



GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER NEWSLETTER

24/2011

We would like to use this opportunity to wish you a Spirit-filled season of celebrating Immanuel, God with us.

It is with much amazement and gratitude that we see how the Lord has blessed this movement. Working alongside many other great prayer movements and organizations we hope to see an even greater awakening of the Watchmen in the years to come. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Looking forward in 2012

GLOBAL YEAR OF UNITED PRAYER FOR MOZAMBIQUE www.prayformozambique.com

A YEAR OF NON STOP PRAYER FOR SOUTH AFRICA
<http://www.alphasa.co.za/weeks.php>

55 WEEKS OF PRAYER FOR AFRICA
www.worldwidecpm.org

.....and much more.

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with Power and great Glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
Luke 21:25;27;28

Looking Back – 10 Significant Events That Changed the Christian World in 2011

Source : INcontext Ministries (A World in Motion) www.incontext.webs.com

1. BIRTH OF A REVOLUTION

On 17 December 2010, Mohammad Boazizi, a vegetable vendor on the streets of Tunisia, provided the necessary spark for a situation to explode. While burning to death as he set himself alight, the flame of revolution swept across the Arab World,

and within a couple of weeks 14 of the 23 nations within the Arab World were engulfed in riots. The Arab World, North Africa and the world will never be the same again.

From a Christian perspective, there are two possible scenarios for Christianity in the Arab World. On the one hand, secular journalists are predicting that the Church in the Arab World is on the verge of disappearing. As extremists take hold of post revolution countries like Libya and Egypt, which have a significant number of Christians, they believe Christianity will collapse as thousands are fleeing the Arab World in the face of persecution. On the other hand, Christian journalists are speculating about the end of Islam in the region. The most identifiable characteristic of the Arab Spring is the fact that Muslims stood up against their leaders and their governments. Islam is a religion of submission and Arab leaders stayed in power for decades simply because of the fact that within Islam, questioning authority is strictly prohibited. Muslims are now questioning their way of life, and will perhaps soon question their religion.

Please continue to pray for our Brothers and Sisters in the Arab World as they face an increase in persecution and for them to use this opportunity to spread the Gospel amongst their Muslim brothers who are open for the Gospel of Peace and Love at the moment.

2. CHINA TO THE WORLD

On 13 March 2011, the 'Dragonfly' got 'Eagle's Wings'. Chinese leaders in China signed agreements with Mission leaders in the Gulf region to accept, mentor and disciple missionaries sent from China. This was indeed a small, private and secret event, but the consequences of China now maturing into a sending nation of note has the potential to change the Muslim World.

From a Christian perspective, this historic event once again pointed to an omnipotent and all-wise God. The Chinese Church has been persecuted for generations and is now utilising the lessons learnt as lessons to be lived in other persecuted countries. Chinese Christians have been trained through past persecution for future persecution. They know no other Christianity. Other than with Western missionaries, Chinese missionaries come with no cultural baggage as most of the countries bordering China have good relations with them. In the words of Johny Li: "The son has grown up". The success of the *China to the World* movement will depend on the "father" who allows the "son" to give his life once again.

Please pray for the Chinese missionaries who will be sent to many parts of the world for courage, obedience and faithfulness.

3. BHUTAN

18 May 2011. The Church in Bhutan has been given the option to register their churches and members or to stay unregistered and have their church meetings in secret. Even though this might seem like a positive move, the effects of such a registration could result in more persecution and hardship.

From a Christian perspective, Bhutan is both a gateway to the Buddhist World as well as to the 'unreached' world. Bhutan is a small Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas, between the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and India. Bhutan has a small but growing Christian population that often faces political as well as cultural and religious persecution. Bhutan is the last remaining Buddhist kingdom in Asia and is certainly the stronghold of Buddhism. As one of the world's most closed countries to the Gospel, Bhutan has seen miraculous growth in Christianity, with second-generation Christians in some areas. To be a Bhutanese is to be Buddhist - it is your identity. If you register as a Christian then you are no longer a Buddhist, and in effect you can no longer be a Bhutanese. Christians who are arrested are beaten and imprisoned and their identity book is taken away. The Church in Bhutan has a decision to make, one that will influence the Church in a dramatic way.

