

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Following a clear vision received in July 2000, a call to Christians across Africa and then all across the earth, to a day of repentance and prayer, a remarkable “wave” of united prayer has “rolled out” over Africa and the globe.

The Global Day of Prayer has seen millions of Christians unite in a day of repentance and united prayer. On 27 May 2007, believers from 204 nations once again united all over the globe. The echoes of desperate prayers for transformation sounded from stadiums, open fields, community centres and to fill the nations with the glory of God.

On 11 May 2008, God is again calling the nations from the North, South, East and West to embark on this prayer journey with Him. God is moving in His awesome power and He is challenging us to be part of this journey. It is a journey that is not about us, but about a world in desperate need for His glory and compassionate love. It is a call to respond to His invitation to “humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways,” (2 Chronicles 7:14). May He hear our prayers, forgive our sin and heal our land.

I humbly invite you to join hundreds of millions of Christians as we seek God’s face, and trust that every one of the 220 nations of the globe will see willing believers stand in the gap for their nation.

May we see His glory.

Graham Power
Chairman: Global Day of Prayer

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Global Day of Prayer

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A Global Day of Prayer

All together...in many places

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” — Acts 2:1

A Call for Repentance and Prayer. At the turn of the millennium, many believers in Cape Town, South Africa, sensed God calling them to seek God in repentance and prayer and to call people across their country to assemble in united prayer for their cities and nation. People filled halls and stadiums of every size.

Soon gatherings like it—all meeting on the same day of the year—multiplied across Africa. Year by year, millions more sought God together from almost every stream or tradition of Christian faith in every country of the continent. African Christians issued the same call for repentance and prayer to believers around the world. The result was the first Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday in 2005, drawing an estimated 200 million people.

Across the face of the earth. In 2006 and again in 2007 on Pentecost Sunday, even greater numbers of Christians gathered in almost every country on earth. The movement continues to spread and to deepen,

packing large stadiums, filling homes with small groups, spilling out to the open squares of small villages, surging around the clock and uniting many churches in prayer for Christ's greater glory and the blessing of all nations. On 11 May 2008, Christians will again gather to pray and to repent with sincere hearts and united hopes.

Ten leading up to One followed by Ninety

We can find inspiration for the Global Day of Prayer in the three parts of the birth of the Church: ten days of constant prayer leading to Pentecost, one day of prayer witnessed by the whole city and days of blessing that followed. For these reasons, the Global Day of Prayer has three parts.

Ten days of constant prayer: 1-10 May 2008. On Ascension Day, May 1, millions of Christians will find ways to pray night and day throughout the ten days leading to Pentecost, following the pattern of Christ's followers before the first Pentecost.

The Global Day of Prayer: 11 May 2008. On Pentecost Sunday, Christians in almost every country will assemble to pray. Many will gather in small groups in homes. Many will assemble in large stadiums and other public venues. In some places, television, radio and Internet will help to connect and align our prayers even more.

Ninety days of blessing: 12 May to 9 August 2008. As in the first Pentecost, transformed Christians transform their communities as they offer themselves to God as instruments through which their prayers can be answered. The Global Day of Prayer anticipates the forming or furthering of local alliances among pastors, churches, missions and business leaders, to bring practical, transformational blessing to their communities.

Praying Great Things

For the Glory of Christ and the Blessing of the Nations

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

— Habakkuk 2:14

After Jesus was received into heaven, His first followers gathered in an upstairs room to do as Jesus had told them: to wait for "what the Father had promised." They were praying for more than personal spiritual enrichment. Receiving God's Spirit was just the beginning of all that God would do in order to finish everything He promised for the entire world.

Hope-filled passion for God's promises. As we listen to what poured out from these people in the days that followed Pentecost, we can get an idea of how they prayed during those ten days. They prayed in fervent, hope-filled passion for God to fulfil His promises all over the earth. Their prayers sprang from the written Word of God. Christ's teaching about God's kingdom had ignited their hope for the advance of Christ's love and power among all peoples.

Praying onward—toward greater things beyond Pentecost. As amazed as they were on Pentecost, the Acts account says they kept up patterns of persistent praying after Pentecost. If they were with us today, they would likely be praying for God to pour out His Spirit and to use His people in even greater ways.

Get ready to encounter God.

