

AWAKEN SA

19 May - 9 June 2024
ELECTIONS 2024

21

Days of Fasting
& Prayer



PRAYER GUIDE

Awakening the Church – Godly Government – Restoring Society
19 May - 9 June 2024

Calling the Body of Christ to 21 days of night-and-day
prayer and fasting for South Africa.

Why this initiative? The ever-increasing violence, immorality and corruption in South Africa in recent years remain a concern to many. It is said that 80% of the population professes to be Christian, but society does not reflect the fruit of the Gospel. Even as the nation prepares itself for general elections on the 29th of May 2024, many are desperate and feel hopeless that things will change.

William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army, had this to say about our generation:

"I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell."

This is a call for desperate prayer for the nation of South Africa. Desperate prayer comes when we face reality at the point where, humanly possible, there is NO WAY OUT.

BUT GOD...

"Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him. Joel 2:12-14 NKJV.

IFSA (Intercessors for South Africa) is a forum of various national prayer networks, calling every Christian, every local church and every denomination to a season of desperate prayer for South Africa.

Awakening the Church
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We invite you to consider the following:

- **Corporate Prayer Gatherings** - Consider hosting one corporate prayer gathering every week in your local church or community. ([Video: Why pray](#)).
- **24-7 Praying Churches** - Consider having a 24-7 Prayer Chain with 24 believers each praying for an hour of the same day as your corporate gathering. Register your church/group here: <https://tinyurl.com/AWAKENSA>
- **Fasting and Prayer** - We invite every believer to fast and pray during these 21 days. Consider skipping one meal per day. ([Article: Fasting and prayer – a biblical discipline](#))
- **National Prayer Gatherings** (via Zoom)
21 May - 28 May - 4 June (each day at 11am SAST)
Zoom link to follow

WEEK ONE:

Awakening the Church
(19 - 25 May 2024)

1. Complete & Fully Assured

"Epaphras...He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured" – (Colossians 4:12 NIV).

God's primary agent to advance His kingdom on earth is the Church (Mark 16:15; Ephesians 3:10). It is through the Church that Jesus Christ carries out His purposes on earth. We are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). The reaching and discipling of the nations will not happen without the Church (Matthew 28:19-20). We have been given a great responsibility.

- Give thanks to God for the local churches in your area. Be as specific as you can, naming the churches and praying also for their leadership.
- Pray that the Church may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God.
- Pray that the Church would grow from faith to faith, from strength to strength and from glory to glory.

More Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) - *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

Proverbs 4:18 (NIV) - *The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*

Isaiah 40:31 (NASB) - *Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.*

2. Awake & Arise

"I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God" – (Revelation 3:1b-2 NIV).

The Church of Sardis had a reputation of being alive. On the surface it looked like a healthy, vibrant church. Yet Jesus rebuked this church, revealing its true spiritual condition. According to Him they had "fallen asleep", no longer being spiritually awake and watchful. Twice in His rebuke He exhorts them saying, "Wake up". The Church is called to be awake, sober and vigilant. She is called to arise and shine in this dark world.

- Pray that Jesus would pour out grace upon the Church in South Africa – grace to awake and grace to arise.
- Pray that the shackles of spiritual apathy, lethargy and slumber, and indifference will be broken off the Body of Christ.
- Pray that the Church would be sober and vigilant, watching and praying.
- Declare that the Church will arise in South Africa and move in great grace, in faith, steadfastness and spiritual authority.

More Scriptures:

Isaiah 60:1-2 (NASB) - *Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.*

Ephesians 5:14 (NIV) - Therefore He says - 'Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light'.

1 Peter 4:7 (NIV) - The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

3. The Battlefield of the Mind

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" – (2 Corinthians 10:4).

There is a battle that the enemy wages over the soul of the Church – the mind, the will and the emotions. The way we think affects our emotions and influences our will and therefore our actions. For the enemy to outwit us, he must first gain a foothold in the area of our thought-life. If he can establish a pattern of thought that is contrary to the will and ways of God, he can defeat us. Therefore, as believers, protection over our minds is crucial.

