

## How should we *Pray* for Osama bin Laden – and for other concerns?

Some would suggest to *Pray* for vengeance as David did for God's enemies. Certainly Osama's involvement is not only in political actions, but he has funded Islamic missions strongly opposed to the spread of the Gospel. *Pray* for a new revelation of God's sovereign power in the Islamic strongholds of our day.

Recent unrest in Jos, Nigeria, has left over 500 dead and many churches and mosques, Christian and Muslim homes destroyed. *Pray* for a Christ-like spirit among His people and for wisdom of the government in the enormous challenges presented in that vast country.

"The Lord knows those who are His..." and He remembers them in their greatest moment of despair. Remember our brothers and sisters from Muslim background that are struggling under the restrictive rule or threats from fanatics against their lives. *Pray* for a deep conviction of God's wisdom and strength for new Muslim Background Believers. Do you know any personally?

Satellites have enabled a previously unimaginable coverage of Muslim countries with the message of hope. In Egypt over 95% of the households have TV access. *Pray* for provision for the costly media work, for creativity to get the message across and for courage for the many seekers from the household of Islam.

Some years ago there were a number of "*Let the Bible Speak*" Muslim mission groups (*dawah* workers) along the East African coast. Praise God that many of these have closed down in recent years and a new initiative among Christians is giving rise to the hope that God is building His church among the unreached. *Pray* for the leaders to grow in their fear of God and love for the lost.

In the midst of the bombing of the Taliban in response to the 9/11 attacks there were eight relief workers and their Afghan colleagues imprisoned in Kabul. *Pray* for God's peace to fill their hearts and a revelation of God's power in the evil minds of their captors.

God's people are reminded in His word to identify with the "strangers" in a special way. Let us obey His word and *Pray* for the millions of refugees who are displaced from their homeland, often cut off from their families. *Pray* for the love of Christ to break through into their misery through the kindness of His people.

"Felix" is one of those refugees who came to know Christ in a Kenyan camp, received Bible school training and is now back in his home country where he trains workers to reach to the Muslims. Coming from a Muslim background he still faces much resistance from his family. *Pray* for him to be safe in the arms of Jesus and mightily used for building His Kingdom.

Somalis are spread all over the world with big pockets in Australia, England and especially Canada where lively fellowships of believers exist. *Pray* for their witness among other seekers, for effective spread of the Word by radio and literature and for a "return blessing into the heartland of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

We in Life Challenge Africa are presently experiencing a serious shortfall of resources for literature production. But many Christians are in need of help in training for reaching Muslims and suitable tracts for their contacts from Islamic faith. *Pray* with us for a new openness among God's people to support the work sacrificially and faithfully.

*India* is a world in one sub-continent with over 120 Million Muslims (2000) spread from north to south, but also many, many eager Christians. *Pray* for the workers of *Al Bashir*, a ministry with a special focus on presenting Christ to Muslims in the north and north-east of the country. *Pray* for growth of churches in Kashmir and Bihar, for the women projects in Delhi and for good progress in their plans for literature production and distribution.

Christians in Pakistan, Indonesia and even Afghanistan itself are under increased pressure and danger of life as the tension in the region has escalated. *Pray* for a divinely guided balance of wisdom and courage to take a firm stand in Christ and even use openings for offering salvation from God's word.

Our hearts go out to the throngs of children and youth who suffer most under the misleading, deceptive powers of fanatical religious leaders. *Pray* for a special revelation of the God of mercy and truth into their darkness and suffering. Plead with God for the souls of those blinded into sacrificing themselves for the cause of Islamic extremist schemes to be reached by the Saviour before it is too late.

The Church in Africa still needs to acknowledge their Mission and eagerly reach out a hand of hope and help to the Muslims living among us. *Pray* for an awakening among Christian men and women, students, housewives, businessmen, pastors and missionaries to give themselves wholeheartedly for the completion of the Great Commission.

In many parts of our country Muslim women are even more shut off from contact with Christians than men or youth. As you are open to the Lord to be used to bring them closer to the Saviour. *Pray* for divine appointments during weddings, funerals and social visits to explain to some of them what Christ has done for you.

Humanitarian help is no longer a typical outflow of Christian compassion. Many Islamic relief groups are offering free medical aid, schooling and loans with the clear agenda of buying people into Islam. *Pray* for inner strength to resist for Christians tempted into accepting such help and for churches and Christian institutions to bring care for material and emotional needs to the poor among us.

Media and public opinion in the USA and UK have played their part to create an atmosphere of fear and antagonism against all Muslims residing in their midst. Especially Arab-looking people have suffered threats and some even mishandling since the Tragic Tuesday events. *Pray* that those Christians who have already established a bridge of friendship to these "outlaws" may now use the opportunity to show true love in standing by their Muslim friends when others shun them.

The task of giving ALL Muslim men and women, students and children on our troubled continent a chance of encountering the true Messiah is too big for any of us. *Pray* for an increased measure of partnership and enhanced networking between churches and ministries in this urgent task. Every moment of delay is costing precious lives lost for eternity.

We thank God for committed Christians among political leaders throughout Africa. *Pray* for their undivided loyalty to biblical principles in their personal lives as well as political action. *Pray* for responsible support and bold use of opportunities of all Christian citizens in countries run by Muslim heads of state.

Our Master urges us to *Pray* for a fresh sending forth of laborers into the harvest fields. *Pray* for opened eyes of faith to note the many Muslim hearts He has prepared to receive the word of life with eagerness and joy. *Pray* for churches to identify and commission workers into the fields before it is too late and the harvest is lost.

Hardly has there been a time in our generation when world peace was threatened in a measure as we experience it right now. But an explosive world climate has always been a serious barrier to spread the good news freely and widely. *Pray* for peace especially in the volatile situation of the Middle East. *Pray* for a renewed willingness on both sides to genuinely work towards a peaceful understanding between Israel and their Palestinian neighbours.