Answer God's call. The Global Day of Prayer is essentially a call from God to meet with Him along with many others so that He can change us and bring forth all He desires among the nations. If you are reading this, you have probably heard God calling you too. And He's put some hope in your heart, a kind of yearning that He's not going to leave things as they are, but instead, He's going to make us like Jesus. Despite the gloom of mounting evil, He's going to heal so many families, lands and peoples that the earth will be covered with the sparkle and laughter of glory, right in the face of darkness.

Seeking God from 2 Chronicles 7:14-16. In each of the ten days you'll find a way to pray from this familiar

passage. Pray it with all the sincerity that you have, as if you were answering a summons from God.

Repentance is a gift. Let’s ask our Lord to grant us times of turning from darkness so that we can walk in light as we never have before. Break out of your routines by fasting or connecting with others to pray with you.

It’s time. Let’s get ready to meet God

Ten Days of Constant Prayer

May 1 - 10

Pray globally. Gather locally. Start now.

1. Find creative ways to gather. Many are forming prayer chains to build bonfires of 24-hours-a-day prayer throughout the ten days. Others are finding ways to gather for an hour or two of focused prayer. Some are fasting. Others are scheduling conference telephone calls to pray with people far away. Look for how the Holy Spirit may be giving you fresh ways to call family and friends to pray.

2. Pray with different languages. This prayer guide is being translated into about fifty languages so that many millions of Christians the world over will be praying these prayers. See www.globaldayofprayer.com to find translations available in a number of other languages, including Spanish.

3. Children are praying! A special version of this prayer guide has been prepared for children. Find it at www.globaldayofprayer.com/children. It will help many families pray together. Find creative ways to help children lift their voices together.

4. Young adults will be praying around the clock. In our day, young people have been seeking God with an intensity that has rarely been seen in history. In many countries they’ll be rallying in non-stop prayer throughout the ten days. Young people have prepared a special rendition of this prayer guide designed to catalyze and concentrate the prayers of young people of any age. Find this companion version at www.globaldayofprayer.com/youth.

How to Use this Prayer Guide

1. Deepen your praying in scripture. Each day’s passage from the book of Acts provides solid ground to pray with clear hope. Explore more by checking the practical background notes for each day’s topic online at www.globaldayofprayer.com/tendayhelp.

2. Sharpen your praying by lifting specific concerns. You’ll find particular concerns listed which relate to the day’s topic. Sharpen your prayers for these weighty matters by learning more about how these things may be affecting your community. On a global scale, find out more at www.globaldayofprayer.com/tendayhelp.

3. Focus your praying with others. Of course you can pray on your own, but why not mobilize others to pray with you? Or use these prayer topics in existing prayer meetings. Find ideas about how to facilitate creative, dynamic prayer sessions following these topics at www.globaldayofprayer.com/tendayhelp.

DAY **ONE** Thursday May 1

Pursuing **THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST**

For the transforming power of Christ's kingdom

Concerning: *spiritual darkness, church divisions,
economic oppression*

- For the hearts of God's people to blaze with love and loyal obedience to Jesus as King and Lord of all.
- For the goodness and glory of Christ's kingly love to be experienced by many throughout whole cities.
- For Christ to bring believers to dwell in cities where breakthroughs of blessing have not yet occurred. Pray that they would patiently pursue the promised blessing of Christ's kingdom in difficult places.
- That the power of Christ's love will bring lasting transformation throughout entire communities.

"If My people..." — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prepare to encounter God as His people: Present yourself to God as His beloved servant, purchased by Christ's death. Answer His call to serve Him with others. Pray for many others to gather before Him as families, as churches, and as one people of all nations.

"...and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God..."

He commanded them...

to wait for what the

Father had promised."

— Acts 1:3-4 (NASB)

DAY **TWO** Friday May 2

Increasing in **UNITED PRAYER**

For sustained movements of united prayer

Concerning: *prayerlessness, occult practices, materialism*

- That God will unite us in prayer with "one mind," (Acts 1:14, 2:46, 4:24), empowering us to pray passionately together for Christ's glory in all the world.
- That God will hear and answer the prayers of the poor, the young and the marginalized and will be glorified by their praises.
- That God's Spirit would inspire and empower believers to pray specific blessings upon their neighbours and friends.
- That people throughout our communities will be moved to call out to God for His help as never before.

"...who are called by My name..." — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to live for His glory: Confess ways that we may have brought shame to our God. Renounce foolish jealousies and small ambitions. Yearn afresh for His glory to be great in our lands.

"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer..."