As South Africa's national election draws near and we as Christians exercise our right and responsibility to vote, it is essential that we as the Church have the mind of Christ – to be guided by His thoughts and purposes.

- Pray that we as followers of Christ would prepare our minds for action (1 Peter 1:13),
- that we would have a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7),
- that we would be renewed in the spirit of our mind (Ephesians 4:23),
- and that we would not be conformed to the pattern of this world but rather transformed by the renewing of our mind according to the Word of God (Romans 12:2).

More Scriptures:

1 Peter 1:13 (NASB) - *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Romans 12:2 (NIV) - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Ephesians 6:16 (NIV) - *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

4. Release Forgiveness & Receive Healing

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" – (Ephesians 4:32).

All of us at some point in time have been wronged by another, been hurt and maybe suffered some form of injustice. We must remember Jesus Himself experienced all these things and yet modelled for us a merciful and forgiving heart when He uttered on the Cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

As a nation, we have experienced many forms of injustices. At times, it seems like the very land carries the pain of the past. We are in need of healing. However, healing will not come by repentance alone, but with the release of forgiveness – one to another. When we choose not to forgive, we hold onto the pain that Christ wants to heal.

Corrie ten Boom, who endured some of the worst kinds of injustice whilst in a Nazi Concentration Camp, tells a powerful story of the healing that came to her heart when years later, she came face to face with one of her captors. (Here is a link to her story: <https://guideposts.org/positive-living/guideposts-classics-corrie-ten-boom-forgiveness/>) Corrie's experience so beautifully illustrates how forgiveness not only releases the perpetrator, but sets the victim free in the process.

- Let us pray today for an abundance of grace to release forgiveness where forgiveness is needed.
- Pray for yourself. Forgive anyone with whom you may have an offence.
- Pray for our nation. Pray that there will be forgiveness and healing for all racial injustices.
- Pray for the healing of our hearts and the healing of our land.

- Pray that the stronghold of unforgiveness, hatred, bitterness, resentment and anger will be broken.

More Scriptures:

Mark 11:25 (NIV) - *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT) - *Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.*

Proverbs 25:21 (NKJV) - *If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*

5. The Need for Revival

"Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?" – (Psalm 85:6).

Historically, the word "revival" was often used to describe a season of time when God would pour out His Spirit in a special, sometimes dramatic way upon a congregation or an entire community of people resulting in transformed lives and transformed towns or cities. At times the moral climate of a whole nation was altered as the fires of revival swept throughout the land. Conviction of sin would fall upon the saved and the unsaved in an unusual way, resulting in thousands of souls being swept into the kingdom. Most of the time, these "revivals" came when societies were staggering under the grip of great spiritual darkness and moral deprivation and when much of the church seemed spiritually dead and devoid of the life of the Spirit.

- Let us pray for a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout our nation.
- Pray that the Church will come back to her first love (Revelation 2:4).
- Pray for a spirit of repentance to fall afresh upon us as the Church, for clean hands and pure hearts that we may ascend the hill of the Lord (Psalm. 24:3–4).
- Pray that we as a nation will return to Him, the Fountain of living water, and forsake Him no longer (Jeremiah 2:13).

More Scriptures:

Acts 3:19 (HCSB) - *Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*

Acts 2:17 (BLB) - *And it will be in the last days, God says, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.*

Isaiah 32:15-16 (NKJV) - *Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.*

6. Revival of the Word

"My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word" – (Psalm 119:25).

Although prayer is the heartbeat of revival, the Word of God must be its foundation. The highest and final authority we have as believers is the written Word of God – the Scriptures (Psalm 138:2).

Nothing can possibly replace listening to God speak to us through His Word *for "man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). The Word not only renews the mind, but it feeds and nourishes the spirit. Prayerfully meditating on Scripture is a primary source of spiritual strength.

