

# IMPACT AFRICA



LAYING A FIRM FOUNDATION OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE CONTINENT

Impact: *im-'pakt, verb,; Latin impactus, to have a direct effect or impact on*

May 2008

Dear friends,

I am pretty orthodox in my thoughts and practices about prayer...and then, not! I've come to believe that we sometimes settle for only a small portion of the power, purposes and processes of prayer. It is easy to restrict ourselves to the form and familiarity of how we do prayer in our own circles.

I recall an experience in Africa some years ago. Deborah and I were striving to reach an area with very little exposure to Christian teaching and Christian "ways." We found ourselves, basically teaching a group of children how to go through the familiar forms of Christian worship, trying to plant a fledgling church where we lived.

I found myself on one occasion telling the large group of children and teens in front of me that we were going to pray. So, I bowed my head, closed my eyes and unconsciously folded my arms across my chest. As we were praying, I decided it would be worthwhile to sneak a peak, and see how this crowd was responding to their first-ever experience of congregational prayer. To my amazement, they were all standing there with their heads bowed, their eyes closed....and their arms folded, identical to mine, across their chests! Of course! They were from Muslim homes and communities. They knew very well the ritual postures and procedures of Muslim praying. Now they were discovering the variances in the "Christian" way. Folding of the arms must be significant if "Modibo" (meaning "spiritual teacher") does it when he prays.

I think, looking back, that the Lord used that moment as an epiphanic moment of sudden awareness that prayer can be nothing more than assuming the posture and performing the motions. That must not be! The Lord has brought that experience to my mind many times since, spurring me to probe my own understanding of the reality beneath the formalities of prayer.

Luke 11:1 records this important comment...

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

Note the request is not "teach us how to pray" but just "teach us to pray." Considering the fact that "...He always lives to intercede..." who better to ask, "Lord teach us to pray." I have a deep hunger to plumb the deeper depths of communion with the Lord. I am sure that many of you do as well.

Your brother,

Don Tucker

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## PIVOTAL PRAYER POINTS ... THOSE IN AUTHORITY

We continue our series of prayer opportunities focused on those in authority - the political leaders across Africa. This is in conformity and obedience to Scripture.

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness*

(I Timothy 2:1-2, NIV).

Directly or indirectly, these leaders have a powerful impact upon our work, both positive, and at times, negative. A number will be listed each month. Political leadership sometimes changes quickly. However, we will strive for the highest accuracy possible.

**MALI** Head of State: Amadou Toumani Toure

**MAURITANIA** Head of State: Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdellahi

**MAURITIUS** Head of State: Sir Anerood Jugnauth

**MOZAMBIQUE** Head of State: Armando Guebuza

**Pray** that every political leader can receive an adequate witness of new life through Jesus Christ.

**Pray** that every leader will protect and actively enforce religious freedom in each country.

**Pray** that each leader will be favorably disposed to the Church's free pursuit of Kingdom work, and will facilitate that through his/her governance.

## Pray For

### National Church Leaders...

**Rev. Mitre Djakouti**

General Superintendent of the **Togo** Assemblies of God

**Rev. Julius Ebwongu**

General Superintendent of the **Uganda** Assemblies of God

**Rev. Harrison Sakala**

General Superintendent of the **Zambia** Pentecostal Assemblies of God

**Rev. Sandikosi Kachikopa**

General Superintendent of the **Zimbabwe** Assemblies of God

**Rev. Fernando Panzo**

General Superintendent of the **Angola** Assemblies of God

**May 2008**

A Ministry of Assemblies of God World Missions – Africa

## Pray For These Needs...

As we pray for the political leaders of Africa, it is also important that we pray for church leaders. They will be listed to the right each month for your prayer attention.

**Praise!** We are pleased to report that **Rev. Reuben Nongoyo**, our general superintendent in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo was able to have successful surgery on his right leg which was broken four months ago in a motorbike accident. He is progressing nicely and doing much better. He expresses gratitude for all who prayed for him during this time.

**Pray** for the restoration of religious liberty to all people in **Eritrea**, and for the release of those being confined because of their faith.

**Pray** for Zimbabwe in the current elections crisis, that clarity can be given, that fairness and honesty can prevail, and that the country can be delivered from its current state of crisis. Pray that the Lord will use the churches there, and church leaders such as **Rev. Sandikosi Kachikopa**, (named to the right for this month's leadership prayer focus) as a positive force for good in these troubled times.

**Pray** for **Joseph K. Wumbee**, director of AG Care, as he leads our continental focus on humanitarian assistance in a period when such difficulties abound across the continent. Pray that the Lord will grant him favor as he strives to see open doors for a compassionate witness of the gospel throughout Africa.

**Pray** for a special project in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the city of **Goma**. We are launching a major building project of a new Bible school campus in this city. A large team of construction volunteers are scheduled to go there to work in mid-July. Before that can happen, all of the necessary building permits, site plans, etc. must be formalized, along with arrangements with the local authorities. This is all underway at this time. Please pray earnestly that God will grant wisdom on how to proceed through each step, favor in every government office and with every official, and the completion of all of these necessary issues so as to avoid delaying the project any further. The facility is greatly needed at this time in that troubled land.

*Good morning, Lord! What are You up to today?  
Can I be a part of it? Thank You.*

*Amen.*

*Norman Grubb, missionary/author 1895-1993*