— Acts 1:14 (NASB)

DAY **THREE** Saturday **May 3**

Being filled with **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

For God to pour out His Spirit upon all

Concerning: *intellectual pride, demonic oppression, spiritual blindness, depression*

- For God to pour out His Spirit upon every person alive on the earth.
- For the Church to be filled afresh with God's Spirit, empowered as Christ's witnessing servants in the world.
- For the Spirit of God to reveal Jesus to those in spiritual darkness.
- That the Spirit of God will awaken the nations to hear His voice and to see His works (Acts 2:33).
- For many to be stirred by Spirit-given dreams to envision Jesus alive and at work in their lives.

"...will humble themselves..." — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to meet God in brokenness: Invite God to soften our hardened hearts. Admit your brokenness. Adore the excellence of Jesus with fresh awe and wonder. Practice humility by seeking for others to be honoured.

*"In the last days,
God says, 'I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.'"*
— Acts 2:17

DAY **FOUR** Sunday **May 4**

Turning to God in **REPENTANCE**

For many to turn from sin to new life in Christ

Concerning: *pornography, addictions, rebellion, immorality*

- For Christ to encounter people with His forgiving love, so that millions will turn from their sin to the joy of following Him.
- That the Word of the cross of Christ would break the grip of sin's power so that many will find hope for their sins to "be wiped out" (Acts 3:19).
- That God would bless His people by helping them be the first to turn "from their wicked ways" (Acts 3:26) so that massive movements of repentance will sweep through whole communities.
- That movements of repentance would bring "times of refreshing" (Acts 3:19) so that men, women and children will experience the presence of God.

"...and pray..." — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to pray beyond ourselves: Pour out your heart before God. Thank Him for what He has already done. Lift the burdens of others, allowing your heart to be moved to cry out for the tremendous needs of your community and country.

*"Repent, then, and turn
to God, so that your sins may be wiped out,
that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."*
— Acts 3:19

DAY **FIVE** Monday **May 5**

Pursuing **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

For relationships to be transformed

Concerning: *racism, poverty, violence, crime*

- That reconciliation among churches will remove divisions and hostilities, marking relationships among Christians with love, joy, unity and gladness of heart.
- For Christ to move so powerfully and clearly that His people, as well as the on looking world, are “filled with awe” (Acts 2:43).
- For God’s people to turn away from greed and worldly desires and become more generous than ever.
- For God to intervene in wars, restraining spiritual forces of evil, subduing terrorism and protecting the lives of those afflicted.
- For God to use Christians to help lift people from the oppression of extreme power

“...and seek My face...” — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to seek God’s face: Set the desires of your heart beyond your own needs. Come near to God in order to know Him and to be known by Him. Be still before Him.

Speak to Him confidently and listen carefully, as if face to face with Jesus.

“All the believers were together...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people...”

— Acts 2:44-47

DAY **SIX** Tuesday **May 6**

Empowering **THE COMING GENERATION**

For God’s purpose for families and children

Concerning: *broken homes, sexual perversion,
child exploitation, abortion*

- For Christ to strengthen marriages and homes.
- For young people to follow Christ early in life, serving Him with a lifetime of extreme devotion.
- That Christians would boldly show the love of God’s family to orphans, widows, the defenseless and the homeless.
- For Christians to extend God’s fatherly love to millions of children orphaned by wars and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- For God to empower the coming generation to fulfill His promises throughout the earth.

“...and turn from their wicked ways...” — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to repent: Seek more than mere wordy confessions. Instead, ask God to give you power to turn from any hint of evil and to abandon any hurtful way. Let God lift your heart with hope that He will bring lasting change throughout your community and relationships.

“For the promise is for you and your children...”

— Acts 2:39 (NASB)

DAY **SEVEN** Wednesday **May 7**

Resounding **THE CALL OF GOD**

For the nations to hear the voice of God

Concerning: *unreached peoples, idolatry, unbelief, illiteracy*

- For the Word of God to be proclaimed to people of every language, tribe and nation (Acts 1:8, 2:5).
- For all peoples to hear of the “mighty deeds of God” in the words of their own languages and the ways of their own cultures (Acts 2:11).
- For Christ to be followed in every people, especially among the thousands of unreached people groups who still lack vital, growing, multiplying churches.
- For the Bible to be translated for the thousands of people groups without even one verse in their language.
- That God would call many to Himself (Acts 2:39) who would call on Him to be saved (Acts 2:21).

“...then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin...” — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to confess: Open your life to Christ. Admit your sin before an open heaven. Confess your wrongdoing to those you may have harmed. Ask God to free you and others from the burden of sin’s guilt and the bondage of sin’s power.

