

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

The Season of Lent: The Lowliness of Christ
2.22.12 - 4.7.12



The Way of the Cross

Mark 8.31-38 • Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis

The Wondrous Cross

Don L. Davis

Before the form of Christ I stand
The Crucified, God's perfect Lamb
For the world's sin, oh, what a cost
Is paid upon the wondrous cross.

Here captives come, to be set free
Blood silences the enemy
All's been restored, which once was lost
The foe destroyed on wondrous cross.

The Father turns his face away
And shadows grow at height of day
Mercies so wide like suns across
Revealed upon the wondrous cross.

Prince lifted high on torture pole
The look of life heals and makes whole
Make this your aim—to suffer loss,
Dying to live on wondrous cross.

Lord, give us eyes to gaze and see
The form of Love on yonder Tree
Let lesser visions become as dross
As we behold the wondrous cross.

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Pray for:

**Gateway Cities of
the 10/40 Window**
... see page 4

**Inner Cities
of America**
... see page 7

**World Impact's
Ministries**
... see page 8

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Take Up Your Cross, Follow the Humble King!

Greetings, mighty prayer warriors of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Immediately after Peter recognized Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ of God, Jesus began to foretell the awful truth of his rejection and suffering at the hand of the elders, chief priests, and scribes. He would be mistreated, flogged, and suffer, and, in the end, be crucified and killed. However, he promised that he would rise from the dead on the third day. On hearing this, Peter rebuked the Lord, rejecting this prophecy of our Lord's suffering and death. Jesus rebuked Peter's renunciation of his message, and told his disciples that if anyone would come after him, let that one deny himself or herself, take up their cross, and follow him. We lose everything if we lose our own soul, and we can give nothing in exchange for our souls. If we deny him and are ashamed of him and his words, he promised he would do the same of us when he returned in the Father's glory with his holy angels.

As we pray for the protection and transformation of our families, ministries, churches, and communities, let us remember our Lord's call for discipleship. Our Lord's teaching assures us that there can be no true glory in God without a readiness and willingness to obey and to suffer, even to the point of death (Phil. 2.5-11). There can be no crown without the cross, no fruit without the seed dying, and no discipleship without self-abnegation and yielding to our Lord. To belong to Christ is to become more and more like him, both in his death and in his resurrection.

During this season of our Let God Arise! reflection and intercession let us embrace the lowliness of Jesus of Nazareth. May all of our prayers be touched with the lowliness and willingness of our Lord to go to the Cross for his own. With our whole hearts, let us freely yield to the Holy Spirit as broken vessels, available to follow our Lord wherever he would lead us. If we do so, not only will our Great Savior attend to our cries for help, but he



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will also transform us into his image. We will become pilgrims together with our Lord – journeying as one on the way of the Cross.

A fellow pilgrim on the Way,

~ Dr. Don L. Davis



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Global Strategic Vision

Pray fervently and in faith for the following *Gateway Cities in the 10/40 Window*. Ask the Lord of the harvest to multiply the laborers in these difficult fields, to bring explicit unity and harmony among believers within them, and to demonstrate with power the truth of the Word through signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit.

- Northern Africa: *Bissau* and *Ouagadougou*
- Middle East: *Abu Dhabi* and *Izmir*
- Central Asia: *Labore* and *Columbo*
- Eastern Asia: *Bangkok* and *Dhaka*

Pray fervently for these great cities, supplicating on their behalf before the Lord, asking him to pour out his own dear Holy Spirit upon them, *that the Gospel of Christ might find new openings and opportunities for display and declaration in each of these influential Gateway cities*. Let us entreat the Lord on their behalf, asking for laborers, for miracles, for manifestations, for new and aggressive outreaches within each of these key cities, believing God for his intervention.

- Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit within *Bissau* and *Ouagadougou*. In *Bissau*, pray that past animistic practices will be renounced by believers, for the believers' confidence in witnessing to Muslims, for financial provision for the believers, for more workers and pastors, and for outreach to the townships on the city's outskirts and the migrating young people seeking education and employment to find the Gospel instead of materialism, disillusionment, and atheism. Pray fervently against the growing influence of new religious cults such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahais, Moonies, New Apostolics. In *Ouagadougou* pray that the power of idolatry, fetishism, and secret societies will be broken, that the church will be a healing agent in the midst of social upheavals, for a greater



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ministry to students at Ouagadougou University, for Scripture on audio tape because of the high illiteracy rate, and continued growth in the church with leaders to train and disciple new converts.