- Let us bring repentance for laziness and a lack of discipline when it comes to reading and studying the Scriptures.
- Let us ask the Holy Spirit to revive within us an appetite and hunger for the Word of God.
- Ask the Lord to quicken and to open the Scriptures to us.

More Scriptures:

Luke 24:32 (ESV) - *They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV) - *Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.*

Acts 20:32 (KJV) - *So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified".*

7. United we Stand; Divided we Fall

"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" – (Mark 3:24-25).

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom into the nations of the world has periodically suffered setbacks and delays. A major contributing factor to this is division and strife in the Body of Christ. This principle is seen in the book of Matthew and elsewhere. A kingdom divided against itself will fall. This is true of any kingdom.

There is a blessing from God's hand that only comes through unity (Psalm 133:1). There is also an ability to accomplish and achieve much through a united effort (Genesis 11:6). Let us bring repentance for all the division, strife, gossip, backbiting and slander that goes on in the Body of Christ.

- Pray we would be first and foremost united to our Head Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:19) and then with one another.
- Pray against the stronghold of division.
- Pray that we would recognise and appreciate the various gifts, graces and callings upon the different members of Christ's Body (Ephesians 4:11-16). We need one another!

More Scriptures:

Psalm 133:1 (BSB) - *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! It is like fine oil on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD has bestowed the blessing of life forevermore.*

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT) - *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV) – *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

WEEK TWO:

Godly Government

(26 May – 1 June 2024)

1. Salvation for those in Authority

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" – (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV).

There are many who occupy positions of authority in our nation who do not know Christ as Lord and Saviour. They need to be reached just like any other lost person, for God *"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4). This includes kings, presidents and all those in government. For this reason God called the Apostle Paul to proclaim the gospel to three groups of people, to the Jews, to the Gentiles and to their kings (Acts 9:15).

- Let us pray that God will raise up people who are able to reach leaders in authority with the Gospel of Christ.
- Pray for the salvation of those who are in leadership in our nation. Pray that the Father will draw them to the Son (John 6:44).
- Pray that the spiritual veil blinding their minds to the truth of the Gospel will be removed and that they will see their need for Christ.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict them of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (John 16:8).
- Pray that they would know and understand that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life and that the only way to the Father is through Him (John 14:6).

More Scriptures:

Acts 9:15 (NIV) - *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel".*

Psalms 72:11 (NIV) - *May all kings bow down to Him and all nations serve Him.*

Psalms 138:4 (NIV) - *May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed.*

2. Peaceful Elections

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city.... Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" – (Jeremiah 29:7).

Our God is a God of Peace. He is not the author of chaos, confusion and disorder. He desires to bless the nations with peace and prosperity.

As South Africa gets ready to vote on Wednesday, let us seek the peace and prosperity of our nation and ask the Lord for it. There have been threats of possible civil unrest being provoked, but let us pray that all South African citizens would live and work together in love, peace and harmony.

- Ask the Lord to make peace within our country's borders (Psalm 147:14) and restrain any uprising of violence.
- Pray that South Africans will *"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."* (Psalm 34:14).
- Pray that the Lord will shine His light on our nation, piercing the darkness and that He would guide our nation to walk in the way of peace (Luke 1:78).
- Pray that the peace of God would permeate our land and calm the brewing of any demonic storm of civil unrest, riots, violence and bloodshed during this election (Mark 4:39).
- Pray that voters would lean not on their own understanding, but would ask the Lord for wisdom in how to vote (Proverbs 3:5)
- Pray for a safe and fair election.

More Scriptures

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Luke 1:78-79 (NASB) - *Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Mark 4:39 (NKJV) - *Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.*

3. Leaders who Fear God

"Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling" – (Psalm 2:10-11 NIV).