“...and for all who are
far off, as many as the
Lord our God will call
to Himself.”

— Acts 2:39 (NASB)

DAY **EIGHT** Thursday **May 8**

Suffering with power for

THE GLORY OF JESUS

For the faithful courage of His people

Concerning: *persecution, injustice, terrorism*

- That those who face opposition because they serve Christ will respond with the gentle, courageous character of Jesus (Acts 4:13).
- For Christians who suffer for Christ’s name to be strong in joy and faith.
- For God to glorify Himself by His great deeds in places where He is rejected (Acts 4:21).
- For our leaders and governments to be blessed.
- That government leaders who oppose Christ (Acts 4:25-27) will be blessed with wisdom so as not to be found “fighting against God” (Acts 5:39).

“...and will heal their land...” — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Preparing to be transformed: Expect God to bring great changes throughout your community and country, some coming slowly and others suddenly. Renew your hope for the earth to be restored, sick societies lifted and relationships healed.

“...rejoicing because
they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”

— Acts 5:41

DAY **NINE** Friday May 9

Bringing **THE HEALING OF CHRIST**

For Christ to bring substantial healing

Concerning: *lack of health care, the AIDS epidemic, witchcraft, pollution*

- That communities will see the hand of Christ extended, bringing miraculous healing among the sick (Acts 5:14-16).
- That the name of Jesus will be declared with signs and wonders in the presence of many (Acts 3:16).
- For Christians to act with wisdom, compassion and persistence to eradicate diseases. For the end of HIV/AIDS in our generation.
- For Christians to engage in providing basic health care to the needy. Thousands of children worldwide die daily from preventable diseases.
- For God's people to work wisely, trusting God to work powerfully, in order to bring healing to the land.

"...Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive..." — 2 Chronicles 7:15

Preparing to meet God's gaze: Turn your heart toward God in expectancy. Allow your heart to be moved in awe that He will listen to your every word and gaze upon us all with life-giving love.

"Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your Holy Servant Jesus."

— Acts 4:30

DAY **TEN** Saturday May 10

Extending **THE BLESSING OF CHRIST**

For promised blessing among all peoples

Concerning: *hunger, warfare, gangs, corruption*

- For Christians to live in expectancy that the ancient promise of blessing would soon be fulfilled, bringing transformation to their communities and countries.
- For churches to work together as one family in Jesus' name, co-working with God to change lives, cities and nations.
- For the righteousness and justice of God to affect the ways of commerce and politics, cleansing whole societies from the curse of corruption.
- For the joy of Christ's kingdom to erupt in celebrations of grateful praise amidst every people group on earth.

"...I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that My Name may be there forever.

My eyes and My heart will always be there." — 2 Chronicles 7:16

Preparing to consecrate ourselves as His dwelling: Welcome His Spirit to fill you and your family and friends. Invite Christ to make His dwelling among His people, so that His heart will overflow our hearts with His magnificent love, in order to bring His glory to all the earth.

"He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'"

— Acts 3:25

The Global Day of Prayer

Pentecost Sunday, 11 May

Pray with your local church on Pentecost morning

Devote portions of your Pentecost Sunday morning service to united prayer.

Creative ideas abound to help everyone realise that on this day we are all praying with the world as we pray for the world. Among the proven ideas:

- Announce the fact that millions across the world are gathering to pray for the glory of Christ and the transformation of all nations.
- Read aloud the “Prayer for the World” as a congregation (pages 12-14).
- Share reports of how people have been praying during the ten days.
- Consider combining services with other nearby churches.

Gather in homes or assemble in public venues

On the afternoon and evening of Pentecost, all over the world, Christians from many diverse streams are planning to gather in their homes, or where appropriate, assemble in stadiums, public auditoriums and open squares. Some meetings will be small. Others will be large, but each one will be praying with the same vision of repentance and hope. As at the first Pentecost—when the blessing of Christ was manifest on the streets and open public settings—we’ll worship God openly in the name of Christ and pray for the healing and blessing of the nations. As much as possible, we are seeking to gather in places beyond the walls of our church buildings.

- Help organize a gathering in your city. Confer with your pastor and other trusted local leaders. Find simple and tested helps to organize any size gathering at www.globaldayofprayer.com.
- Not all gatherings will be large. Many are uniting in small groups in homes or public settings in their communities. If large gatherings aren’t planned, why not host a prayer gathering in your home?

Pray with one voice: A Prayer for the World

The following prayer was prepared by members of the International Prayer Council. It has been translated into many languages, many of them available at www.globaldayofprayer.com.