- Pray for *Abu Dhabi* and *Izmir*, these great Middle Eastern cities. Pray for *Abu Dhabi*, for freedom of religion for its citizens, for expatriate believers to witness to their Arab co-workers, and for the establishment of an indigenous Arab church and leaders raised up in it. Pray for a demonstration of Christ's love through Christian medical agencies to be seen, for fruitfulness in evangelization through videos, radio broadcasts, and literature. Pray against the entrenched greed, materialism, and immorality in this city, for the students at the two universities in *Izmir* to come to Christ and reach fellow students, for more Turkish Christian fellowships to develop, with faithful elders willing to endure persecution to lead them. Pray too for the church to be a safe meeting place where the Gospel is clearly explained to seekers, and for revival to spread throughout Turkey.
- Pray for *Lahore* and *Columbo*, for those who practice folk Islam in *Lahore* to hear the good news of Jesus, for protection of new believers undergoing persecution, and for the church to be unified and harmonious with strong leaders. Ask God to intervene with the provincial assembly of Lahore, that there would be God-fearing representatives making godly decisions for the welfare of the country, and that the Christian organizations headquartered in this city would be effective. Pray for *Columbo*, for an increase in the standard of living so parents can support their children, that working children will not be exploited, for protection and strength for believers caught in political crossfire between the Buddhist Sinhala and Hindu Tamil. Pray this month for a renewed sense of calling in the national church that will lead to increased evangelism and discipleship, and pray that opposition and persecution would



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not hinder the ongoing witness among the Buddhists and Hindu communities. Pray fervently for unity and cooperation among evangelicals.

- Pray for *Bangkok* and *Dhaka*, for these influential great Eastern Asian cities. Pray that the Gospel of Christ would come to *Bangkok* and that street children be reached, that child slavery would come to an end, that prostitution rings would be closed down, and that the epidemic of AIDS would be stopped. Pray that gifted biblical teachers would be able to counter the influence of other religions and cults as well as stop the lure of materialism that is infecting the church. Pray that *Dhaka's* restrictive laws against Christians will be modified, that extremist Muslim groups will not prevail, for an increased response to the Gospel from Muslims and those that respond will have the strength to persevere and withstand persecution, that healthy, strong churches would be planted among ethnic groups, that Christian media would continue to reap a harvest and that the demand can be met, that the Prince of Peace might be known on campus where there is much student gang warfare.



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National Strategic Window

Intercede on behalf of eight of the inner cities of America, (*Denver, CO; Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA; Orlando, FL; Nassau-Suffolk, NY; Buffalo-Niagra Falls, NY; Columbus, OH; Indianapolis, IN; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Oklahoma City, OK*) that the Holy Spirit might ignite fresh movements of vital spirituality and missions outreach in these cities.

- Pray for *revival among God's people who live in these cities*, that *God would be God in each of them*, that pastors and Christians within them will feel again the urgency and power of the Holy Spirit to win the lost around them, and feel the burden of being custodians of God's true Word.
- Pray that God would pour out his power and grace upon the *believers in these cities in such a way that new and fresh testimonies of the truth in Jesus* would be given in neighborhoods that rarely if ever hear of the victorious reign of God in Jesus, and his offer to cleanse the repentant through his shed blood.
- Above all this season, pray for *an outpouring and visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the churches in these cities, especially upon those who minister the Good News of Christ among the least evangelized in these communities*. Pray that God would grant the churches in these cities deep grace to see what is at stake in the telling of the Good News, and that all believers in them would sense the need to share the powerful riches of the truth of God within their particular circles of influence. Pray for a new awareness of God's mandate to make disciples in these cities, and for fresh, vigorous efforts to plant churches among the poor in these cities.



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Regional, Local, and Inter-Ministry Strategic Focus

Let us claim together the power of the Word of God on each ministry area listed below, trusting the Holy Spirit to manifest his wisdom and presence within each area, filling the members who serve within them, and empowering a new generation of believers through them to spark fresh revival and a new awakening among the unreached urban poor within Wichita, and throughout our entire geographic region.

Wichita

Our Wichita theme this year is “Come, Follow Me”. We will be looking closely at Mark’s account of the life of Christ and how we can follow closely in the Savior’s footsteps (Mark 8:31-38). Please pray with us in the following areas:

- Wichita fundraising in 2012. We praise God for an awesome Francis Chan event that really helped us a lot with our fundraising. Please pray with us that God would increase our staff support to get everyone to 100% as well as increased giving to Wichita general. We never want money to be the focus of our ministry, but we want to be good stewards of what God has given us as we aggressively advance our mission of planting churches in the city.
- Wichita church planting in 2012. God is multiplying CTV! We recently commissioned our 2nd Spanish-speaking church plant and have a couple other "potentials"! Our CTV English church moved to a building right beside our thrift store so we hope to see our un-churched customers come to church! We are also encouraged to see our sister churches in the Wichita Urban Church Association (Restored Community Church and Lighthouse Community Church) looking to reproduce themselves as a multiplying movement! God is at work!