The Scriptures tell us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), and that those who fear the Lord are blessed but those who harden their hearts will fall into calamity (Proverbs 28:14). In the Old Testament we see examples of kings who feared the Lord and kings who did not fear the Lord. A king who feared God would lead in a way that pleased the Lord; doing right in His sight. Young King Josiah was one of them.

We live in a time where the reverential fear of the Lord is largely absent,

not only in government and society but even in much of the Church. We must pray that it will be restored.

- Let us pray that God will raise up in our nation governing authorities, judges and legislators who fear the Lord and desire to bring Him honour.
- Let us pray that those in positions of authority will consider carefully what they do and how they rule for they will have to give an account to Him who made them.
- Pray that the Lord will give us leaders who serve Him with fear and who celebrate His rule with trembling (Psalm 2:10-11).

- Also let us pray that policies and legislation will be written that are in keeping with Scripture and biblical values.

More Scriptures:

2 Chronicles 19:5-7 (NIV) - *He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. He told them, "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be on you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery".*

Isaiah 66:2b (ESV) - *But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

2 Chronicles 34:1-2 (NIV) - *Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.*

4. Righteous Government

"Remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness" – (Proverbs 25:5).

When we have leaders who understand and govern according to God's righteous standards, it can bring great blessing to a nation (Proverbs 14:34). It is not God's will for a nation to have government leaders who are given to corruption or who lie, steal, cheat, break laws, oppress, enslave etc. for *"when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn"* (Proverbs 29:2). Godly leaders can be a great blessing even to the Church. They can protect the religious liberties of a nation, giving the Church freedom to pray and evangelise without persecution. This is pleasing to the Lord (1 Timothy 2:2).

- Let us pray for righteous leaders to arise, those who walk in integrity and do not turn to the right or to the left.
- Pray that wicked influences will be removed from the presence of those in authority. Ask the Lord to surround them with godly advisors.
- Pray that the horns of the wicked will be cut off, but that the horns of the righteous will be lifted up (Psalm 75:10).
- Ask the Lord to thwart the efforts of those who are trying to remove religious freedom from our nation.
- Ask the Lord to frustrate "the devices of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success" (Job 5:12).
- Pray that those who are involved in corruption will be exposed and removed.

More Scriptures:

Daniel 2:21 (NIV) - *He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

Psalm 94:20 (KJV) - *Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?*

Hosea 8:4a (NIV) - *They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval.*

5. Praying for Righteousness & Justice

"But let justice roll out like waters, And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" – (Amos 5:24 NASB).

Leaders who love justice will bring stability to a country. But when a country's leaders are given to bribery and corruption, they tear it down. (Proverbs 29:4). We want to see righteousness and justice poured out in our nation.

- Pray that government leaders will have a deep love in their hearts for the people (Proverbs 20:28) of South Africa and work towards the stability and prosperity of our land.
- Pray that they will turn a deaf ear to bribery and keep their hands far from corruption and injustice.
- Pray that they would know what the Lord requires of them: *"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly"* before God (Micah 6:8).
- Pray for our judicial system and lawmakers – that they would administer and maintain true justice for all, tempered by mercy and compassion.
- Pray for the judges of this nation, that they will seek the wisdom that comes from above, as the Scripture says, *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere"* (James 3:17).

More Scriptures

Proverbs 29:4 (NIV) - *By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down.*

Zechariah 7:9-10 (NIV) - *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other".*

Amos 5:14-15 (NIV) - *Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy...*

6. Declarations over South Africa

Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth... to build and plant." – (Jeremiah 1:9-10 BSB)

There are promises found in the Bible concerning the nations. Below are some Scriptures to use followed by a declaration. Let our mouths be filled with God's Word so we can release life over our nation at this time.