The prayer will be read in unison at every Global Day of Prayer gathering.

A Prayer for the World

“They lifted their voices to God with one accord...” –Acts 4:24

Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Together with believers all over the world,
 We gather today to glorify Your Name.
 You are the Creator of heaven and earth.
 There is no one like You, holy and righteous in all Your ways.
 We submit to Your authority as the King of the universe.
 We pray with one voice to enthrone You in our hearts
 and to honour You before the world.

Congregation: **Lord God, You alone are worthy of our praise and adoration.**

Our Father in heaven,

Thank You for loving the world so greatly.
 You gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ,
 to die on the cross for our sins
 so that we could be reconciled to You.
 We are grateful to call You Father and to be called Your children.
 Nothing can separate us from Your love.

Congregation: **Thank You Father, for adopting us into Your family because of Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

You alone are worthy to open the scrolls of history,
 for You were slain and have redeemed us to the Father by Your blood.
 We confess that You are Head of the Church
 and Lord of all heaven and earth.
 May people from every tribe and language become Your followers
 so that Your blessing brings transformation among all peoples.
 Let Your kingdom be established in every nation of the world
 so that governments will rule with righteousness and justice.
 And may Your Name be great, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Congregation: **Jesus Christ, You are the Saviour of the world and the Lord of all.**

Father of mercy and grace,

We acknowledge that we have sinned
 and that our world is gripped by the power of sin.
 Our hearts are grieved by injustice, hatred and violence.
 We are shamed by oppression, racism and bloodshed in our land.
 We mourn all loss of life in murder, war and terrorism.
 Our homes are broken and our churches are divided by rebellion and pride.
 Our lives are polluted by selfishness, greed, idolatry and sexual sin.
 We have grieved Your heart and brought shame to Your Name.
 Have mercy on us as we repent with all our hearts.

Congregation: **God of mercy, forgive our sins.
 Pour out Your grace and heal our land.**

Spirit of the living God,

Apart from You, we can do nothing.
 Transform Your Church into the image of Jesus Christ.
 Release Your power to bring healing to the sick,
 freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn.
 Pour Your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion
 to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry
 and to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in Your care.
 Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we face today.
 Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all.

Congregation: **Holy Spirit, we need Your comfort and guidance. Transform our hearts.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

Because You were dead, but are now risen,
 and the Father has given You a Name above all names,
 You will defeat all powers of evil.
 Tear down strongholds and ideologies that resist the knowledge of God.
 Remove the veil of darkness that covers the peoples.
 Restrain the evil that promotes violence and death.
 Bring deliverance from demonic oppression.
 Break the hold of slavery, tyranny and disease.
 Fill us with courage to preach Your word fearlessly,
 and to intercede for the lost faithfully.

Congregation: **Almighty God, deliver us from evil.**

King of Glory,

Come and finish Your work in our cities, our peoples and our nations.
 We lift our voices in unison with believers from Africa and Asia,
 from the Middle East and Europe, from North and South America,
 and from Australia and the Pacific Islands—together we cry:

Congregation: **Lift up your heads, O you gates!
 Be lifted up ancient doors so that the King of glory may come in!**

As Your deeds increase throughout the earth,
 and as Your blessings abound to all the nations,
 they will seek You, asking, “Who is this King of glory?”
 Together we will answer:

Congregation: **He is the Lord Almighty!
 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Come fill the earth with Your glory as the waters cover the sea.
 The Spirit and the Bride say:

Congregation: **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

Ninety Days of Blessing

12 May to 9 August

Becoming the Blessing of Christ

The Global Day of Prayer can become a catalytic moment. Those who pray together can become those who serve together, bringing practical, transformational blessing to their communities. To help you dream and plan about how you might become part of the answer to your prayers, check out the “90 Days of Blessing” at www.globaldayofprayer.com.

Keep on praying!

Three excellent resources are available at www.globaldayofprayer.com to help you keep growing and uniting in prayer during the ninety days (or before!):

- **The 90-Day Prayer Guide.** A daily guide to pray toward transformational blessing.
- **Seek His Face.** Learn to devote yourself to God daily with an hour of prayer.
- **24/7 Prayer Watch.** Many are launching 24/7 prayer in many styles and ways.

A Global Day of Prayer is planned each year until 2010

Watch www.globaldayofprayer.com for announcements about the Global Day of Prayer events planned on Pentecost Sunday, **31 May 2009** and **23 May 2010**.