Planted Churches in Wichita

Please pray for our church plants, for their growth and impact on their respective communities, for the glory of God.



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- Lighthouse Community Church in Oaklawn - Please pray as they do outreach in a new area on Broadway. They have had 3 people from this area give their lives to Christ and feel there is potential for some Bible studies to start there.
- La Iglesia Cristiana Vida En Cristo Jesús in Planeview
- Living Hope Church
- Christ the Victor

TUMI

Satellites, Hope School, and Growth

- Praise God with us for the continuous, steady growth of the number of TUMI satellites in America and across the world (99 satellites, with 9 satellites in 11 countries), and more than 900 students being equipped for ministry and mission through them.
- Pray for the entire TUMI satellite network, all the site coordinators, mentors, and students, applications in process, and new sites recently accepted into our family. Pray for their vision, commitment, resourcefulness, and protection as they lead their students into the Word of God more fully.
- Pray for our local Hope School of Ministry classes, the many new students being trained, and for new adjunct faculty we'd like to integrate in our system. Pray that the students persevere and excel in their studies as they seek to fulfill the call of ministry on their lives.
- Pray for Ron Phelps and Ryan Carter, their contribution to our enterprise and their participation in various TUMI projects for teaching and research.
- Pray for local churches in Wichita considering establishing their own TUMI satellites.
- Pray for new volunteer and support staff here at National, and their efficient and helpful transition into our work flow, and their contribution to our projects and work.



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New Initiatives and Potential Partners

- Pray for the Prison Fellowship expansion, especially God's will for the final development of our storage and inventory systems. Pray for Cathy Allsman's role as Prison Administrator, for the PF administrators rolling out the expansion, and for the leaders of both World Impact and PF as they sketch out the specific steps of the California prison outreach commencing in June 2012.
- Pray for TUMI's relationship with the COGIC denomination, who continue to work toward starting TUMI classes sometime this year.
- Pray for the creative work of the Chicago-based rap music ministry, Streetlights, which continue to develop resources we hope to integrate within our TUMI curriculum.
- Pray for Fernando Argumedo's translation work, and Telma Argumedo's administrative support of our TUMI satellite expansion work.
- Pray for the WI Associates program, for the leaders we are befriending and supporting, and for the funding, contacts, and openings they are employing to plant new churches and set up TUMI sites.
- Pray for the continued development of TUMI satellites and the AWANA Malachi Dads program, for the Lord's timing and leading in how these satellites are formed, and for AWANA's vision and effort to make these happen over the next months.
- Pray for God's leading concerning possibilities of translating Capstone into French and Romanian, with possibilities of new satellites in Zambia, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica; pray for timing, contacts, and clear direction as we pursue new relationships.
- Pray our connections to empower church plant movements in Los Angeles, Guadalajara, Denver, Colorado Springs, India, and other places considering creating TUMI sites.



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Staff and Personal Requests

- Pray for Don's sister, Norma Bridgewater, who continues to recover from various physical and mental health issues.
- Pray for TUMI marriages and families, for their strength, refreshment, protection, and leading as they serve the satellite clientele .
- Pray for Cathy Allsman for her complete healing.
- Thank you for praying for Don Allsman's mother, and her ongoing struggle to defeat cancer; pray for her complete restoration to health.
- Pray for TUMI staff's protection and health, our spirituality and growth as we pursue new exciting directions in leadership training with the Great Tradition.
- Pray for Don's upcoming speaking engagements for inspiration, clarity, and impact.
- Pray for our financial support, and wisdom as we oversee our various projects.
- Pray for our TUMI staff family members who need God's care:
 - Lorna's brother, Odrey, and his complete healing of Lou Gehrig's disease
 - Dan's mother's health
 - Carolyn's sister-in-law, Nancy, and healing from recurring cancer
 - Beth's mother, Kathlyn, in her nineties in a nursing home
 - Don's family members (Robbie, Alicia, Norma, and the children of deceased Veronica) and all his family members

TUMI Satellites

- Pray for the expansion of TUMI through Prison Fellowship nationally.
- Continue to pray for Cathy's health and healing with her persistent hives.



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- Praise God for my (Don Allsman's) mother's stability through five years of ovarian cancer treatment.
- Pray for the many new relationships with ministries and denominations showing interest in TUMI, that they will take the steps beyond just showing interest.

CAP

Please pray for our recent CAP graduates and preparations for the next CAP session.