- Isaiah 61:11 (ESV) – *"For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations".* WE SAY LET THE SEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE SPROUT UP IN SOUTH AFRICA. LET PRAISE FILL EVERY PROVINCE, CITY, TOWN AND COMMUNITY IN JESUS' NAME.
- Ezekiel 38:23 (ESV) – *"So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD".* LORD OF LORDS AND KINGS OF KINGS, ACCORDING TO YOUR PROMISE, SHOW YOUR GREATNESS AND HOLINESS TO SOUTH AFRICA. MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THIS NATION. LET THE

PEOPLE KNOW THAT YOU ALONE ARE GOD – THE LIVING GOD! WE DECLARE SOUTH AFRICA WILL SEE HOW GREAT IS THE LORD!

- Malachi 1:14b (ESV) – *"For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations"*. WE DECLARE OVER YOU SOUTH AFRICA: "THE LORD IS A GREAT KING AND AS A NATION YOU WILL FEAR HIS NAME".
- Feel free to take other Scriptures that you know of or that the Holy Spirit quickens to you and turn them into positive declarations.

7. Thy Kingdom Come!

So Jesus told them, *"When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come'"* – (Luke 11:2 BSB).

The kingdoms of men are earthly kingdoms, they are temporal. They rise and they fall. Yet there is another kingdom that is above them all; the Kingdom of Heaven. God's Kingdom is an eternal kingdom and it endures throughout all generations (Psalm 145:13). There is another kingdom that Scripture speaks of which cannot be seen by the visible eye, it is the kingdom of darkness. This kingdom is at a war with the Kingdom of Light and it seeks to have dominion in the kingdoms of men. And so we have a clash of kingdoms. But the darkness can never overcome the Light!

Although God is sovereign over the entire universe and is actively involved in the affairs of the nations (Daniel 2:21), He has given freewill to all of mankind. This power of choice given to man is often influenced by the kingdom of darkness and its diabolical interests. Every time God's Kingdom invades the earth, it brings righteousness, peace and joy (Romans 14:17).

- Let us pray that the Kingdom of God will come in South Africa.
- Pray that His Kingdom will come in your city and province.
- Pray that His Kingdom will come in the government.
- Pray that His Kingdom will come in your family.
- Pray that His Kingdom will come in the nations.
- Thank Him that *"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end"* (Isaiah 9:7).

Proclaim aloud: Jesus Christ is Lord!

WEEK THREE:

Restoring Society

(2 – 9 June 2024)

1. The Next Generation – Youth & Children

"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done" – (Psalm 78:4 NIV).

God thinks in terms of generations and plans accordingly (Genesis 9:12). He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. While society tends to think more about the present, God is thinking ahead of this current generation.

Bill High says, *"There was a time, however, when people used to think beyond themselves. They had to think about generations – the people that would come behind them. Farmers would clear a field with the consideration that their children would farm it."* We need to recover this way of thinking, especially as it relates to the Church and the Kingdom.

As the Body of Christ, we must make praying for the next generation a priority! Fifty-nine percent of young Christians temporarily or permanently disconnect from the church after the age of 15. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages 10–24. While the enemy seeks to devour the young people, God has His own plan for them. Both historically and biblically He has used young people to shape and influence the direction of nations. King Josiah was still a boy when he began to seek the Lord and purge Judah and Jerusalem of its idolatrous high places (2 Chronicles 34:3). George Whitefield was only 26 years old when God used him to ignite the First Great Awakening in America. Evan Roberts, who was a central figure and leader in the Welsh Revival, also was only 26. The great Charles Spurgeon had preached more than 600 sermons before reaching the age of 20 years.

- Pray that young people would find godly mentors who can disciple them in the Word of God, establish them in their identity in Christ and equip them on how to engage the world around them practically.
- Pray for those young people who have walked away from Jesus. Pray for their faith to be restored and strengthened (Luke 22:32).
- The decisions young people make will affect them for the rest of their lives. Pray for God to direct their paths, drawing them away from evil and toward good and sparing them from harmful plans. (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- Pray against the temptation of suicide assailing the minds of so many young people. Pray Psalm 118:17 over them.
- Pray against the hopelessness, despair and depression oppressing many young people (Psalm 40:1-3).

