allah.

Located on the holy Ganges River, Kanpur was a stronghold for the Indian mutiny in 1857 against the British. One uprising against the British saw the Indians massacre and dismember the British. As British forces recaptured control of the city, they inflicted much of the same treatment back on the Indians. They made them drink blood and fed the Hindus beef—the cow is one of the most sacred gods for Hindus. They fed pork to the Muslims, which is considered extremely unclean by them. All this was done in retaliation for the uprising against the British rule.

Today the city has grown in size and has become one of the largest industrial cities in India.

Prayer Points

1. The few Christian workers here are laboring under very difficult circumstances. Pray for more evangelists and church planters to work in the harvest.
2. Pray that the Muslims, who are a large minority, may be reached with the gospel.
3. Most Christians are nominal and some are reverting to Hinduism. Pray that the knowledge of Jesus as Savior and Lord would grip their hearts.
4. Pray that the students in the city may hear the gospel and respond.
5. Pray that the residents of this spiritually dark province who migrate to Kanpur for work would encounter the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.



Jakarta

(juh-kahr-tuh)

Day 29

Meaning: "place of victory"

Country: Indonesia*

Population: 11,401,000

Poverty: 15% of population is poor

Religious Breakdown:

98.0% Muslim

3.6% Christian

1.4% Evangelical

Status of the church: Growth in recent years

Major Religious Sites:

Istiqial Mosque,
Al Azhar Mosque,
Vihara Dharama Jaya Temple,
Wisma Subud Cilandak Headquarters,
Gerja Sion Church

City Significance/History:

Hindu travelers found the port of Sunda Kelapa in Jakarta useful for protection from storms and a good trade center. Control by the Hindu powers passed to traders from the northern islands who brought Islam. By the 16th century, European forces were vying for control of the wealth and trade. The British and Dutch both set up trading posts; however, it was the Dutch who finally established a fort and gained control of the area. It became their hub for administration in all of the East Indies.

At the end of World War II, Jakarta was freed from Japanese domination, and it became the capital of the independent country of Indonesia. The abortive communist coup in 1965 produced much bloodshed.

As the country's population exploded in the last fifty years, Jakarta has become a modern city with tremendous slums. The arrival of villagers, due to economically depressed rural areas, pushed the slums to over 60% of the city's population in the early 1970s. Shantytowns have been hid behind modern buildings, and the government has been relocating many of the poor to other islands. Today the poverty rate is about 15% in the city.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the government will promote the development of a pluralistic nation in which all religions have full freedom of worship.
2. Pray for the development of democracy and that the process of succession scheduled for 1998 will be smooth and accepted by the major political forces.
3. Pray that the process of modernization will not destroy traditional family life.
4. Pray that God will use the press and electronic media as a means to glorify his name—that Christian programming would be abundant.
5. Pray for the continued growth of the church and for mature leaders to lead the new believers in truth.
6. Pray that the rise of Islam will be countered with the truth of the gospel.



Bandar Seri Begawan

(*bend-er ser-ee beg-uh-wun*)

Day 29

Meaning: unknown
Country: Brunei*
Population: 110,000
Poverty: Oil produced wealth
Religious Breakdown:
71.0% Muslim
9.0% Chinese Religions
6.5% Nonreligious
3.7% Animist
8.0% Christian
1.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: A few Chinese small fellowships, no known Malay believers

Major Religious Sites:
Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque,
Tomb of Sultan Bolkiah

City Significance/History:

Located at the mouth of the Brunei River and protected by the Brunei Bay, Bandar Seri Begawan has been a seat of power for the control of northern Borneo to the Philippines. The city overlooks the bay where European ships would rest and seek trade. But with time, the power of the sultan in the area declined and pirates began to prey on European trade ships as they passed.

Islam entered the country in the 15th century through the conversion of Sultan Awang Alak Beter. He was a pagan ruler until he heard about Islam, probably through Muslim traders. To show his desire to be identified with Islam, he changed his name to Sultan Muhammad, after the founder of Islam.

The British had developed strong trade routes between China, India, and England. Piracy was something they could not allow. The British captured the area in the early 19th century, making the country a British protectorate until 1983. Oil was found off the coast 50 years ago. The wealth of the city again grew.

The current sultan, reportedly the world's richest man, represents one of the oldest, continuously ruling dynasties in the world. Oil has made Brunei one of the wealthiest nations in Asia.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christian literature may be imported and that contact with foreign Christians be allowed.
2. Pray that evangelism may be allowed legally among the Muslims.
3. Pray that the government leaders will provide constitutional protection to Christians and allow for public celebration of Christmas.
4. Sultan Beter turned the whole country towards Islam. Pray that God would soften the heart of the current sultan and allow his nation to turn to Christ.
5. Pray for disillusionment with the materialism brought by oil money and that the people would desire true riches in Jesus Christ.



Patna

(*pat-nah*)

Day 19

Meaning: "pale red son"
Country: India, Bihar Province*
Population: 2,209,000
Poverty: A few slum communities
Religious Breakdown:
70.0% Hindu
20.0% Muslim
3.0% Sikhs
4.0% Catholics and Anglicans

Status of the church: .01% Evangelical believers in a few churches

Major Religious Sites:

Har Mandir (Sikh),
Sher Shahi,
Mahavir Mandir (Hindu),
Husayt Shah Mosque

City Significance/History:

Founded in the 6th century bc, Patna is the third oldest city in India and the provincial capital. Over the centuries it has seen the rise and fall of major Indian empires, as well as a flow of various world religions.

Geographically it occupies a strategic site, south of where the Ganges River meets two other rivers. This location provided a natural protection. The city was originally founded as a fort, from which it could ward off attacks and raid enemy territories.

Patna has been the seedbed for religions. Besides fostering Hinduism, it birthed an offshoot—Jainism. The city has played a key role in the development of Buddhism, as it is only 100 kilometers from the place where Buddha reportedly reached "enlightenment." Under the reign of Ashoka (3rd century bc), Patna became the center for the spread of Buddhism throughout Asia. Over 1000 years later, Muslims used it as a base to propagate Islam.

Today Hinduism is the predominant religion. Muslims make up about one-fifth of the population and the rest are Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists. There are a few Roman Catholics and Protestants but among these few know Jesus personally.

Prayer Points

1. In light of the city's religious history, pray that God would birth such a mighty movement of his Holy Spirit that Patna would again influence the entire subcontinent—this time for Jesus' glory.
2. "In India, nine out of ten Muslims who convert to Christianity revert back to Islam," declared a Christian leader in Patna. "The family and community pressure is too strong." Pray that the church would provide strong support when Muslims turn to Christ.
3. Pray that the strife between Muslims and Hindus would cause disillusionment, leading them to the true Prince of Peace.
4. Pray that the hold of unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy would be broken and that people would be more responsive to the gospel.



Tashkent

(*tahsh-kent*)

Day 13

Meaning: "city of stone"
Country: Uzbekistan*
Population: 2,037,000
Poverty: Increased poverty since the fall of the USSR
Religious Breakdown:
60.0% Muslim
35.0% Atheist
4.7% Christian
0.13% Evangelical

Status of the church: Russian and Korean congregations, a few Uzbek believers

Major Religious Sites:

Barak Khana Mosque and Madrassa,
Sheik Zein-ad-Din Mausoleum,
Rakat (New) Mosque

City Significance/History:

The 4th largest city of the former Soviet Union and the first city of Central Asia, Tashkent sits as a monument to the 20th century in a land of ancient and, in many ways, unchanged peoples.

Almost completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1966, Soviet planners rebuilt Tashkent along a typical Russian city—with tall office buildings, numerous parks, ornate subway system, and tree-lined boulevards. As the capital of Uzbekistan the decisions made in Tashkent influence the entire region.

Before the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbeks born and raised in Tashkent often were more comfortable using Russian than the Uzbek of their grandparents. Uzbek, now the official language, has forced many Russian-speaking but otherwise competent professionals to leave the country. With the new currency, the *soom*, and the economy rapidly moved towards hyperinflation, various people started seeking economic salvation in the form of emigration to the West.

In an attempt to hinder the church, local Muslims petitioned the government to force the Protestant churches to stop evangelizing Uzbeks in April 1994. None of the Christian church representatives signed this agreement.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for believers as they face increasing pressure and persecution—for boldness, wisdom, unity, and love.
2. Praise God for what he is doing among the Uzbeks and other nationalities in Tashkent. Ask him to send more laborers into the harvest fields.
3. Pray for the President and his cabinet—for wisdom, and that justice and righteousness might rule and reign in their hearts and in their decrees.
4. As the Islamic capital of Central Asia, all of its Muslim republics look to the *mufti* based in Tashkent. Pray for a dissatisfaction with Islam and an openness to Christianity.
5. Pray for the few Uzbek believers—that a truly indigenous church would develop.



Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto

(*oh-sah-kuh/koh-bee/kee-oh-toh*)

Day 31

Meaning: O—"large slope," Ko—"door of the gods," Ky—"capital city"
Country: Japan
Population: 8,563,000
Poverty: Little poverty
Religious Breakdown:
97.5% Shintoist & Buddhist
2.5% Christian
0.32% Evangelical

Status of the church: 0-522, Ko-405, Ky-193

Major Religious Sites:

O-Shitennoji Temple,
Sumiyoshi and Temmangu Shrines;
Ko-Ikuta-jinja Shrine;
Ky-Daitokuji and Ryoanji Temples,
Kibone Shrine

City Significance/History:

Shitennoji Temple was built in Osaka back in the 6th century. Tradition states the temple was constructed by Prince Shotoku when he vowed to build it during the heat of a battle to the Shitenno (the four gods who protect the cardinal points of the compass). Osaka had grown and become a center for the Isiyama Honganji. This religious and secular organization built a temple fortress at nearby Kyoto that attracted pilgrims.

From 794—1869 Kyoto was the capital of Japan, a religious monarchy at the time. The rise of the Shogun power in Edo (Tokyo) saw the area lose importance to the northern capital. Today Kyoto is the national center of culture and Buddhism, where over 2000 temples and shrines exist. The city recently celebrated its 1200th anniversary.

Osaka Bay was large and protected, a great location for trade with the outside world. In 1868 Commodore Perry forced open the port at Kobe, and foreign trade flourished with few restrictions. This freedom caused the port to expand while Osaka's population growth allowed the two cities to unite.

Industry, business, and international trade has caused the three cities to form the Keihanshin Industrial Zone, the second largest in Japan.

Prayer Points

1. As a pilgrimage site, Kyoto draws over 1/3 of the Japanese people yearly. Pray that these pilgrims would seek the truth of God through Christ.
2. Pray that the emphasis on prayer, created during the Koshien Crusade of 1993, will continue to be a focal point in the life of the church.
3. Pray against a sense of national pride that makes people feel, "I'm Japanese, so I don't need a foreign religion like Christianity."
4. Pray that in this land of business and commerce people will desire to seek after God—that pursuit of material things will fail to bring fulfillment.
5. Pray for believers to have a greater awareness of evil spirits and occultism and their spiritual effect in people's lives.