Please keep Bhutanese Believers in your prayers as they continue to disciple and train new Christians. Pray for resources for them to be able to facilitate Bible Schools, mission outreaches etc.

4. BIRTH OF A NEW NATION

On 9 July 2011 a new African nation was born when North and South Sudan separated, creating a clear divide between persecution and freedom. With rebel wars and religious persecution plaguing the citizens of both the North and South for more than 50 years, the proposed separation was seen as a road leading to peace. However, recent attacks by the North on the South confirmed that the separation of North and South comes as a clear divide between Islam and Christianity. In a country that has suffered countless wars, the divide is nothing more than a straight line on a piece of paper. With oil deposits in the South, but the pipelines running through the North, a separate independent future between North and South Sudan is one filled with ignorance. The truth about a crumbling economy makes the South a soft target for rebel forces from the North to take advantage.

From a Christian perspective, many Christians living in North Sudan are now moving to the South. Those who choose to stay behind in the North will pay the ultimate price.

Please pray for Christians who need to be equipped, encouraged and strengthened. For the Church to maintain her witness, she needs to be encouraged to remain faithful as peacemakers and witnesses of Christ's love. Pray for Christians in the North who are still under constant attack from Muslim Northerners.

5. LONDON RIOTS

On 6 August 2011, London youth started riots, looting and burning shops as they protested unemployment in the United Kingdom. Five people were killed during the riots and 2 500 shops were looted in Birmingham, Bristol and Liverpool, with fires being set in Clapham, Croydon, Enfield and Peckham. 53% of the looters were under the age of 30.

From a Christian perspective, we are witnessing a generation caught up in a morally collapsed society. There were two common denominators that linked the riots in North Africa and Britain. The first is the fact that the unrests in both regions were sparked by the deaths of young people due to the apparent acts of injustice. The riots in North Africa started with Mohammed Boazizi who set himself alight. The riots in Britain started when Mark Duggan was shot by London's Scotland Yard. Britain was caught by surprise as youth took to the streets for one of the worst riots in decades. The second common denominator is the use of social media. In 14 Arab nations, literally millions of young people were mobilised within hours of Boazizi's death through Facebook. In Britain, thousands of young people were drawn together by making use of Blackberry.

The deaths of Boazizi and Duggan were, however, not the reasons for the riots. They simply provided the sparks in an already explosive situation. The riots revealed one of the single greatest challenges within the Church in today's modern society – a "lost generation". Another noteworthy trend in the British society is the fact that the UK was listed by the Pew Foundation as one of eight countries which saw a substantial increase in restrictions on religious practices. Even though this did not have a direct influence on the riots, it has to be understood that wherever faith disappears, justice disappears. The riots in both the North of Africa and the South of the United Kingdom are clearly outcries for justice.

Pray for the emerging generation to seek and find truth in Jesus Christ. Pray that Social Media will be used in positive ways.

6. COPTIC MASSACRE

On 10 October 2011, during a peaceful demonstration in Cairo, 27 Coptic Christians were killed and more than 300 injured. Estimates show that Coptic Christians have been persecuted more since the start of the revolution than in all the years during the Mubarak rule. With more than 100 000 Christians fleeing the country, the fate of the Church stands in the balance.

From a Christian perspective, the attacks on Christians have changed from private, isolated incidents to uniformed military attacks. They have changed from sporadic attacks to organised attacks. With an estimated 250 000 Christians having left Egypt by the end of the year, the effect on the Christian witness could be devastating. At the same time, however, this could mean the relocation of the Church in the Arab World, if we understand the effects of persecution according to Acts Chapter 8. Unfortunately, most Arab Christians are fleeing to Europe and America.

Please pray for Christians in Egypt who are facing this persecution but also that those who leave the country remain strong witnesses of their love for the Lord.

7. DEATH OF A TYRANT

On 20 October 2011, Libyan rebel soldiers captured and killed former Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi. In many ways, the death of the Arab Spring coincided with the death of Muammar Gaddafi. However, Syrian leader Assad, in his refusal to step down, keeps the flame of revolution burning.

From a Christian perspective, the greatest disappointment with the death of Gaddafi was the response from Western and Christian leaders in the West. Arab culture is ruled by honour and shame and what the Libyan rebel forces did was not an act of justice, but an act of dishonoring the leader to the point of death. The same can be seen in Egypt with the ongoing trials of Hosni

Mubarak, who is seen in a cage, captured like an animal. For Christians living in Libya, the evil under Gaddafi whom they knew, in the light of extremists taking over the country, seems better than the evil they do not know.

Pray for Believers to show a Spirit of forgiveness and compassion even though they suffered under a dictator's rule.

8. SEVEN BILLION REASONS

On 31 October 2011, the world population officially reached the 7 billion mark. The challenge in the world, however, is not the increase of people, but the **explosive** increase of people.

From a Christian perspective, the world population has increased by roughly 4.5 billion people in the last 60 years alone. During the same period however, the Church has grown with less than 1 billion new souls and 76% of this growth came from the developing world (The Atlas of Global Christianity). It is clear that the imbalance between population growth and Church growth is widening exponentially, and the Church will need an accelerated approach to missions. In this modern era, **6 645** people groups are still considered 'least reached', constituting **40.6%** of all people on earth.

Please pray that Mission organizations/ministries will be provided with enough resources to show renewed effort to reach the unreached. Let us all pray for the Holy Spirit to work in Divine ways in order for more people to be reached.

9. MOHATTAM GATHERING

On 11 November 2011, more than 70 000 Christians in Egypt joined together in an unprecedented all night prayer meeting in Mohattam, Cairo. This historic event took place in the midst of renewed demonstrations and Coptic Christians facing increasing persecution from resurgent and previously banned Islamic groups like the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafists movement.

From a Christian perspective, this event is probably one of the most significant events on the “spiritual” calendar of 2011. The gathering proclaimed three spiritual components needed for the Church to influence society.

1. **UNITY** – Coptic and Evangelical Christians gathered together for the first time in many years. A previously divided Christian society is moving together as they confess, in unity, their need for a Godly intervention.
2. **BROKENNESS** – AW Tozier once said that it is doubtful whether God can greatly bless a man until He has hurt him deeply. We need to approach the seat of Grace from a position of brokenness to fully understand the work of Christ in our lives, as individuals or as a nation. Egypt is at this place and when 70 000 Christians call out in brokenness, God is sure to respond.
3. **BOLDNESS** – This was probably one of the boldest declarations of the Gospel of Christ in a Muslim nation that has been witnessed for a long time. To pray specifically for Egypt, go to: <http://incontext.webs.com/prayforegypt.htm>

Pray that this gathering will set an example to other Christians around the world and serve as a testimony to the Power of Prayer

10. YUCEF NADARKHANI

The story of a man accused of apostasy and sentenced to death in Iran has caught the attention of the world. Youcef Nadarkhani, a Christian pastor from Iran, was arrested in 2009 and given the death sentence. His case is now with Iran’s Supreme Leader, Khomeini.

From a Christian perspective, Youcef has become the face of persecution in Iran, just like Asia Bibi has become the face of persecution in Pakistan. Youcef Nadarkhani has made persecution real to many western people who live in free countries. He has made persecution personal and in a very real way placed the plight of the persecuted Church on the agenda of Christians in the western world. Please go to our website to read more about this hero of faith.

www.incontext.webs.com/youcefnadarkhani.htm

Please pray for brother Youcef, Asia Bibi and many, many other Believers who are incarcerated and tortured for not denying their faith.

For more information go to www.Be-A-Voice.net