More Scriptures

Psalm 22:30 (NIV) - *Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.*

Psalm 145:4 (NKJV) - *One generation will praise Your works to another, and will declare Your mighty acts.*

Psalm 118:17 (NIV) - *I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*

2. Restoration of Biblical Fatherhood

"And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse" – (Malachi 4:6 BSV).

"To know the true state of a nation, look at the state of the Church. To know the true state of the Church, look at the families who populate her pews. To know the state of her families, look to the fathers who lead them. Destroy the vision of the father, and you render impotent the family" – A quote by Douglas W. Phillips.

Fatherhood is the foundation on which God built the family. One of the greatest needs in our lives is for the presence and guidance of a father. Fathers are the strength of the home, providing a sense of order, stability, structure and direction. They establish identity in their children. The role that fathers play in the home and in society cannot be underestimated. We will not see healthy families and healthy communities without fathers.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of fatherlessness in the world. According to the 2017 Statistics SA General Household Survey, 61.8% of children under the age of 18 live without their father.

The absence of fathers from families, has been linked with multiple social ills. Children without fathers are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, low self-esteem and behavioural problems. It is also a major contributing factor to crime. Most young men who join gangs do not have a loving father involved in their lives.

- Let us pray that society will awaken to the importance of the God-given role that fathers play in the family and community.
- Pray that men will see their fatherly role as a gift from God and realise they should reflect the heavenly Father in how they lead, love, protect and govern their families and communities.
- Pray against the lies, especially coming from liberal cultural trends that seek to belittle and undermine the role of manhood, masculinity and the headship that men were designed to carry.
- Pray that God would heal the men in our nation from the pain of abandonment and rejection related to fatherlessness. Pray that men would have a revelation of the Fatherhood of God and His love for them.
- Pray that Christian men would take up their priestly role as husbands and fathers in the home, calling their families together for times of prayer and for building them up and establishing them in the principles of the Scriptures, and act as fathers to fatherless children in our nation.

More Scriptures:

Psalm 27:10 (ESV) - *If my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me in.*

Psalm 68:5-6 (NKJV) - *A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity...*

1 Timothy 3:5 (GNT) - *For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of God.*

3. Violence & Bloodshed

"They shed innocent blood—the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood" – (Psalm 106:38 BSB).

The sanctity of human life lies in the fact that mankind was created in the image of God. Every life is precious and holds great value in His sight. What a terrible thing it is to deliberately take away the life of another. In our nation murders have been increasing consistently over the past decade. Our murder/homicide rate increased by 23.26% from 2020 to 2021. Just recently the BBC news reported that violent crimes in South Africa had reached a 20-year high. On average, 75 people were killed every day over the last year.

Let us pray concerning violent crimes (armed robberies etc.), murder of families, children and the elderly, abortion, sexual violence (rape, assault, sexual harassment) and domestic violence (verbal, physical and emotional abuse).

- Let us bring a cry of repentance for all the blood guilt that we carry as a nation.
- Let us ask the Lord to cleanse the land from the defilement that comes through innocent bloodshed.
- Let us plead the Blood of Jesus, asking that His blood would speak mercy over South Africa.
- Pray that the sanctity of life as a sacred value would be restored in society.
- Pray that God would bring comfort and healing to those who are victims of violent crime. (Psalm 72:14; Habakkuk 1:2; Ezekiel 34:16).
- Pray for human and demonic networks of violence, crime and corruption to be broken and exposed (Proverbs 3:31, 16:29; James 3:15-16).
- Let us pray that our communities will be delivered from criminals, and the violent (2 Samuel 22:3, 49; Isaiah 59:1-16; Proverbs 29:26; Micah 7:2-7).

More Scriptures:

Habakkuk 2:12 (NIV) – *Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice!*

Jeremiah 22:17 (BSB) - *But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion.*

2 Kings 21:16a (KJV) - *Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another.*

4. Education (Schools/Universities)

"All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace" – (Isaiah 54:13 NIV).