World Impact Health Ministries

Mobile Clinic

World Impact Medical Ministries Wichita is shepherding in a new site. Please pray for the leadership while we go through the blessings and pains during genesis phase. Pray for me (Miles) as I also begin to coordinate the summer activities with the Mobile Clinic schedule. We truly desire to exalt Christ in our work and we are blessed with excellent Christian physicians. Pray that they would have continued openings in their busy schedules to serve.

Good Samaritan Clinic

For the GraceMed's Good Samaritan Clinic the medical director is stepping down; his last day is July 1st. Please pray for the right medical director to replace him, and for a smooth transition as we wait for the right person. We could also continue to use prayers for the Spirit's wisdom upon all of our staff.

Wichita Thrift Stores

Please pray for the staff and ministry opportunities of the World Impact thrift stores.

Dallas

Pray for the staff and various ministries of World Impact Dallas.



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Deer Creek Christian Camp/Denver TUMI

- Pray for the staff and ministry of Deer Creek Christian Camp.
- Pray for the expansion of Denver TUMI. The English class is in progress and the Spanish class will start very soon. Pray that our condo in Denver would close. We signed the contract March 29 with a scheduled closing date of May 10. Over a month later there is now no closing date. It is a Fannie Mae (bank owned) property so we got it very cheap and we would like to start renovations so we can move to Denver and be able to get our new TUMI ministry there started in earnest in the fall. I am still helping Hendrik at the camp this summer as needed.

Morning Star Ranch

Pray for the Ranch staff and students, for their work, study, and ministry opportunities.

St. Louis

Pray for our battleground discipleship group. Two guys have gone through “The Making of a Disciple” and are wanting to go even deeper.

Other Regional Items

Please pray that we can work together more with our church plant efforts and have a coordinated vision. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek to follow and strategize for the plans that we believe the Lord has given to us.

San Diego

Pray for the staff and various ministries of World Impact San Diego.

Newark

- World Impact Thrift Store: We praise God for a great year so far. We have had over 130 customer contacts each week and help raised needed funds for the ministry. Pray for God to continue to shower us with goods to sell to our neighbors, health for our staff to process



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all these goods, and grace to minister to all who enter our doors in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- TUMI-NJ: Please pray for our two classes starting in January. Site Coordinator Rev. Peter Padro will be mentoring both the Spanish and English Module. Pray God's grace on him as he pours into all the students. Pray for our partnership with the New York Divinity School to continue strong. They are partnering with our one Capstone class and offering one course on their own. Pray for three students that are just a few years from completing all the Capstone Modules.

Chester

Church planters are seeking to find indigenous leaders to disciple and empower for our church plants. Pray for open doors to build relationships and for fruitful discipleship. Pray also for TUMI in PA prisons as more students are interested in taking TUMI classes in the Chester prison. And our Grace Dental Clinic will be opening very soon. Please pray for no more delays in our construction and launch date.

Fresno

We are praying for 100 disciples, 15 faithful dependable church leaders, and 5 new church plants. We recognize that all of this can only be done by the might of our Lord so please join us as we pray for these specific things which we believe will contribute significantly toward a church planting movement.

San Francisco Bay Area

Pray for the staff and various ministries of World Impact in San Francisco and Oakland.



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Los Angeles

Los Angeles Christian School

We would appreciate prayer for staffing for next year as well as funding for our major project this year—Smartboards in every classroom!

Watts Christian School:

In order to open another grade at the school next year we need more missionary teachers. Also pray that our families would stay committed to raising their families in the way of the Lord.

TUMI LA

TUMI-LA is asking for God to provide a Hispanic Community Liaison, who will recruit students and mentors from the Hispanic community for TUMI.

LA Church Plants

- Watts Powerhouse Church. We are moving to Charter Powerhouse to plant a sister church in Nickerson Gardens. Please pray for: team formation, timing, spiritual ground to be tilled, receptivity to the Gospel.
- Urban Church Association. We are “cinching the belt” of what it means to be a member of the UCA. Pray for: clear communication and understanding to the purpose of the UCA; committee formation; lasting fruit through making disciples and establishing new churches.
- World Impact Associates. Pray for the church plant labors of David Hernandez, Jason Darden, Earle and Akiliah Mills.

The Oaks

Pray for the staff and various ministries of The Oaks Camp.

Harmony Heart Camp

Please pray for our summer camps from the inner cities of Newark, NJ and Chester, PA. Please pray that they will enjoy God’s creation and be drawn



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closer to Him and each other because of their time spent at Harmony Heart Camp.

Winnipeg - TUMI

- Pray for both of our satellites as we continue classes in this school year. We are hiring a new part time co-ordinator for SOUL to start on January 1st. Pray that we make the right decision. Also pray for our Spanish satellite (EdenB) as we expand to offering Saturday morning classes for students unable to meet in the evening. Pray that more students will apply for both of our schools. Praise Him too as generous givers continue to support both of these schools and our financial needs are being met each month.
- Continue to pray for healing for Fred Stoesz.

