

John Piper – “Prayer: The Work of Missions”

In order to mobilize a movement of prayer in the church and in order to sustain a will to pray in our hearts, we must think and talk about other things besides prayer. This is the key lesson I have learned in recent years.

1. We must talk first about war. Because life is war. And it is utterly impossible for people to know what prayer really is until they know that they are in a war, and until they know that the stakes of that war are infinitely higher than the stakes in the Persian Gulf or in the Reagan-Gorbachev consultations. (1988)

2. We must talk about the Sovereignty of God. Because only from this great truth can we know that we will win the war. And only then will we have hope and strength to press on in a life of prayer.

3. Then, when we have spoken first about the war we are in and next about the sovereignty of God, then we can come to what I will call the awesome place of prayer in God's purposes for the world..... The role of prayer is so unspeakably significant in God's design that we are prone to overstate its role, especially in relation to the Word of God and the preaching of the Gospel. So let me say, loud and clear, that I believe the proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed is the work of missions. And prayer is the power that wields the weapon of the Word, and the Word is the weapon by which the nations will be brought to faith and obedience. (www.desiringgod.org)

Katleho & Delight Meslane (Youth Pastor, Heideveld)**

1. Thanksgiving: a. Dee and I took our Young Adults Bible Study Group for our first camp. The Camp went well. b. The Lord is helping us as a church after we have said farewell to two staff members. c. Thank God for three lay men who stepped into a role of leading a Seniors' Bible Study.

2. Requests: a. God to transform and keep our hearts as Young Adults in the church. b. We are hosting a Kids' Holiday Club on the 26-29 March. Pray mainly for manpower. c. Pray for the new partnership we are starting with a Presbyterian Church in our area, that there will be mutual encouragement.

Ana A Yesu (Children's Ministries in Malawi) – Brian and Angela McClarty & Cricket Meyer**

3. Praise for the way the teachers at Samuti Pre-School are continuing to communicate with us by way of WhatsApp and email and photos to show that they continuing with the curriculum instituted by Cricket. Please pray that, as the children hear the Bible stories and learn memory verses, the Lord will open their hearts so that these truths will stay in their minds and inner being.

4. Please pray for James, the Head Teacher at Samuti, that he will be able to have the hernia operation he needs on 4th March and that all will go well. Also pray for a speedy recovery for him. (He has been waiting for this operation since December.)

Cricket Meyer (Pfunanane Ministries – Children's School in South Africa & Ana A Yesu in Malawi)**

5. Please continue to pray for the sale of my house. It is listed with 7 different agencies, but it seems that the market is flooded at the moment, and there are not enough buyers. Please pray for peace in the knowledge that the house will sell in God's perfect timing.

Please pray for the group of 14 Canadians who arrives on 10th March, that they and the school will be blessed by their visit.

6. Praise the Lord for good health and strength during this time of packing up and moving. God is good. Please pray that I will finish strongly at Pfunanane. Pray for journeying mercies as I leave Tzaneen to drive to Cape Town on 24th March. My nephew is flying up to Tzaneen to help me drive down to Cape Town.

Eugene & Dawn Reyneke (AIM – Esbungabera, Mozambique, leaders' training & evangelism)**

7. **We give praise** for the two weekends that we were able to visit Churches in Muchiyoyo and Dombe. We showed the *Jesus* Film for 2 nights, and did Bible Studies with the various groups on the Saturdays, and Church services on the Sunday. It is always a joy when we are together- sharing, learning, singing, dancing and fellowshiping.

8. **We praise God** for the leaders we have in Matteu, Joachim and Izak. They are a blessing to the community and us. Please continue to pray for them and their wives, as they adjust to their roles as leaders, and for them to stand strong in the face of opposition.

9. All ministries will be starting up this month - Ladies, Men, Children & Youth. **Our prayer** is that the Lord will send the right people to be trained as leaders in the various groups, people who will be committed and have a desire for a deeper relationship with the Lord. **We also pray** that the 'bondages' with some of the traditions will be broken and for folks to be more serious about what God says in the Bible. e.g witchdoctors, polygamy and family relationships/structure/ discipline and children.

10. This year the rains have not been consistent resulting in the crops drying. It is still too early to see the whole effect of it but we know for sure that there will be hunger again this year. People have been generous in helping with funds for maize in past year, so **please pray** that they will continue to provide in this way when it is needed.

Tim and Therese Galange (MTW Missionaries at Bible Institute, Kalk Bay)

11. **We praise God** for the many ministry opportunities building on the relationships and partnerships we have had over the previous 7 years, as we have ministered in Cape Town. Tim has the privilege of mentoring a former student, BISA graduate and Township Pastor, as he assists Tim in teaching an OT Historical Books Course. This pastor is also completing a Masters Degree.

12. Aside from his teaching at BISA, Tim is preaching at a township conference 2nd March and at St. Peter's on the 10th of March. He and Therese plan to attend part of the African Pastors Conference held on 8-9th of March in Goodwood.

Please pray for wisdom as to when to begin the Township Pastors' Reading group, who to invite, and opportunity for Therese to have some one-on-one time with a Pastor's wife during the same time.

13. **Praise God** for the good start of the Craft Workshop on 23rd of February at its new location: the home of Pastor Bheki and wife, Thembi, just outside Masi Township. **Praise God** for donations and for people who are willing to assist in this ministry. **Pray** that the ladies return next month and that God would work in the hearts of those attending, as they hear and see the love of Christ for them. **Pray**, too, that Therese's devotionals would be clear to all who come. Tim has some additional responsibilities with our Mission Organization (MTW). Both of us will be busy with planning two major events here this year.

Greg & Carol Phillips (Dumisani Theological Institute, King's Williams Town)**

14. **We praise and thank the Lord** for: a. good health in spite of tiredness; b. provision of bursaries to help pay for Hannah to continue her studies at the Bible Institute; c. Ruth being so happy in helping at Junior Youth at Calvary Baptist Church, Waverley on Friday evenings; d. all of us feeling we can settle at Calvary Baptist Church where the preaching is excellent, and always challenging, and where we are getting to know more people.

15. Carol meeting other moms at Ruth's horseriding, and getting more confident finding her way around. a. The little blessings like a Defy thermofan oven in our rented home. b. The students at Mukhanyo, including two new students from South Sudan! c. Greg's privilege of teaching Synoptic Gospels, Acts and Story of the Bible, so much centred on Christ & the Gospel.

16. **Please pray for:** a. Mukhanyo's graduation ceremony taking place on Saturday 9th March that, it may be a blessing to graduates and bring glory to God; 2. strength and discipline to keep working well for Greg at Mukhanyo, Hannah at BI, and Carol and Ruth with homeschooling; 3. God's continued provision.

17. God's grace and peace as we are still far from feeling totally adjusted and settled. a. Safety on the roads is a constant need, especially to and from KwaMhlanga, and the Pretoria learning centre when teaching at night. *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us* (Romans 8:18, NASB). May our gracious Lord be with you all as you trust in Him.

Kevin and Sybil Kevin Cole - Prisons Ministry in Western Cape

18. **PRAISE ITEM:** Many thanks for your prayers with regard to Douglas, who previously indicated that he wanted to "give his life to the Lord." I have been able to follow up and he says he "gave his life to the Lord" with the help of 2 other spiritual workers at Obiqua Correctional Centre. He is currently undertaking the *CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED* course with me in a class of approximately 8 offenders.

19. **PRAYER ITEMS:** Pray for the Monday Bible Studies as I share the above *CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED* course. This is an 8-part study of Mark's gospel, asking 3 important questions, namely: 1. Who is Jesus? 2. Why did He come? & 3. So what? Pray for understanding and for knowledge to be gained for those who do not know Him, to decide to fully follow Jesus.

20. **Continue to pray for** the times on Fridays, when I continue to show CHRISTIAN DVDs. This has been a great blessing to all, so much so, that they have asked to keep the DVDs over the weekends to show these DVDs in the different sections where they stay, with very good response. Five offenders will be writing their *EXPLORE* examinations (G.W. C) which we facilitate and invigilate in prisons. Pray that the knowledge gained will draw them closer to God and His Word.

21. **Please pray for** Godly wisdom as we finalize our move to Gordon's Bay in April, 2019, that God will open the right doors for ministry as this door at Obiqua prison closes. **Please pray** for strength for Sybil and I as we pack up the house in preparation of our move. **Please continue to pray** for Sybil's health. Post-operative heart tests have returned good results, but she is still scheduled to have 2 operations this year, namely an A.S.D. repair (hole in the heart), as well as operations to rectify bilateral cataracts in her eyes.

Explore Course in Africa (Nevil Carrington) **

22. a. **Thank the Lord** for my improving health and thank you to the church for praying for Doreen & me.
b. **Give thanks** for the students writing Explore examinations in Uganda, and **pray** that they will continue with the *Explore* course; 3. Please pray for our March trip to Ghana, that we may find many ways to work alongside our brothers and sisters in West Africa.

Rod & Glenda Thomas – OMF (church leaders in Sendei, Japan)**

23. **Please continue to pray** for all the arrangements to be in place while Rod and Glenda are away in the UK until May, and for all members to work together for the Lord. 2. **Pray** for new conversions: many seem on the cusp of believing, but we have so often thought so only to be disappointed. 3. **Pray for** the Lord to provide us with land and buildings. It is an important step to the church becoming autonomous.

Uyesu Unathi (Khayelitsha ministries formerly under Laura Haas)**

24. We still have not heard who will be taking over the leadership of this ministry. **Please continue to pray** for Siphos family, and for wisdom for the Board Members of *Uyesu Unathi* for future decisions.

Heather Simpkin & Jeanette Lelliott – AIM, (Mayotte)

25. During the month of January, which was a particularly bad month sales wise, a (non-christian) lady was brought into the bookshop by one of our friends from church. Her eye caught a book on the shelf, "Say yes to life". She was contemplating having an abortion so the book fell into her hands at the right moment. This was a great

encouragement for us, in that even if only for her, the bookshop had plodded on it was worth it. **Pray with us** that she will make the right choice for her baby, and also that she will personally come to know the Giver of Life.

26. On Monday evening, 18th February a meteorite entered the earth's atmosphere just above Mayotte. It came down in a ball of fire and there was a mighty explosion as it landed in the sea just 30 kilometers from our little island. A few kilometers to the west and we would have been in the Lord's presence, but over 200 000 others would have gone to a lost eternity. **Pray for us** that we will remain in good health, so that we can complete the task He has given us, to prepare our spiritual children, to continue the work of sharing the gospel to this desperately needy island.

Beau-Gavin Durr (YWAM)

27. **Praise & thanks** for the opportunity: a. of being a part of the feeding programme for street people in Cape Town central, seeing their spiritual growth, and learning much from them;

b. of teaching and mentoring a new group of students at the Muizenberg YWAM base;

3. of being able to encourage and mentor a group of teenage boys from the Vrygrond Township

28. **I would value your prayers** for the following:

a. for me to speak nothing but what I receive from God through His Holy Spirit;

b. for faithful prayer warriors to persist with me in prayer, for the watering of the seeds planted, and that there may be a harvest of salvation;

c. for wisdom for our team as we mentor the teenage boys who come from very broken backgrounds. One of our teens starting the Mentoring Program in Vrygrond, was arrested as an accomplice in a robbery that happened a few weeks ago.

Peter Laubscher – The Leprosy Mission

29. The Leprosy Mission has published a new book, *The Church and Disability* as part of its **RampUp** project. The author, Professor Louis Kretzschmar, will be speaking at the book launch on Tuesday 26th March 2019 at Rosebank Union Church, Johannesburg. **Give thanks** for the many church leaders who have already purchased the book, and who are implementing disability inclusion ministries. **Pray** that the book launch will draw a wide range of new churches into the disability ministry fold, and that the book will light a fire in their hearts. We plan to make the book available in an electronic format. Please pray that the this process will be swiftly completed.

30. Our research has revealed many people are engaged in disability ministries, but they are often poorly resourced, and operate under a great deal of pressure. **Give thanks** for the amazing work which these volunteers do – they are a huge blessing to many people who would otherwise never hear the Gospel.

Grant and Loutjie Swanepoel – Student Work at Nelson Mandela University, P.E.

31. There has still been no update, but please **pray** that the Lord will use Grant and Loutjie greatly, to reach out to students who don't know Him, and to build up and encourage students who need it. Also **pray** for the Lord's provision for all their needs.

**These missionaries receive financial as well as prayer support.