There was a time when school days typically commenced with a prayer, hymn singing and Scripture reading. These activities along with religious education was the source of moral values for many, such as respect, discipline, integrity, caring for one another etc. Today's educational system has drastically departed from the golden foundations which were laid in former years. However, just as God caused the captivity of Judah and Israel to be reversed and then rebuilt them as they were at first, He can do the same in our schools (Jeremiah 33:7). He can restore.

- Pray that Christians would arise and take responsibility in regularly supporting the schools in their community with prayer.
- Pray for safety, security and protection from accidents and other problems. Ask the Lord to restrain anyone who might cause harm to children and adults in any way on the premises.
- Pray for learners who are suffering from anxieties and other mental health issues that are affecting their learning.
- Teachers set the tone of a school and they need prayer cover as well. Obtain the names of some of the teachers at schools in your area and pray for them by name. Pray that they will have the wisdom and creativity they need to teach and mentor their students.
- Pray for Christian teachers to be encouraged in their faith and to recognise opportunities to show the love of God to the people around them.
- Pray against disorder, chaos and rebellion, bullying etc. that are rampant in many schools. Pray for peace to fill schools and classrooms, and that godly values and principles will be instilled in the lives of the children and youth.
- In most nations, the government determines school funding and sets guidelines about what should and should not be taught to students. Pray that the policymakers and people in power will listen to teachers and experts who have first-hand expertise on how to run schools in the best way.

More Scriptures:

Isaiah 48:18 (ESV) - *Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*

Psalms 119:130 (ESV) - *The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*

Psalms 49:3 (BSB) - *My mouth will impart wisdom, and the meditation of my heart will bring understanding.*

5. Arts, Entertainment & Sports

"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge" – (Psalm 19:1-2 KJV).

Within the Arts, Entertainment and Media Spheres, we find some of the most influential forces shaping today's culture. This includes Sports.

A quote from YWAM reads:

"The arena of arts and entertainment has long set a precedent for culture. And where culture goes, so society goes. Art and entertainment have power to influence and shape not only people's perspectives, but a nation's worldview. Around the world we can clearly see an attack of the enemy on the sphere of celebration (arts, entertainment and sports). The media and entertainment all around us display violence, false pleasures, selfishness, and lies about who we are and who God is. The enemy's agenda is fully displayed through videos, movies, music, and art and many lives are being deceived through this".
(Source: <https://ywam.org/pray-for-the-entertainment-industry-and-arts>).

We saw in the recent Rugby World Cup how Fiji prayed openly on the field, even involving the South African Springboks. With sports being a national obsession, many athletes remain among the people that children admire most and want to be like. There is a huge opportunity for sportsmen and women to be witnesses for Jesus Christ and to model moral values, godly virtues and ethics to the next generation.

- A flood of filth has entered into the lives of young and old through entertainment, media etc. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up a standard through godly content, truth and moral values coming via movies, music, arts and sports.
- Pray against the strong influence of the occult, witchcraft, sexual perversion and various forms of wickedness coming through these spheres that are drawing people into gross darkness.
- Pray that God would give parents in particular, discernment and wisdom when it comes to what they allow their children to watch on TV and other social media platforms.
- Pray that the Lord would cause a great distaste for ungodly values being celebrated and promoted through the arts, media and entertainment sector. Pray that He would create a desire throughout society for godly virtues to be exhibited.
- Pray for oaks of righteousness to be planted in these spheres who can pierce the darkness with the light of truth and bring glory to God through Holy Spirit-inspired content (Isaiah 61:3).
- Pray for sportsmen and women to realise the huge impact their achievements have on children, and to exercise great care that their lives will exemplify integrity and moral values.

6. A Fresh Passion for Evangelism

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" – Luke 10:2 (ESV).

