

December 2007 Prayer

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the Nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations. Ps. 22:27-28

For the past few weeks it has been in my heart and mind that because we celebrate Christmas during the month of December, our praying this month should connect with this. So as I have thought and prayed about this myself, I would like to mention the following Scriptures as basis for our December intercessions.

In Isaiah 9... a chapter read often to declare the promise of His coming to earth, we read familiar verses: (We have selected verses...but may I suggest that you read all of the chapters mentioned here.)

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice in the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

(How?) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

And in Luke 2...one of the favorite accounts of His birth, as promised, is recorded for us:

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy that will be for ALL THE PEOPLE. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Christians throughout the world read these Scriptures with a sense of awesome gratitude and praise. We know that while Isaiah 9 depicts world involvement, these verses also describe what God does in us when Jesus enters into our lives. While many people “provide no room at the inn”...those who know the identity of this One, invites Him into their hearts, not as a child, but as Lord and King of our lives...we yield to His “dominion” and then we experience freedom and peace and all the things the human heart longs for. But God not only came for those of us who have received Him....He is God of the whole earth. Notice the breadth of this truth in Isaiah 9....how can the government of the universe be on His shoulders? He is Creator and life giver and holds the world in His hands.

My prayers should be for all those around me who do not recognize the Saviour...my family, friends, co workers, neighbors, my country’s peoples...but beyond that..the whole world. Jesus was born to save the world...He came to save the world. He died to save the world...and while his enemy and ours, the devil, has set up religions and systems and fanned the inner flame of every person to want to be his own god and to believe he needs no other...Jesus Christ is still Lord and King...and He longs for all men everywhere to be saved, to live lives of purpose and peace and purity and to be lights in the darkness of this planet and the hearts of people everywhere. Remember that Jesus said that no man could come to Him unless His Father draws him...we need to ask God for His drawing power.

In your packet, you received a list of the countries of the world. May I suggest that our focus on prayer this month be upon these countries, these nations...described as “in darkness”...because the light of the world is Jesus and He is not welcome in their governments....but our prayers will come against the strongholds and establishments of powerful governments against Him...and in many countries there are isolated believers.. to whom God has made Himself known, whose hearts are searching for Him although they may not recognize truth...we can pray that God will remove the enemy’s strongholds. May I suggest that we take the list, divide it up so we pray for some of these countries everyday...and on our special monthly prayer day...we give ourselves to many prayers for the release of the grip Satan has on the nations of this world, and for the penetration of light in the darkness, for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to reign in the hearts and minds of men, women, and children. . How can we pray in a practical sense?

1. For the country by name
2. For God’s work in the heart and mind of every person
3. For any missionaries who might be working in that country
4. For any church group, large or small, for pastors and teachers
5. For the opportunities of Christians living there to share their love and their Lord
6. For God to raise up more intercessors who will give Him no peace until the Gospel comes into that nation.
7. For the suffering people...so many suffering in refugee camps and political prisons. The poor and hungry and helpless people...as Jesus remarked, “like sheep without a Shepherd”....
8. The Holy Spirit will lead our prayers, and He will pray with us beyond our capabilities
9. For the persecuted church of many nations on the earth

Always keep in mind, that this world belongs to God...both by Creation, and by redemption at the Cross of Christ, where Jesus led captivity captive and finished the work His Father gave Him to do...We join Him in His intercessions at the Throne of God.