Friends and Partners

God's continued leading and direction through our WI national and local Board members, God's blessing, protection, and wisdom for Dr. Phillips and the executive team, for all the Directors of WI ministries nationwide, for all our supporters and volunteers; pray for our partnership churches, here in Wichita and throughout the nation, that God would bless them, empowering them to grow, mature, and multiply so that the Gospel of Christ would spread in their own communities, and from them across the country and world.

Continue to pray for our elderly parents, and for those who have recently lost their parents and other loved ones.

Lift up all those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray that the Lord will comfort all of our family (and their families) during this time of loss and that the Lord will use this time of sorrow to direct the attention of any in their circles who do not know the Lord to our Savior.

Please continue to pray for the health of our ailing parents. Please pray also for all of the parents of staff who are aging and beginning to experience health concerns.



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Please pray for our staff children across the country. Pray for their encouragement, safety, strength, and growth as they serve with their families in the city. Pray that each will follow the Lord's leading in their lives and that all will be radical disciples of Jesus.

For the National Office Ministry

Pray for wisdom for the leadership and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our entire staff. Pray for health, nurture and joy along with vision and encouragement among our staff. Pray for their provision and refreshment as they serve us all!

Pray fervently for God's great favor and leading upon Dr. Phillips, and for strength and anointing as he travels and speaks. Continue to pray for his family, and for all the members of our excellent National Board, and all the ministries, staff, and friends of World Impact.

For World Impact

Please pray for more laborers for the harvest in partnership with World Impact. Pray that we would have more applicants to join World Impact staff.

Pray for God's blessing on our urban church plants around the country, for church plant team leaders and members, for outreaches in new neighborhoods, and prospects of new teams.

Pray for a new level of power and spiritual passion for our workers on the field, for their health and stamina, and for a new vision of how God wants to use them to make disciples of Jesus, both in their own communities and around the world.

Pray for God's financial blessing upon our local and national ministry, that we would gain the resources to do effectively and excellently what God is calling us to do.



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Bangkok
(bang-kok)
Day 28

Meaning: "city of angels, home of all the gods"
Country: Thailand
Population: 8,627,000
Poverty: Some slum communities
Religious Breakdown:
93.4% Buddhist
4.0% Muslim
2.7% Animist
1.0% Christian
0.3% Evangelical

Status of the church: Very slow growth

Major Religious Sites:

Wat Arun,
City Pillar Shrine,
Reclining Buddha Temple,
Golden Buddha Temple,
Marble Temple,
Emerald Buddha Temple,
Wat Saket

City Significance/History:

Bangkok (Krung Thep) began as a small village by the Chao Phya River in the 18th century, and later became the capital of Thailand. Now over 8 million people make their home in the vast sprawl of waterways and streets of Bangkok. Its amazing growth is due primarily to the heavy influx of poor rural migrants.

Buddhism, with endless cycles of reincarnation, teaches people to perform religious rituals to gain merit, hopefully earning a better go-round in the next life. Behind Buddhism is a complex world of Hindu gods and venerated spirits. In daily crises and fears, the people of Bangkok turn to the spirit world, superstition, and astrology. Spirit houses stand in front of homes to keep the evil spirits outside. Many people wear amulets thought to contain spiritual powers.

The City Pillar Shrine, thought to be inhabited by the city's guardian spirit, was inspired by the Hindu custom of centrally placing a phallic symbol in Shiva temples. This ruling spirit is perhaps why Bangkok is known for its night life. The prostitution rings have been pulling village girls and boys away from their homes—exploiting them until they are too old or they have contracted AIDS—which has become a growing epidemic.

Prayer Points

1. The prostitution rings have grown and the AIDS epidemic has increased. Without the closing down of these financially prosperous rings, the situation will just deteriorate. Ask God to completely shut down this illicit activity.
2. AIDS, even in the church, will have an inevitable impact on leadership in coming generations. Pray that the spread of this epidemic can be stopped.
3. Pray that the many street children may be reached with the gospel and that child slavery will end.
4. Pray for biblical teaching to counter the influence of other religions and cults.
5. The lure of materialism is infecting the church. Pray that a biblical perspective on money and stewardship will come.



Izmir
(iz-meer)
Day 11

Meaning: "myrrh"
Country: Turkey
Population: 2,500,000
Poverty: Inflation has stressed the economy
Religious Breakdown:
99.8% Muslim
0.02% Christian
0.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: NATO and expatriate congregations, 1 Turkish fellowship

Major Religious Sites:

Kadifekale (Mt. Pagus);
Temple of Artemis (at nearby Ephesus),
Sadirvanli Mosque,
Hisar Mosque,
Kestane Pazah Mosque,
St. Polycarp's Church

City Significance/History

Birthplace of the poet Homer, Izmir (Smyrna until 1923) is considered one of the most beautiful cities on the Mediterranean Sea. Its strategic location has brought many conquerors—Alexander the Great, the Romans, the Byzantines, and the Ottomans. In 1922 as Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish republic, was driving the Greeks out of the city, a disastrous fire broke out that burned most of Smyrna. Until that year there were more Jews and Christians living in the city than Muslims.

A new city arose from the ashes, making Izmir very modern with wide streets and contemporary architecture. It is a busy seaport, connecting Turkey with Europe and Africa. Smyrna is one of the seven churches addressed in Revelation. To the church at Smyrna write:

I know your afflictions and your poverty… I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

St. Polycarp's Church, located in the city, memorializes the martyrdom of the 2nd century bishop, Polycarp.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the entrenched greed, materialism, and immorality in the city is broken by the power of God.
2. Pray that the new church building can be a protected meeting place for seekers and an open atmosphere where the gospel can be explained clearly.
3. Pray for the students from the 2 universities to come to Christ and to reach out to fellow students.
4. Pray for more Turkish Christian fellowships to develop in the city.
5. Pray for faithful elders, willing to endure persecution, to be raised up to lead the Turkish fellowship.
6. Pray that the Aegean region would spark a revival that would spread throughout Turkey.



Dhaka (dah-kuh)
Day 28

Meaning: after Durga, wife of Shiva
Country: Bangladesh
Population: 9,105,000
Poverty: Many slum areas
Religious Breakdown:
87.0% Muslim
11.7% Hindu
0.7% Buddhist
0.44% Christian
0.08% Evangelical

Status of the church: Slow, steady growth

Major Religious Sites:

Hassain Dolan Mosque,
Baitul Mukarram Mosque,
Kashaitully Mosque,
Holy Resurrection Armenian Church

City Significance/History:

Dhaka was established at its present site in the 4th century because of the agricultural wealth along the Burigange River.

Because of the flooded coastal deltas and the Chittagong Hills, the majority of the population lives in the central plains.

Few outsiders ventured to this isolated city until, in the mid-18th century, the Mongol Empire extended its borders once again, this time including Bengal. Dhaka became a regional capital.

When the British entered the Indian subcontinent, Bengal came under their authority. After independence in 1971, the country went through a civil war and emerged as Bangladesh. The population has continued to explode.

Famines and natural disasters have plagued the country and city, keeping poverty high. Many people from all regions have relocated to Dhaka hoping for a better life. The old section of Dhaka, called Sadarghat, has been a growing slum that provides few opportunities for the poor to improve their lot. The stagnation of the economy has seen even the educated fall into poverty. The government is setting up programs to help the poor. The poor can receive government loans with no interest for the establishment of small businesses.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the government's increasingly restrictive laws against Christians will be modified, and that extremist Muslim groups will not prevail.
2. Pray for an increased response to the gospel from Muslims and that church leaders coming from a Muslim background will have the strength to persevere and to withstand persecution.
3. The Great Commission Movement was launched in 1991 to plant churches and reach ethnic groups. Pray that its goals would be reached and for the church to grow.
4. Pray that Christian media, literature, and Bibles would continue to reap a harvest and that the demand can be met.
5. Nearly 40 students at the university have died because of student gang warfare. Pray that the Prince of Peace might be known on campus.



Columbo
(koh-lum-boh)
Day 20

Meaning: "harbor"
Country: Sri Lanka
Population: 2,345,000
Poverty: 65% slums
Religious Breakdown:
70.3% Buddhist
14.3% Hindu
7.8% Muslim
7.6% Christian (mainly Catholic)
0.44% Evangelical

Status of the church: Stagnant growth

Major Religious Sites:

Kelaniya Raja Maha
Vihara Temple,
Vajjiraramaya Temple,
Grand Mosque

City Significance/History:

Christian tradition holds that the Apostle Thomas visited the area. Maritime Arabs in the 8th century established a port in Columbo for the export of cinnamon. Eight centuries later, the Portuguese replaced the Arabs and traded everything from cinnamon to elephants. The wide variety of spices attracted most traders.

The Portuguese, who brought Roman Catholicism, carved their seal of arms on a rock above the sea and built a fortress. The Dutch and British controlled the area until the British granted Sri Lanka independence in 1948. The growth of the city occurred during the British occupation, as the city continued to develop as a hub for Indian Ocean trade.

The city has become a refuge for the poor of Sri Lanka. Twenty years ago, Columbo's population was only 500,000. Now over 65% of the metro population live in shanties where living conditions are extremely poor. As the city grows, the poor are forced to live next to the canals and roadways. They are moved into the marshes and lowlands, where health conditions are poor. One of the problems facing the government is child labor. Many poor families sell their children to the rich. These children work as domestic help, with the hope that they will receive food and clothing.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for an increase in the standard of living so parents can support their children. Pray that the children who must work for the rich will not be exploited.
2. Pray for protection and strength for the believers who are caught in the political crossfire between the Buddhist Sinhala and Hindu Tamil.
3. Pray for a renewed sense of calling in the national church and that evangelism and discipleship would replace compromise and nominalism.
4. Conversions among the Buddhists and Hindus have produced a backlash. Pray that opposition and persecution would not hinder the ongoing witness to those communities.
5. Pray for unity and cooperation among evangelicals so the spiritual thrust begun in the 1992 Navodays Conference would truly be the "Dawning of a New Era."



Bissau (bi-soh) Day 2

Meaning: "it's finished"
Country: Guinea-Bissau*
Population: 130,000
Poverty: Many poor because of socialism
Religious Breakdown:
48.1% Traditional Religions
44.0% Muslim
6.7% Christian (mainly Catholic)
0.84 Evangelical

Status of the church: 36 national pastors in the country, a maturing church

Major Religious Sites:
Avenue de Cintura Mosque,
Roman Catholic Cathedral,
Curadores Healing Houses (Animist)

City Significance/History:

Years ago, Muslim semi-nomadic herdsmen moved east into the flat lands and settled in Bissau. It became the capital of Portuguese Guinea, an overseas colony of Portugal. The Portuguese set up a fortified post here in 1765 to administrate their interests in the area.

Today it is the center for commerce and industry, with exports of rice and coconut products. It is the largest city and capital of Guinea-Bissau.

Before Islam or Christianity entered the area, many of the African people lived in fear of, yet worshiped, different spirits and fetishes (a practice called animism, spiritism, or traditional religion). These ancient beliefs mixed with whatever religion was laid over the top of them.

Therefore, strange animistic practices can be seen in people who are Muslim or Christians. The spiritual bondage which the people experience is common among those who practice spiritism. Many people wear amulets and put symbols on their homes to avoid getting the "evil eye," a much-feared curse that can even kill a child.

These ancient beliefs mix with whatever religion is laid over the top of them.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that past animistic practices will be renounced by the believers, replacing them with deep trust and faith in the power of Jesus.
2. Pray for the Christians to have confidence in witnessing to Muslims.
3. Pray for financial blessing on the believers, whose poverty makes it difficult to support their pastors, and for more workers and national pastors to be raised up. Pray for outreach to the new, large townships being built on the outskirts of the city.
4. Pray against the growth and influence of new religious groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahais, Moonies, and New Apostolics.
5. Many young people have migrated from the interior seeking education and employment. Pray that they will find the gospel instead of materialism, disillusionment, and, increasingly, atheism.



Abu Dhabi

(ah-boo dah-bee)

Day 7

Meaning: unknown
Country: United Arab Emirates*
Population: 730,000
Poverty: In 20 years oil has turned poverty to fabulous wealth
Religious Breakdown:
84.6% Muslim
4.7% Hindu
8.7% Christian (among expatriates)
0.33% Evangelical

Status of the church: Expatriates have churches, only a few Arab believers

Major Religious Sites:

New Bazaar Mosque

City Significance/History:

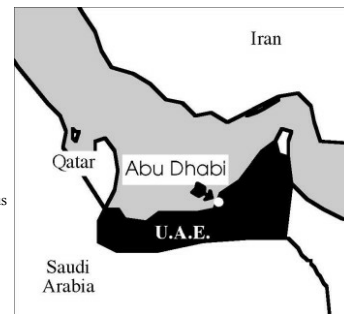
Originating from a sandy swamp, the whitewashed fort, Al-Husn Palace, of Abu Dhabi comes into view. A little over 200 years ago, an ancestor of the present shaikh's family moved from the desert to the island, and built a fort around the sweet water spring. Date farming and fishing provided the fort with food. Pearls opened the door for trade and export with India and Europe.

25 years ago the city looked little different than in ancient days. It was the capital of the seven United Arab Emirates. (Abu Dhabi is also the name of the largest and richest of these emirates, which comprises over 90% of the emirates' total area.) But the growth and riches of oil were just starting to be felt. Today, caught between the sand dunes of Arabia and the waves of the Persian Gulf, a modern city has grown fast. Early construction on the sand bars proved disastrous for building with multi-stories. Many sank and had to be destroyed. That problem corrected, a glass and concrete city now rises above the sand.

80% of the people living in Abu Dhabi are expatriates, coming from poorer Gulf states and places like India or Pakistan. Many of these expatriates work in servant roles, roles that the U.A.E. Arabs do not desire to do.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the Supreme Council would allow freedom of religion for the citizens.
2. Pray that expatriate believers would have the opportunity to share the gospel with their Arab coworkers.
3. Pray for the establishment of an indigenous Arab church and that leaders would be raised up.
4. Pray that the people would see Christ's love demonstrated by the Christian medical agencies serving here.
5. Pray that videos, radio broadcasts, and literature would bear fruit in evangelizing all people groups.



Ouagadougou

(wah-guh-doo-goo)

Day 3

Meaning: "place of the Ouaga people"
Country: Burkina Faso*
Population: 437,000
Poverty: Much malnutrition, especially among children
Religious Breakdown:
48.0% Muslim
33.0% Traditional Religions
19.0% Christian (mainly Catholic)
4.3% Evangelical

Status of the church: 100% increase in the last 15 years

Major Religious Sites:

Grand Mosque

City Significance/History:

Historically, the city was the capital of the Mossi Kingdom. Since the rule of Naba Dulugu in the late 18th century, it has been predominantly Muslim. At nearby Crocodile Lake homage is paid to the crocodile.

Mossi carries his sick son as he walks to the market. Skillets and pots hang on the walls of the corner store. Turning left he sees the religious man selling portions of scripture from the Koran. The man offers him one in a gazelle skin pouch. Reasoning to himself, "Allah is great, but I need medicine today," he moves on.

Laughter fills the market, but fear grips Mossi's heart. His son has been sick for two weeks and no one knows what to do. Just past the religious man, Mossi looks at a sign with pictures of a drink mixture of water, salt, and sugar. Being illiterate he fails to understand it is a rehydration mix and moves on.

Finally, he reaches the "bush doctors," who squat behind a cloth covered with snakes' heads, dried owls, and lions' tails. A broken antelope's horn pierces a heap of flint off to the left side. With almost his last money, he buys a little square of elephant hide as the prescription given by the bush doctor. Three days later his son dies of dehydration caused by diarrhea.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the power of idolatry, fetishism, and secret societies will be broken in Jesus' name.
2. Pray for a greater ministry to students, particularly to those at Ouagadougou University.
3. Pray that the church can be a healing agent in the midst of social upheavals and family breakdowns caused by urban migration.
4. Because of the high illiteracy rate, the need for audio scripture is great. Scripture portions are available in six languages, but not in audio form. Pray for workers and resources to produce these.
5. Pray for continued growth in the church and for leaders to train and disciple the new converts.



Lahore

(luh-hore)

Day 15

Meaning: "iron" —suggesting fortification
Country: Pakistan, Punjab Province*
Population: 4,926,000
Poverty: Many are poverty-stricken
Religious Breakdown:
95.0% Muslim
0.5% Hindu
3.5% Christian
2.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: Growing with a few large, visible fellowships

Major Religious Sites:

Sunehri Mosque,
Badshahi Mosque,
Wazir Khan Mosque,
Data Ganj Bakhsh Hajveri Mausoleum,
Masjid-e-Shuhuda

City Significance/History:

Built on the trade routes between the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia, Lahore has seen many battles. Invading forces have repeatedly fought over the city, which has been the capital of the Punjab for over 1000 years. The Ravi River provides all the water needed for its hot arid environment. A massive canal was built for irrigation, allowing the city to spread out along its banks.

In the 11th century, Islamic forces took control of the city. Muslim factions battled for it over the following centuries. The Mongol rulers in the 16th century made it into an Islamic center for learning and the arts. The walled Lahore Fort, built in 1560, became the city's main defense. Its repeated destruction and rebuilding testifies to the city as a battleground. In 1770 Lahore was sold to a Hindu Sikh ruler and later the British took control. With the independence of Pakistan in 1947, the city returned to Islamic leadership.

Karachi is the commercial center, Islamabad is the political center, and Lahore is the cultural center. As the cultural center, it is the protector of Islamic ways and traditions. The Shalimar Garden, built by Shah Jahan in 1642, is a popular place for escaping the extremely hot summer months.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that those who practice folk Islam, worshiping the city's patron saint, would hear the good news of Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for the protection of new believers who undergo persecution mainly by relatives because of their faith.
3. Pray that backbiting, politics, and corruption would no longer hinder the church's witness and that harmony, purity, and unity would instead characterize the church. Pray for church leaders to lead the way in this.
4. Pray that the provincial assembly in Lahore would have God-fearing representatives making godly decisions for the welfare of the province and country.
5. A number of Christian organizations have their headquarters in the city. Pray for wisdom for their leaders and for effectiveness in their ministry in the city.