The field and harvest are metaphors for the billions of people in the world who are in need of salvation. Elsewhere, Jesus tells His disciples to lift up their eyes and to **"look at the fields, for they are ripe for harvest"** (John 4:35).

In the Luke 10:2 passage, the Greek word used for "send out" is the word *ekballō* and it means to "drive out or to send forth with a notion of violence". It is the same word used in Luke 11:20 when Jesus was casting out (*ekballō*) demons by the finger of God! "*Ekballō* is not the normal term used for "send," as most of our translations have it. Rather it is a word that conveys passion and force! There is an urgency that is being communicated here by Jesus. The time is late and there is much work to be done! The Lord of the harvest is passionate to save the lost, more passionate than we are. Therefore He is not making a suggestion, He is commanding us to plead with Him to hurl forth labourers into the harvest fields of the world. We should not stop asking Him, until all the nations have been reached with the Gospel of the Kingdom.

- It is time for a fresh passion for evangelism to be ignited in the heart of every disciple of Christ in this nation. Let us pray for His passion and love for the lost to fill our hearts afresh.
- Pray that believers will recognise the opportunities He creates for them to be witnesses and to share their faith with those He brings across their path.
- Ask the Lord to fill the Church with a holy boldness to proclaim the message of the Gospel (Acts 4:31).

- Earnestly pray that the Lord would raise up men and women who will faithfully bear His cross and who are willing to be thrust out into the harvest fields of the nations.

More Scriptures

John 4:35 (BSB) - *Do you not say, 'There are still four months until the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ripe for harvest.*

Luke 19:10 (NIV) - *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

John 3:17 (NKJV) - *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

7. Economy & Business

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" – (Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV).

An economy is an area of the production, distribution and trade, as well as consumption of goods and services. It has to do with wealth and resources.

God is interested in our prosperity as people and our economy and wealth as a nation (Jeremiah 29:11). He desires to bless the economy, but He will not bless economic systems that are rooted in Mammon – the love of money. Having money and material blessing is one thing, but serving money is another! The problem starts when money becomes your master (Matthew 6:24). Mammon wants to take the place of God in your life. This spirit stirs up greed, creating an excessive desire for material possessions and wealth. True financial success comes when we honour God with our finances or business, follow His plan and steward all He gives according to the principles of the Bible.

A biblical economic system recognises that God brings forth the increase and the ability to create wealth – free from greed, lust and corruption. Having businesses established on biblical values and principles help to grow a healthy economy.

- Let us repent for the times we have come into agreement with the spirit of Mammon and its economic systems – individually, as the Church and as a nation. Pray that South Africa will embrace the biblical values upon which God designed the economy to be established.
- Pray that young people will learn quickly about the responsibility of making a living and that they will be good stewards of their finances (Proverbs 21:5).
- Pray for the businesses in the nation to be free of corruption. Pray for evil deeds to be exposed so that good can prosper.
- Pray that mismanagement of public funds by government due to corruption will be stopped and that corrupt officials will be removed.
- Pray for major corporations to build their companies on a foundation of moral and ethical standards.
- Pray for businesses to create job opportunities for both schooled and unschooled people.
- Pray for businesses to create intern training for young people.
- Pray for entrepreneur education in schools to prepare young people to enter the business world with good work ethics and integrity.

- Pray for Christian businesses to prosper and that they will contribute generously to advancing the Kingdom of God in their cities.
- Pray for a stable economy and for an opportunity for our currency to stabilise against world currencies.
- Pray that South African resources that are exported will not rob our country of its wealth, but be an opportunity to uplift local people to benefit from the wealth of our resources.
- Pray for the South African Reserve Bank and its role in the stabilisation of our revenue and taxes.

More Scriptures

Matthew 6:24 (NASB) - *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

Proverbs 28:22 (NIV) - *The stingy are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them.*

Proverbs 22:4 (BSB) - *The rewards of humility and the fear of the LORD are wealth and honor and life.*

Matthew 6:10

"Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven".