

# 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting to Pray for the Seven Mountains or Spheres of Influence in Your City and Nation

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## ***Bible References***

All Holy Bible references in this document are of the format:

*(bb cc:vv ttt)* for a single verse, or

*(bb cc:vv-vv,vv ttt)* for multiple or consecutive verses.

*bb* is the book name in the Bible, *cc* is the chapter number, and *vv* is or are verse numbers.

*ttt* is the translation code or acronym to identify different Bible translations used for reference in this document:

<i>AMP</i>	Amplified Bible	<i>NJB</i>	New Jerusalem Bible
<i>ESV</i>	English Standard Version	<i>NKJV</i>	New King James Version
<i>NASB</i>	New American Standard Bible	<i>NLT</i>	New Living Translation
<i>NIV</i>	New International Version		

In the rare case the code is missing the translation is most likely the same as the previous reference or is from the *NIV*.

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## **Purpose of this Prayer Initiative**

This prayer initiative is to dedicate ourselves to pray for the 'spheres of influence' in our human society over a specific period.

### ***What are these Mountains or Spheres of Influence?***

The 'mountains' or 'spheres' of influence are intersecting domains or bases of power in our local, regional, and national human communities, and used to direct (control) the community population to live their lives in ways determined by those in a position of influence (also referred to as 'gate keepers') within each sphere. The spheres are also used by the spiritual principalities and powers under the 'enemy of God' (who is also humanity's true enemy) to draw people away from God and keep them trapped in fearful and powerless lives.

There are many definitions of the spheres of influence since there are many variations in religion, philosophy, culture, and history. For this prayer initiative we use seven spheres: Religion, Family, Education, Government, Media, Arts & Entertainment, and Business.

### ***What Period and Timing for this Initiative?***

Forty (40) is frequently used as a multiple of time for testing, trial, or probation throughout scripture, often with dedicated prayer and fasting by the people involved (e.g., Genesis 7:4,12, Exodus 24:18,34:28, 1 Kings 19:8, Jonah 3:4-5, Acts 1:3). Christ spent forty days in fasting and prayer in the wilderness after his baptism by John the Baptist and receiving the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:9-13, Luke 3:21-22, 3:1-13), prior to commencing His public ministry. Furthermore, it is generally agreed that Jesus' body was dead for forty hours between his death on the cross on Friday afternoon and his resurrection in the tomb on Sunday morning.

The season of Lent leading up to Easter is a forty-day period of piety and penance in Christian tradition and is often used as a time for fasting and prayer. Lent commences on 'Ash Wednesday' and runs to 'Easter Sunday'. This is forty-six (46) days, but per tradition Sundays are not considered as fast days, so the 'Lenten Fast' period becomes forty days. Alternatively, starting from the Sunday just after Ash Wednesday, there is exactly forty days (including Sundays) to 'Holy Thursday' ('Maundy Thursday').

The intention of this prayer initiative is to pray and fast over forty days. You may do this over the Lenten period as outlined above or choose another period (e.g. from January 1); seek the Lord to find out when He is calling you to perform this task.

### ***Foundational Scriptures***

*<sup>12</sup> God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. (James 4:12a NLT)*

*<sup>2</sup> But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. (Romans 2:2 NKJV)*

*<sup>22</sup> For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us. (Isaiah 33:22 ESV)*

<sup>8</sup> *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV)*

### **What Should I Do?**

If you feel stirred in your spirit to involve, please read through the rest of this document and at the same time seek our Lord Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit to confirm if and when you should be a part of this prayer initiative.

You may decide to pray and fast continuously over forty days, or you may set aside a day per week to pray over forty weeks. A longer approach could be to set aside a week, or even a month, to pray for each of the spheres. You and Jesus decide together.

If you would like to research further, please go to the Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence website at [prayerstrategy.org](http://prayerstrategy.org) where you can see more detailed descriptions and some alternative approaches on the spheres.

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## Prayer and Fasting

When Jesus outlined prayer to the Father (Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2) He instructs His followers to pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Prayer is central to His teaching on how the kingdom of God advances through the ages. Thus, this instruction demonstrates that if congregations are to be instruments of the Kingdom to a lost and dying world, *prayer must be foundational to the body and all its activities.*

### Crucial Attitudes of Prayer

Consider the approach of Nehemiah to God; his attitude and manners.

<sup>4</sup> *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*  
(Nehemiah 1:4 NIV)

#### Having an Attitude of Worship

<sup>5</sup> *Then I said:*  
*“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,*  
(Nehemiah 1:5 NIV)

Nehemiah did not enter lightly into God's presence. He reverently acknowledged the awesomeness of the God of Heaven, asking for His divine attention.

#### Fasting and Persisting in Prayer

<sup>6</sup> *let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.*  
(Nehemiah 1:6a NIV)

Nehemiah refers to the fact that he is praying day and night for a particular issue.

#### Praying in Humility

*I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.*  
<sup>7</sup> *We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.*  
(Nehemiah 1:6b-7 NIV)

He approached God with humility, confessing his sin and the sin of his people. He repentantly accepted God's judgment upon them as right and just . . . no excuses . . . no whining! He simply humbled himself before God and stated his case.

#### Claiming God's Promises in Prayer

<sup>8</sup> *“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,*  
<sup>9</sup> *but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring*

*them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'*  
(Nehemiah 1:8-9 NIV)

Nehemiah recalled God's promises to Israel that if they fell through disobedience and were exiled, but would repent and turn back to Him, He would bring them back from the most distant places:

*<sup>2</sup> and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, <sup>3</sup> then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. <sup>4</sup> Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back.*  
(Deuteronomy 30:2-4 NIV)

Praying God's Word back to Him is powerful!

### Praying with Confidence

*<sup>10</sup> "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.  
<sup>11</sup> Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name."  
(Nehemiah 1:10-11a NIV)*

Knowing then that what he was asking for was according to God's Word, Nehemiah prayed that God would provide the necessary resources to restore the fortunes of Jerusalem.

### Praying Specifically

*Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."  
(Nehemiah 1:11b NIV)*  
*<sup>4</sup> The king said to me, "What is it you want?"  
Then I prayed to the God of heaven,  
<sup>5</sup> and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."  
(Nehemiah 2:4-5 NIV)*

The resource that Nehemiah required needed to come from King Artaxerxes. Therefore, he asked God for favour in the presence of the king as he went to make his request known. Nehemiah did not expect or ask for a mystical sort of provision, but instead asked specifically that God would give him favour with the man who could help. When the king asked him what he required, he prayed once again, and then very specifically asked for what he required.

Nehemiah trusted that God was with him in this endeavour. He acknowledged and lent upon God's presence with him. Hallelujah!

## **Praying with Fasting**

### **What is Fasting?**

A definition from the Macquarie Dictionary:

*Fasting v.t*

- 1. To abstain from all food.*
- 2. To eat only sparingly or of certain kinds of food especially as a religious observance.*

*(© Macquarie Dictionary Publishers, an imprint of Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Ltd)*

### **Fasting in Scripture**

*<sup>21</sup> There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.*

*(Ezra 8:21 NIV)*

*<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.*

*<sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

*(Luke 2:36-38 NIV)*

*<sup>1</sup> Now in the church (assembly) at Antioch there were prophets (inspired interpreters of the will and purposes of God) and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger [Black], Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

*<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying, they put their hands on them and sent them away.*

*(Acts 13:1-3 AMP)*

*<sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed and ordained elders for them in each church with prayer and fasting, they\* committed them to the Lord in Whom they had come to believe [being full of joyful trust that He is the Christ, the Messiah].*

*(Acts 14:23 AMP)*

(\*i.e. the apostles)

### ***Core Scriptures***

**Let us uphold the spheres of our society over 40 days and keep our eyes on Jesus.**

Read and consider the following scriptures in your Bible as you prepare for this period of prayer and supplication.

Matthew 5:13-14	Salt and light
Psalms 2	God's heart for nations
Matthew 6:10	God's will on earth
Matthew 22:37-40	Great command
John 17:18	Sent into the world
John 15:16-17	Sent to bear fruit
2 Corinthians 3:3	Living letters
2 Corinthians 5:18-20	Ambassadors
Colossians 1:15-18	Jesus pre-eminent
Colossians 1:19-20	God reconciling all things
Revelation 22:1-2	Healing and Revival

## 1. RELIGION

Since the Fall of man through disobedience to God's loving warning that we would die (spiritually) if we did not follow his simple instructions (Genesis chapters 1 to 3), people have been in denial of God and their relative position to Him. We seek to replace the sure and healthy confidence that God exists and that we are His beloved children. We try and satisfy our constant craving for more and more, regardless if is good for us or not.

We rationalise our behaviour by constructing a contorted version of the character and person of God (i.e., making God in our image instead of the other way around). This is respectively Philosophy and Religion.

Simply put, 'Philosophy' is humanity's explanations for our existence, 'Religion' is man's search for God, and Jesus is God's answer to both. Throughout His ministry, Christ explained the heart of God, our Heavenly Father, towards us and His desire to reconcile our differences with Him. He made the first step, as often an aggrieved party must do, in spite of being the victim.

Christianity is not a religion; it is a way of life. The Christian Church is described in the Greek language as the *ekklesia*. The Greek word *ekklesia* is generally translated to mean 'governing body', but in biblical Greek it is translated as 'God's community'. The Church's responsibility is to reach the lost with love, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and establish the Kingdom of God in the world as it is in Heaven.

### DAY 1

Pray for the Universal Church.

The Church is the Body of Christ, Christ is the head. Jesus Christ established and sustains a community of faith, hope and love for all believers. This community we call His Church.

God did not leave us to wander in darkness ignorant about the most important truths we have to know in order to fulfil our most important task in life, that is to be in union with Him. No human lover would allow that if they could help it. Neither did God. What God wants above all is for us to persevere in the unity of love and truth because that is what He is (1 John 4:18, John 6:14). God sent Jesus to establish His Church ('the bride') on earth which was always meant to experience perfect union with the Father (John 17:21).

*<sup>4</sup> There is one Body, one Spirit, just as one hope is the goal of your calling by God. <sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> and one God and Father of all, over all, through all and within all. (Ephesians 4:4-6 NJB)*

Pray that God will keep, guard, and protect His Church from the evil one.

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*  
(Matthew 16:17-19 NIV)

## **DAY 2**

Pray for:

- Bishops, archbishops, nuns, brothers, pastors, ministers, priests, deacons, deaconess,
- Prayer leaders, intercessors, prayer meetings,
- Praise and worship leaders, singers, musicians, Audio-Visual operators,
- Pastoral carers, kids' ministry leaders, youth leaders, Sunday Schools, aged and disability care,
- Scripture teachers, catechists, SRE teachers,
- Welcomers and stewards, kitchen staff, cleaners,
- Elders, board members,
- People in charge of office administration, Human Resources, Accounts, Finance,
- Maintenance staff and trades,
- All church agencies.

Pray that people respect the elders of their churches and their pastors by upholding them in prayer continuously.

*<sup>13</sup> You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

*<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*

*<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 NIV)*

## **DAY 3**

Pray for children, young people, and youth leaders in your church and in all the churches of your community. Ask God to raise up many who can meaningfully share His Word and encourage young people to follow the Lord.

Pray for effective youth gatherings and programs in our churches that will attract young people from our communities who need to hear the Gospel.

Pray that churches will offer courses to help train Christian youth in how to live and share their faith with non-Christian friends.

Pray for church leaders to support and mentor young people in love, and for all to be led by the Holy Spirit. Pray for the defeat and removal of controlling and condemning attitudes.

*<sup>9</sup> Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set-in order many proverbs*

*<sup>10</sup> The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10 NIV)*

#### **DAY 4**

Pray for Evangelists, Prophets, Healers, Labourers, Apostles, Intercessors, Christians in the marketplaces and workplaces of your community.

*<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38 NIV)*

#### **DAY 5**

Pray for Missionaries across the globe and special prayers for the persecuted church in Africa, India, Pakistan, the Middle East, and other parts of the world.

At the end of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul instructs believers to be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

*<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)*

In the next two verses, Paul requests more specific prayer for himself as he faces persecution.

*<sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (Ephesians 6:19-20 NIV)*

Pray also for all Christians who are persecuted and suffering for their faith in Christ.

#### **DAY 6**

Pray for Muslims and other Non-Christian Religious people to know Christ.

*We pray to You, almighty and eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your glory to all nations; to preserve the works of Your mercy. That Your Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Your name and the testimony of Jesus.*

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NIV)*

Pray also for agnostics and atheists, that they are shaken out of their avoidance of and anger at God, and come into a love-filled relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

## 2. FAMILY

The Biblical definition of a 'Family' is the union between one man and one woman in marriage for life, it is the first and only institution God established before the Fall. Marriage is the most fundamental unit of a family, the church, and a nation (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-24)

Family is the leading influence in shaping a person, since it will determine for an individual their spiritual, emotional, social, and physical life. A healthy family background fosters greater productivity and personal well-being. Transforming families transforms communities, cities, and nations, and so we strive to promote, teach, and demonstrate the wholesome family under God as described in scripture (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

Throughout the ages, God's plan and desire has always been for parents to raise up their children to know and love Him and walk in His ways. God told the Israelites (Deuteronomy 6:6) to keep His commands in their hearts and to teach them diligently unto their children, talking of them throughout the day in every circumstance of life.

Yet today we ask ...

*Did we fail to protect our children?*

*Did our Government fail to protect us?*

*Did our church fail to look after her sheep?*

*Did our parents fail to give us the right discipline and the word of God to lean on?*

*What happened to our society and where did the challenges come from that that we are facing today?*

... as challenges are growing by the day to destroy the definition of the family and holy marriage.

Our enemy is the devil, the serpent, the great dragon (Revelation 12:9, 20:2), the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), the evil one, and the adversary (1 Peter 5:8). He is Satan; he hates you and he is after you like a roaring lion, prowling about seeking to destroy you, trying to destroy your marriage, your family, and your inheritance.

But our enemy has already been defeated and cannot defeat us if we resist him, not by our own strength but through Christ:

*<sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

*(Colossians 2:15 NIV)*

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)*

*<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God.*

*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

*(James 4:7 NIV)*

Victory is ours in all things we submit to Christ in humility and confession (Revelation 12:11).

*<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

*(James 4:10 NIV)*

## DAY 7

Pray that the families of Christians would model family life as shown in the word of God.

### *Instructions for Christian Households*

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.* <sup>24</sup> *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* <sup>26</sup> *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,* <sup>27</sup> *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* <sup>28</sup> *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* <sup>29</sup> *After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—* <sup>30</sup> *for we are members of his body.* <sup>31</sup> *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”* <sup>32</sup> *This is a profound mystery— but I am talking about Christ and the church.* <sup>33</sup> *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*  
(Ephesians 5:21-33 NIV)

## DAY 8

Pray that husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, unite to focus on relationships in their household and to embody that intentional focus in daily life.

Pray also for fatherhood and motherhood to be valued by society.

<sup>14</sup> *But I will hope continually  
and will praise you yet more and more.*

<sup>15</sup> *My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
for their number is past my knowledge.*

(Psalm 71:14-15 ESV)

## DAY 9

Many of our parents have worked hard in their careers, at home, in their communities, and in the church. Earthly wisdom says they've earned a life of rest and relaxation. But godly wisdom tells us that our lives are not our own — that God made us to praise Him and tell of His righteous acts for all of our days.

Pray for our elderly parents to seek and be strengthened to continue shining God's light to their children, and children's children.

<sup>19</sup> *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;* <sup>20</sup> *you*

*were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.  
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV)*

## **DAY 10**

In God's Eyes the family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society.

How can we have good stewardship in the sphere of Family and Marriage?

The duties of Children toward their parents:

### *A Rebellious Son*

*<sup>18</sup> If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup> his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard." <sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.  
(Deuteronomy 21:18-21 NIV)*

The duties of parents toward their children:

*<sup>19</sup> For I have chosen him\*, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him. (Genesis 18:19 NIV)*

(\*Abraham)

*<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.  
(Colossians 3:21 NIV)*

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive strength to raise children.

*<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate. (Matthew 19:6 NIV)*

Pray that the hearts of parent and the hearts of children are reformed by God to be restored into right and loving relationship with each other.

Pray that parents have Godly love, wisdom, and patience to guide their children, and that children have a hunger for Godly education and discipline so they can mature in love.

*<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6 NKJV)*

## **DAY 11**

Pray that the Christian church teaches and understands that the primary purpose of marriage is to model God's love and to please God.

Pray that society – the nation and its government – would understand that marriage has been the foundation of families and strong societies throughout the ages and should remain so.

Pray also for the traditional marriages of members of the Federal/national government, members of State/Territory/regional parliaments, and members of local councils and municipalities.

*<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." (Acts 16:31 NIV)*

*<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV)*

## **DAY 12**

People tend to ignore the reality of evil. It is not just a relative and imaginary power; evil does exist in many ways. Ignoring it or disapproving of it will never make it disappear.

Our enemy is the devil, the serpent, the great dragon (Revelation 12:9, 20:2), the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), the evil one, and the adversary (1 Peter 5:8). He is Satan; he hates you and he is after you like a roaring lion, prowling about seeking to destroy you, trying to destroy your marriage, your family, and steal your inheritance (John 10:10). Also, consider this variation of a common expression: *'the enemy of my friend is my enemy'*; Satan is also God's enemy, and we are God's friends.

Pray for the defence of God-ordained traditional Marriage as described in scripture (Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:21-33).

Pray also for the freedom of marriages from corruption and disrespect through 'popular' policies by governments, lies and distorted stories told in entertainment and media, and weak-mindedness in our churches, communities, and homes.

*<sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.*

*<sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.  
(1 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV)*

*<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full Armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.  
(Ephesians 6:12-13 NIV)*

### 3. EDUCATION

*<sup>49</sup> Heaven is My throne,  
And earth is My footstool.  
What house will you build for Me? says the Lord,  
Or what is the place of My rest?  
(Acts 7:49 NKJV)*

Throughout history, both the state and the church have claimed responsibility for the role of educating children. Yet the primary responsibility of educating children is a task God has given to parents. Parents have direct authority over their children. Parents are commanded to teach their children the ways of the Lord.

*<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today  
are to be on your hearts.  
<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children.  
Talk about them when you sit at home and  
when you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and  
when you get up.  
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7)*

While schools have responsibility of teaching the academic curriculum, the church on the other hand has a role to equip and aid parents (and school staff) to carry out fully their responsibility for the spiritual education of the future generation.

Over the past 150 years, the majority of Western countries have become dominated by monopolistic and compulsory state school systems, often taking over or being given church-established school systems (e.g. the Anglican local schools in Australia), and then progressively removing or excluding Christian principles as part of the 'separation of Church and State', to now 'demonising' the Christian foundation of their school system as being 'unfair' and introducing liberalistic mythology as a new layer of 'ethics' on top of purely academic teaching.

Twenty-first century people are members of a global community, connected to the whole world by ties of culture, economics and politics, enhanced communication and travel. This shared environment enables young people to be part of a global education and participate in influencing a better future for the world. In principle, it also emphasises the unity and interdependence of human society, develops a sense of self and appreciation of cultural diversity, affirms social justice and human rights, and builds peace and actions for a sustainable future in different times and places.

Yet at the same time we see lots of challenges around the world, but if we pray into these issues asking God to give us wisdom, provision, blessings, knowledge, assurance, affirmation, connection; we can make a difference to change the culture of countries who are suffering because of war, poverty and natural disasters which prevent the people from having good education.

### **DAY 13**

Pray for these challenges cited by the Global Partnership for Education as God leads you:

- Teachers, tutors, and educators in all sectors
- Principals, chancellors, and boards
- School, university and TAFE administration
- Parents who are involved in school boards and communities
- Early childhood care and education; pre-schools and kindergartens
- Primary, Elementary and Middle schools
- Secondary and High schools
- Tertiary schools, Universities, Colleges and TAFEs (Technical and Further Education)
- Education planning
- Economic development
- Environment
- Gender dilemma
- Agencies in the Education sphere
- Curriculum, Assessment, Awards, and Reporting Authority
- Institutes for Teaching and School Leadership
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agencies
- Department of Education and Training Public Submissions
- International Education
- Student Skills and Learning Potential
- National Literacy and Numeracy programs and events
- Preparing Secondary Students for Work
- Provider Registration and International Students Management System
- School Entry Points
- Student's well being
- International students

*<sup>18</sup> Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.  
(Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NIV)*

## **DAY 14**

Pray for Christian Education in Schools. Pray for continuity and new opportunities, i.e. for doors that are open to remain open and for doors that are closed to be opened to scripture teaching, retreats, counselling and chaplaincy.

A prayer for Catechists, SRE Teachers, Chaplains, Counsellors:

*Loving God, Creator of all things,  
you called us to be in relationship with you and others.*

*Thank you for calling us to be Christian Educators  
for the opportunity to share with others  
what you have given to us.*

*May all those with whom we share the gift of faith  
discover how you are present in all things.*

*May they come to know you, the one true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

*May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and lips,  
so that we may remain constant in loving and praising you.*

*May we be a witness to the Gospel and ministers of your truth.  
May all our words and actions reflect your love. Amen.*

## **DAY 15**

Pray against the persistent and insidious attack on religious freedom, suppression of balanced teaching on moral issues, suppression of established fact for unproven political ideology, and anti-church and anti-Christ attitudes in the Education system. Children and young people across our nation are being taught liberal ideologies, atheistic teaching, pagan and postmodern principles in our public schools and in most colleges and universities.

Pray also against the infiltration of gender confusion. Pray for exposure of the true agendas of those seeking to pollute the God given roles of 'man' and 'woman', 'mother' and 'father', 'boy' and 'girl'.

*<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
(Matthew 19:14 NIV)*

## **DAY 16**

Pray for all education of children around the world.

*<sup>13</sup> All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.  
(Isaiah 54:13 NKJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed  
it and established it—the Lord is his name: <sup>3</sup> 'Call to me and I will answer  
you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'  
(Jeremiah 33:2-3 NIV)*

## **DAY 17**

Pray a declaration of peace and protection over your schools, colleges and universities.

*<sup>9</sup> If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
<sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.  
<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
<sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.  
(Psalm 91:9-13 NIV)*

## 4. GOVERNMENT

Both Father God's power (internal ideas and principles) and form (external frameworks and structures) are necessary for true and everlasting freedom. The pathway to liberty within a nation is from the internal to the external, from the inside out, from the bottom up.

All government begins in the heart of man with his ability (or inability) to direct, regulate, manage, and control his life. There are then two spheres of government — internal and external. Internal government is self-government. External government occurs in the family, church, business, associations, and civil government. External spheres of government are a reflection of the degree of internal self-government a person or people possess. Internal government is causative to external government.

All authority and power come from God. It flows from Him into the hearts and minds of people, and then out into the family, church, businesses, schools, and civil realm. Civil government is a divine institution with a legitimate function, but it is limited. It is to protect the righteous, punish the evil doer, and administer God's justice in the civil realm that is under its sphere of authority. The state exists to serve man. The state is not our Saviour.

The relationship between Christianity and politics is historically complex, as well as in modern politics between the 'Christian right' and 'Christian left'. All governments suffer to some degree from corruption, dishonesty, evil infiltration to rule, and false power. The only government that will never have any corruption is the Kingdom of God, which is in essence God's redemptive reign.

God's inspired revelation tells us that He will send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:20–21). In the Bible God reveals to us that He will restore His government, His law and His way of life to this entire earth.

*<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 NKJV)*

All human governments will eventually end, and Jesus will reign over everyone forever. In the book of Isaiah, we read:

*<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7 AMP)*

### The Kingdom of God and Jesus the Ruler of all Governments

**Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.**

As described in the Gospel of Mark, when Jesus' ministry begins, He announced *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15).

**Jesus is the King of God's true Kingdom.**

Where the King is, there is the Kingdom. Jesus is both the faithful ruler and the righteous citizen of the Kingdom. *"The kingdom of God is in the midst of you"* (Luke 17:21).

**Jesus reveals His purpose for the right Kingdom.**

Jesus described his mission saying that He *"must preach the good news of the kingdom of God"* (Luke 4:43).

**Jesus declares the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

Jesus explains the Kingdom and invites people to enter into it. The declaration of the kingdom *"On Earth as it is in Heaven"* (Matthew 6:10).

**Jesus demonstrates the Kingdom.**

Through His works, Jesus shows the power of the kingdom and his authority over the prince of darkness: *"if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."* (Luke 11:20)

**Jesus overcame the enemy of the Kingdom.**

*"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* (John 19:30) Jesus destroyed the devil, the false ruler of the world, by destroying the power of the kingdom of darkness. He purchased everything by shedding His blood of the cross.

**Jesus deploys the Kingdom.**

Jesus sends his followers out as ambassadors of the kingdom with the Great Commission, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* (Matthew 28:18) He is the true Messiah and the ruler of all Governments.

**Jesus returns as a triumphant King.**

Jesus is the *"King of Kings and Lord of Lords"* (Revelation 19:16). He will place all his enemies under his feet.

## **DAY 18**

Pray for Godly leadership and management of your country, regions and localities.

The Bible says that the heart of a king is in the hand of the Lord (Proverbs 21:1, also Exodus 7:3 and 9:12), and He can turn it however He wants, so your prayers are important. Pray in faith, believing, and remember God watches over His Word to perform it.

*<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." (Jeremiah 1:12 NIV)*

Pray for righteous and respected political and administrative leaders to be installed that bring Godly influence in all aspects of our governments.

Pray for all the physical outputs from Government to be clear and fair, and ultimately aligned with God's laws and wisdom:

- Policies and decrees
- Laws and statutes
- Procedures and guidelines

Pray also for government finances not to be wasted on degrading and destroying our society, but to be invested in worthwhile causes that instead build up our society towards God's righteousness and justice.

*<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.  
<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.  
The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.  
(Psalm 19:7-13 NIV)*

## **DAY 19**

Pray for the rulers and leaders in your country and regions (the executive leadership).

The executive leadership of countries and regions direct the nation towards either negative or positive political and financial goals, usually to achieve a shared (or disputed) vision of what your country should become. The bulk of the government of any nation is to enact the direction given by the leadership to varying degrees of detail, but ultimately to be accountable in some way to the leadership.

Note that there are no neutral goals. Anything seemingly neutral or unclear will be interpreted as either positive or negative by observers, depending on their own agendas. Ultimately neutral goals will have a negative impact.

Note also that some of the executive leadership may not be visible or seen in public, yet still carry powerful influence over the country.

- Pray for elected and non-elected leaders – royalty, governors, presidents, premiers, chancellors, and prime ministers.
- Pray for their advisors, support staff and ‘households’.
- Pray for chief justices and other senior lawmakers.
- Pray for the heads of public services, consular services, intelligence services, and the military.
- Pray for Christians in these positions of leadership; for their protection from deceptions and attacks from the enemy of God and from those people who are determined to remove them from office, for them to have discernment and wisdom from God to see through to the truth in all matters, and to make the best decisions for the country and to glorify God.

*The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,  
And His sovereignty rules over all. (Psalm 103:19 NASB)*

## **DAY 20**

Pray for the political and legislative arm of your country’s government, and of any regional governments across your country.

There are always bodies of representatives whose task it is to enact the directives of the executive into practical application, i.e. to make it happen. There will always be a mix of limitations and potentials to achieve the required goals, and the difficulty is always to find the balance between what is desired and what is actually possible over time. Two main factors will always be the financial state of the country, and the willingness or resistance of the general population to cooperate with their government.

These representatives may be appointed by the executive or elected by the population, or a mix of both. Often as well as representing regions or localities, the representatives may be members of a political party or tribe or an independent family or business. They may seek to further their own goals and interests by gaining greater power within the government.

Where the executive is elected, or the executive is willing, the representatives may wield great influence on it and are able to shift the executive to more ‘popular’ or practical goals and directives. In some countries, the executive may even have become little more than a ‘rubber stamp’ and the real power is held by the representatives.

- Pray for the different parliaments or ‘houses’ where the representatives meet and make decisions, and for the staff that work to support these places.
- Pray for all elected and non-elected representatives (e.g. leaders, speakers, members of the lower and upper houses), and for their staff and families.
- Pray for cabinets, committees, working groups, and other gathering of representatives that meet to focus on law-making, issues and resolutions and their members and staff.

- Pray for government portfolios and departments, including their heads and staff.
- Pray for political parties, tribes, independent political bodies, and lobby groups, and their leaders, members and staff.
- Where representatives are elected, pray for electoral bodies whose task it is to run elections.
- Where representatives are appointed, pray for the advisory committees that choose who to be put forward for appointment.
- Also pray for the leaders and members of opposition parties and groups.
- Pray against ungodly bills and motions, and for the truth to be revealed on all political and legislative agendas.
- Pray for the restoration/installation and protection of things related to God and Christian principles in your parliaments and government bodies.

*<sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. (1 Chronicles 29:12 NASB)*

## **DAY 21**

Pray for the judicial and law-enforcement arm of your country's government, and of any regional governments across your country.

In many countries this arm of the government is staffed by completely independent personnel to reduce any conflicts of interest or political or religious interference. However, in some countries the courts are presided over by religious leaders, and/or law enforcement is handled by the military. Other potentially corruptive variants that are becoming common is the outsourcing of prisons, customs, and even some police roles to non-government corporations.

- Pray for Attorney Generals and their staff and advisors.
- Pray for all courts, law enforcement, prisons, and justice systems – national, regional/state and local/district.
- Pray for the judiciary and legal profession; the Bar and similar boards of legal appointments, judges, barristers, advocates, layers, solicitors, legal advisers, clerks, legal researchers, secretaries, and court officials.
- Pray for law enforcement; police and the heads of police, detectives, special investigation units, vehicle maintenance, administrative staff, and colleges.
- Pray for holding and correction services; prison wardens and officers, secure transport, administration and support staff, and prisoners and their families.
- Pray for customs and import/export protection services.
- Pray against intended crime and violence, particularly by criminal gangs and organisations. Pray that these acts are thwarted, and offenders incarcerated.
- Pray for the safety of families of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel.

- Pray for the protection of Christians working in these facilities and organisations. Pray that they are able to reach out and minister to all they come in contact with.

*<sup>15</sup> Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.*

*<sup>16</sup> And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there.*

*<sup>17</sup> I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.” (Ecclesiastes 3:15-17 NIV)*

## **DAY 22**

Pray for the protection, diplomatic and intelligence forces in your country.

These groups are primarily setup to protect a nation’s people and resources from being taken or destroyed by internal or external enemies and competitors. This usually does not include the legal acquisition of assets or migration of citizens. However, a government may at any time, for its own reasons, reclassify particular resources and/or people as being ‘protected’ or a competitor as being ‘hostile’, allowing then for those assets to be defended.

Protection forces use physical and electronic means to threaten, push back, or attack a threat to what they have been ordered to protect. Diplomatic forces seek to build working relationships and communicate with other countries and foreign organisations, be they ‘friendly’ or ‘unfriendly’, to avoid conflict, or at least gain an upper hand should a confrontation ensue. Between these two, a third force plays a quiet, hidden support role in acquiring and disseminating information: the intelligence community.

The above descriptions are typically for a peace-oriented country. However, in a country with an aggressive government these forces often overlap into the political and legal arms of the government, e.g. the military used as the police force, ‘secret police’, and the diplomatic and intelligence forces being one and the same. Often in these countries, their citizens are just as ‘suspect’ as foreign countries and organisations, and they are frequently subjected to harsh justice, often outside the legal system.

- Pray for the government ministers/deputies and their staff who are responsible over the defence and foreign affairs portfolios/departments. Pray that all the decisions and actions taken will lead to peaceful resolution and avoidance of armed conflict.
- Pray for the protection forces of your country, e.g. the military – army/navy/air force/special forces, national guard, coastal guard, royal/presidential/parliamentary guard, counter-terrorist units, border protection units, consular security, and other armed forces.
  - Pray for the chains of command in these forces, e.g. generals, admirals, marshals, and all staff officers.
  - Pray for the enlisted and conscripted members of the protection forces.
- Pray for the diplomatic forces of your country, e.g. Ambassadors, diplomats and their staff, consulates and consular services, couriers, and other members of the diplomatic forces.

- Pray for the intelligence forces of your country, e.g. security agencies, surveillance and monitoring groups, counter-intrusion teams.
- Pray against attempts to pollute and weaken the mission of these forces with 'progressive' ideas and restructuring, but also against ingrained masochistic initiations and 'conspiracies of silence' which protect sadistic and unlawful practices that harm members in a falsehood of 'camaraderie'. Pray for the truth in all these things to be exposed and for them to be dealt with and cleansed.
- Pray for Christians in the protection, diplomatic and intelligence forces. Pray they provide a good witness of Christ's love and faithfulness. Pray for their discernment and wisdom in handling orders and directions, particular where there are conflicts with Christians principles.
- Pray for those who suffer for the sake of 'conscience' when choosing to refuse orders that are 'unacceptable' to them.

*<sup>11</sup> But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> I direct you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you keep the commandment without fault or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (1 Timothy 6:11-16 NASB)*

### **DAY 23**

Pray for all government departments, branches and commissions, and for local councils/municipalities.

If you can, get a list of the portfolios, departments and branches of your country and regional/state governments, and their heads and the government ministers that are responsible for each.

For each, pray for

- the government ministers responsible for each and their staff,
- the public service heads and the staff under them (civil servants),
- their policies and procedures, their facilities, their financing and tax collection, marketing and publicity, information technology, on-line and in-person customer service, and so on.

Also try to get a list of the local councils/municipalities in your area and pray for:

- Mayors and aldermen/councillors, and their staff,

- Council/municipal administration and services staff,
- their local laws and by-laws, their facilities, their financing and rate/revenue collection, marketing and publicity, information technology, on-line and in-person customer service, and so on.

*<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21 NIV)*

## 5. MEDIA

Media has been defined as the collective ecology of the world's media including newspapers, journals, television, radio, books, novels, advertising, press releases, publicity and the blogosphere; any and all media both broadcast and published. The essential purpose of the Media is to provide a means of communicating information and opinions to a large audience, ostensibly with an intent to assist the public to make informed choices. Too often however, the Media 'colours' the information towards a particular set of views.

The widespread use of 'smart' devices and Internet connectivity has seen the rise of 'Social' Media as opposed to the entrenched 'Mass' or 'Mainstream' Media. The essential difference is that Mainstream Media puts the audience in a passive position whereas Social Media puts the audience at the centre, i.e., in a *potentially* active role. The appeal of Social Media is that people feel that their opinions can be voiced and heard by others. Most business enterprises have recognised this, and as well as using traditional advertising in Mainstream Media, they conduct marketing campaigns in Social Media using 'Customer Advocates' to push their products and services.

Mainstream Media is suspicious and even hostile towards Social Media. Already many Media companies have lost revenue from shrinking advertising budgets, and many news providers have been forced to move their products on-line to reduce costs and compete with free offerings from independent sources who are already on-line. The other shift is the transformation of news programming into entertainment, or elevating entertainment news to the same level as events in the 'real' world.

What the sphere of the Media needs is to be filled and flowing with God's perfect love, then it will be able to wisely utilise different mediums of communication, prophesy truthfully, have complete integrity, be justly balanced and fair, be holy, and be accountable to God.

Consider Paul's description of God's love in 1 Corinthians 13 as you pray during these days.

### DAY 24

Pray that Christian Media wisely utilises many forms and approaches, many types of people over many eras of time.

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

Each age has its own media of favour. In the past, the city walls were the marketplace of ideas. Later the temple entrance and corridors became the town hall. For the Greeks, it was the council chambers and foyers. When newspaper became common, the newspaper column was the platform of exchange of ideas. With the advent of radio technology last century, radio talk shows gradually took over from printed media, followed mere decades later by television talk shows. Nowadays, the Internet seems to be the public space for communication.

*Paul's Use of His Freedom*

*<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law*

*(though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NIV)*

Pray that the Holy Spirit inspires Christians to be open and flexible in the Media; wisely led to use multiple media in partnership in order to communicate the gospel of Christ effectively.

Pray also that people in the Christian Media with competitive or possessive attitudes be convicted to repent and instead hunger for unity and cooperation with their fellow Christians in the Media.

### **DAY 25**

Pray that Christian Media are prophetic.

*<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways (Hebrews 1:1 NIV)*

The prophets had a two-prong message. In times of difficulty, they saw the glory of God and the resurrection of the dry bones. In times of complacent injustice, they confront the people of their sins. In a word, the prophet both empowers and confronts, declaring the freedom of humanity and the sovereignty of God.

No earthly power is powerful or persistent enough to suppress human dignity forever. No earthly or spiritual power can overcome God. Prophecy is given to remind us of this.

We must never be prideful or boast of gifts of prophesy; each has their season and passes.

*<sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire His people in the Media with daily wisdom, insight, and prophetic knowledge.

### **DAY 26**

Pray for honesty and integrity in the sphere of Media.

A storm of noise has been building across the world in recent times about the imbalance of reporting news and information that has become endemic across the Media. This has always been the case in less developed countries and those under military or totalitarian regimes. But now the western media are also becoming one-sided, often releasing only negative reports of the ill-favoured side of politics or commercial interests, or even only reporting from their favoured side and ignoring everyone else. All of this is of course justified by a 'We are right, they are wrong' policy of exclusivity.

Advertising is of course biased, but increasingly advertisements are stretching the truth, sometimes into fantasy, particularly popular sexual or power fantasies.

God's way is of course not peoples' way, and people would be wise to heed Him.

*<sup>20</sup> So, you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. <sup>21</sup> For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it (Proverbs 2:20-21 ESV)*

Fundamentally, what is wrong are peoples' priorities. Those who do not understand or appreciate God's love have no barriers to justifying the means to reach their goals, even good and noble causes. Those who do appreciate and espouse God's love cannot go along with lies and deception, not matter what the justification, as this corrupts the cause.

*<sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 NIV)*

Pray for the priorities in the Media to be shaken mightily by God, so everyone will question how these attitudes are helping to inform and improve the country and its people.

Pray against vindictiveness and partiality in the Media, and against the spirit of gloating and mockery. Ask God to expose all manipulation of truth and promotion of deception.

*<sup>11</sup> By this I know that you delight in me:  
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.*

*<sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.*

*<sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen.*

*(Psalm 41:11-13 ESV)*

Pray for those who have been victimised unfairly by the Media to be publicly vindicated and those who created and passed on the lies to be exposed and shamed.

Pray for the repentance of people in the Media and a desire to seek God.

Read Psalm 37 prayerfully with regard to the above.

## **DAY 27**

Pray against loose morals in the Media.

Like Arts & Entertainment, the Media has progressively weakened on a number of moral issues, especially sexuality. It is a curious contradiction that in this age of anti-discrimination and 'equality', there seems to be more sexual innuendo and imagery than ever, and much of it is very demeaning to both men and women.

People, especially teenagers, are bombarded with immoral messages and temptations through movies, TV, music, and the Internet. Mostly unmoderated social networking is adding to this dilemma.

*18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.  
(1 Corinthians 6:18 ESV)*

Pray against the spirits of Pornography and Adultery in the Media. Ask our Lord to bind them and cancel their influence.

Pray for people who have become enslaved by their lusts and desires to be set free, and for them to seek and meet strong Christians who can minister God's love to them to stay free from this insidious trap. Pray for the Lord to have mercy on them.

You might also like to pray the following:

*Lord, technology has helped the world in many ways, but it has also proven to be a snare into sin through the lure of pornography. We ask a hedge of protection against this temptation that has the power to damage families and scar the spirit of both the one who views pornography and those who love those caught up in this trap. Help keep our minds on You in such a powerful way that pornography holds no allure. Give us the wisdom to remove temptations that we cannot resist, and to always keep You first in our hearts and minds. Amen.*

## **DAY 28**

Pray against pride, arrogance, smugness, cynicism, and haughtiness in the sphere of Media.

*18 Pride goes before destruction,  
a haughty spirit before a fall.  
(Proverbs 16:18 NIV)*

There are many anecdotes regarding the power of the Media and spoken and written words. Certainly, the Media has become increasingly arrogant in recent decades, to the point where major Media organisations even feel empowered to ban Presidents and Prime Ministers and their governments from their services. These 'demonstrations of power' are intended to 'put political leaders in their place', but this battle of 'who is the most popular' will not end well for these organisations. Already large numbers of the public are deserting them, and once advertisers see their exposure numbers dropping, they will demand reduced fees, or just pull their campaigns out altogether.

It is of course best to be humble before God and respect His will and ways.

*<sup>12</sup> And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
(Deuteronomy 10:12 NIV)*

*But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you  
(Deuteronomy 28:15)*

Pray for the Media to become a humble servant of the public, governments, business, and other spheres. Pray for the leaders and gatekeepers in the Media to be convicted of their pride, to repent, and seek God's forgiveness, and then to restore their organisations to be clean of deceit and strong in Godly principles.

Ask the Holy Spirit to hover over the sphere of Media in your country:

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

## **DAY 29**

Pray for Christians who work in the Media.

Christians in the Media are always under huge pressures. Because of the power of words, spoken and written, the world is afraid of Christians speaking God's word and will always be on the watch over everything they produce. The enemy of God is also afraid of Christians in the Media: salt disinfects germs and light exposes the truth, and Christians are both. It is not unusual for Christians to be heavily persecuted until they leave Media organisations.

Christians are responsible to know what God's word says. A Christian who dwells on God's word will have a hunger and thirst for it and they will be grieved by ungodly things and will no longer desire them.

*"His word is what sanctifies us" John 17:17.*

Some Christians working in the Media hide their eternal identity and pretend to be the same as the unbelieving, hoping they will stay unnoticed so they can continue to 'earn a living'. The danger of this approach is that bit by bit, they will become that which they are pretending to be, and abandon their passion for God.

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" Hosea 4:6.*

Pray for our brothers and sisters working the Media, for their patience and love to overflow all the challenges around them. Pray every word they speak is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Pray also for the protection of the families of Christian working in the Media.

## 6. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ***The Arts***

The Lord said to Moses, "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft." (Exodus 35:1-5 ESV)

God is the one who allows skills and gifts to be placed upon someone's life.

Although the word 'art' is not easily found in the Bible we know that it exists based on God's creating quality. God is glorified by beauty. We read in 1 Kings 6 when Solomon is building a temple for God. The details given paints an image of artistry and skill. Solomon knew that God would be pleased by the beauty at the hands of His craftsman.

Solomon also compares the beauty of a bride to "the work of an artist's hands" (Song of Solomon 7:1 NIV), which praises God for the art that He Himself creates. God's hands create beauty. Although the word 'art' first appears in Exodus, we can see God being an artist in Genesis when He designs everything in existence that He creates.

The term 'the arts' includes, but is not limited to, music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television programs, radio programs, film, video, tape and sound recording and production. The arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of such major art forms, all those traditional arts practiced by the diverse peoples of any country.

### ***Entertainment***

Entertainment can be defined as an agreeable occupation for the mind, something affording pleasure, diversion or amusement. Traditional entertainment is usually passive or receptive only, as in watching performances of plays, films and music, and activities such as reading and watching television.

Recent technology has enabled a wide range of interactive entertainment (i.e. active not passive engagement) ranging from simple video or computer games to immersive experiences in virtual worlds and meeting rooms. The difference is that 'you ARE the hero' as opposed to 'you WATCH the hero'. This shift is driving social changes where many people live much of their lives playing these interactive games either by themselves or on-line with others in unreal environments as opposed to interaction with people in the real world.

Mrs Karen Covell from the Hollywood Prayer Network (HPN) says:

*The difference between "Christian Arts & Entertainment" and "Secular Arts & Entertainment"*

*Christians working in Christian entertainment is more responsible for the content than Christians working as "media missionaries" in secular entertainment. Then they must choose what jobs to take or turn down based on if it's compromising to their*

*faith, can they be salt & light with others on the project, etc. So, we at HPN pray specifically for Christians working, living and ministering in the secular entertainment industry and how we can be Ambassadors, Salt & Light, strong witnesses and Christ-like in our actions and words.*

Let us pray for Arts and Entertainment and those who work in this sphere.

### **DAY 30**

Pray for God to move greatly over the sphere of the Arts and Entertainment.

#### ***All God's Creation is Art***

*All of God's creation is miraculous. God's initial action in the creation of the cosmos was miraculous. And all He has made continues to be marvellous in its diversity, complexity, and function. If we truly believe in God's providence through His continual action of creation, we have no choice but to be continually in awe of Him.*

*We need to give recognition to who He is as a creator and sustainer. It is an act of worship. It is hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, and tasting God's expression of Himself and then responding with our deep attention, appreciation, and engagement.*

*The first mention of art in the Bible is in Exodus 31. God is instructing Moses to create a tent for the ark of the covenant, and God mentions several artisans whom He has chosen to create "artistic designs" (verse 4) to beautify the tent. God says, "In the hearts of all who are skilful I have put skill" (verse 6).*

*Also, in 1 Kings 6, Solomon created a temple for the Lord. In verse 4, "artistic frames" were made for the house. This reinforces the fact that God does desire beauty and likes to be surrounded by it. We learn two things about God's view of art in this passage: He likes it, and He is the source of it.*

*Again, in Song of Solomon, the beauty of the bride is compared to 'the work of the hands of an artist' (7:1). God is the Creator; He is the artist whose hands create beauty. It follows that any beauty we create is glorifying to God, our Creator.*

*(merged from multiple texts, original source unknown)*

Pray for artists, visual designers, graphic designers, content creators, and all who work in the Arts and Entertainment sphere, and those who appreciate their works, to recognise and acknowledge that our Creator God is the source of all true beauty and enjoyment.

Pray for God to release people in this sphere and pour His purifying love, joy and peace into their hearts so they will affect all around them and who see and hear their works to be transformed towards God's everlasting and ever-new beauty and excellence.

### **DAY 31**

Uphold all these areas of the Visual Arts in your prayers while meditating on the scripture.

- Architecture
- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Filmmaking
- Painting
- Photography

*<sup>6</sup> You alone are the LORD.  
You have made the heavens,  
The heaven of heavens with all their lights,  
The earth and everything that is on it,  
The seas and everything that is in them.  
You give life to all of them,  
And the heavenly lights bow down before You.  
(Nehemiah 9:6 NASB)*

### **DAY 32**

Uphold all these areas of the Literary Arts in your prayers while meditating on the scripture.

- Language and Literature
- Drama
- Poetry
- Prose

*<sup>28</sup> Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.  
(Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV)*

### **DAY 33**

Uphold all these areas of the Performing Arts in your prayers while meditating on the scripture.

- Dance
- Music
- Theatre
- Music Theatre

*<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.  
(Exodus 15:20 NIV)*

*<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.*

*<sup>4</sup> For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.  
(Psalm 149: 3-4 NIV)*

*<sup>3</sup> Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre.*

*<sup>4</sup> Praise Him with tambourine and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flute.*

*<sup>5</sup> Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals.*

*<sup>6</sup> Everything that has breath shall praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!  
(Psalm 150:3-6 NASB)*

### **DAY 34**

Pray for the disassembly and destruction of Satan's strongholds in the Arts and Entertainment sphere.

*<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)*

We know that the enemy of all mankind and God tempted Jesus Christ with instant prosperity, instant power, and instant popularity, even trying to deceive Him by quoting scriptures out of context. Jesus however, stood His ground and rebuffed Satan with scriptures correctly applied.

*<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

*<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

*<sup>5</sup> The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone*

*I want to. <sup>7</sup> If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*  
*<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”*  
*<sup>9</sup> The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written :*  
*“He will command his angels concerning you*  
*to guard you carefully;*  
*<sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,*  
*so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”*  
*<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*  
*<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*  
*(Luke 4:3-13 NIV)*

Pray for people caught up in deceptions and negative spirals of self-indulgence and self-destruction to meet Jesus and surrender to Him, and let Him deal with and defeat the enemy as He always has done.

Pray that each person encounter God’s light and are freed through Christ to become the totally creative and loving people God intended them to be.

### **DAY 35**

Pray for Christian actors, designers, director, producers, technical staff, and other people who are working or seeking work in Arts and Entertainment.

*<sup>11</sup> By this I know that you delight in me:  
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.*  
*<sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.*  
*<sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen.*  
*(Psalm 41:11-13 ESV)*

Pray that the Holy Spirit inspire them in all that they do to excel in what they do and uplift the souls of all they come in contact with, ether personally or through their works..

Pray they also have the gifts of discernment wisdom and knowledge so they can identify when the enemy is trying to drag them down, and then to resist him and his schemes.

*<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV)*

Below is a personal prayer for an audition or interview; pray through this on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are seeking work in this sphere.

*Lord, You, are in control of the whole world.  
You make the sun shine and the wind blow.  
Lord, please take control of this audition/interview.  
Calm my nerves. Give me Your peace.  
Please fill me with Your strength.  
Help me perform to the best of my ability.  
You gave me these gifts; please allow me the opportunity to use them.  
Please give wisdom to the people making decisions today.  
Help them see me and the other candidates as Your creation – not a number.  
Make them chose the people You want in the roles/positions, Lord.  
I know everyone here is Your creation, and You have plans for them too.  
I pray that if for some reason it is not Your will, that I get what I want,  
that You will open my eyes to what it is You do want me to do in this season.  
Lord, you know what I want – but Your will be done.  
I admit You full control over this audition/interview.  
Amen*

## 7. BUSINESS

*<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:15 NIV)*

All of us are involved in business to some extent, either directly or indirectly. Without the trade (i.e., buying and selling) of goods/products and services, we would lack food, housing, transport, medical care, and everything else we require and desire to live life in the modern world. Similarly, unless we are in a culture of total bartering for trade, we require a unit of exchange, a currency, money, to purchase and sell goods and services. Thus, there are financial institutions and services dedicated to the production and management of finance.

Those who are 'in business' are either responsible for the running of a business organisation, be it a corner store or a local 'tradie' (trades-person) or a multi-national corporation, or they are they employed by a business organisation, i.e. responsible for their assigned tasks in the operation of the business. All in business are led by others and accountable to others regardless of their position.

Businesses come in different sizes, management and ownership styles. Below is a simplified sample of these (not necessarily complete, but at least representative).

Sizes of business organisations:

- Large corporations and companies (has employees)
- Small to Medium Enterprises or SMEs (has employees)
- Individual people (self-employed)

Types of business organisation:

- Unstructured sole operator – business performed by a sole person who reports the business as a part of their personal finances.
- Sole proprietorship/trader – business owned by one person who has sole responsibility. Usually for small to medium enterprises with none or few employees.
- Partnership / Cooperative – owned equally by multiple people, responsibility is also equally shared. Usually for small to medium enterprises with none or few employees.
- Corporation – independent organisation with shares either private or publicly owner, responsibility is shared across directors of board. Usually for large enterprises with many employees.
- Limited Liability Company (LLC) – corporation style entity with specific scope and limited responsibility on directors of board. Size and number of employees can vary greatly depending on focus.

Types of business sectors:

- Production, Construction and Manufacturing – maker of goods and assets.
- Transport and Reselling – supply of goods and assets.
- Personal and Business Services – supply of services.

- Personal and Business Finance and Insurance – supply and management of capital (i.e. money).
- Regulation and Reporting – monitoring of accountable information from sectors of business, and advice on performance and compliance of business sectors to government, industry groups, and the general public.

Responsibilities of people in businesses:

- Board – e.g. chairman, directors, office holders.
- Executive – Chief Executive Officer.
- Management – General Managers, middle management, supervisors and foremen.
- Workers – employees, consultants and contractors.
- Shareholders and owners – people who have invested in the company.

Do some research on the many businesses in your city/town/suburb, region and country. If it seems a big task, start with the local shops, tradespeople, factories, banks, chemists/drugstores, car yards and repairs, book stores, and so on.

Where appropriate, try to find the names of the owners and top managers of these businesses. Businesses are about, and for, and run by people.

Try also to identify any Christian groups and outreaches to the business sphere.

These will all help you focus your intercession.

### **DAY 36**

Pray for all businesses to acknowledge God as their first/top priority.

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you. (Matthew 6:33 NASB)*

Pray that business leaders (the owners and management) will come to the realisation that they need to reset their priorities if they think that profits and prestige are the most important goals of their business.

Pray that the Lord God binds the hateful forces of the enemy and the selfish lust for power from the world, and the fears of rejection and being 'stepped on' by others that these business leaders hold in their hearts.

Pray for these people to accept to be set free to become the salt and light of Christ in our society as God intended them to be (per Matthew 5:13-16).

Pray they will:

- Honour God in their business.

*<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.  
(Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)*

- Apply Godly principles in their business.

*<sup>13</sup> Happy is the man who finds wisdom,  
And the man who gains understanding  
(Proverbs 3:13 NKJV)*

- Achieve God's goals in their business.

*<sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love  
and of a sound mind.  
(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)*

- Succeed according to God's will and purposes.

*<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.  
In this world you will have trouble.  
But take heart! I have overcome the world."  
(John 16:33 NIV)*

### **DAY 37**

Pray for all businesses to operate in God's ways without fear of failure or loss of reputation.

*In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan  
of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will  
(Ephesians 1:11 NIV)*

Business leaders need to do everything according to God's will and wisdom. He is in everything they have and own. He is all in all.

But what of success if business leaders follow God's will? Does God care about business success?

*<sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I  
am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.  
(Isaiah 43:19 NIV)*

True business success comes from obedience to God's words. He is interested in everything we do (Matthew 10:29-31) and tells us only the things we need to be successful, as He is our perfect Father (Matthew 7:9-12).

The potential of 'business intelligence' is to make informed decisions that produce the best outcomes. Mining and analysing market data and trends are common ways to obtain business intelligence, but the indications will always be limited to the quality and currency of information and tools available (freely or purchased). God has given us the most comprehensive sources of business intelligence; Himself as the Holy Spirit, and Scripture: both are of the very highest standard and currency.

Pray for business leaders to have the courage of Christ to seek His will, the discernment to recognised and refuse decisions that are outside God's perfect will for their business, and the peace of God in proceeding with decisions that honour God.

Pray also that these business leaders are protected from the enemy of God who seeks always to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10) the lives and livelihoods of those who choose God's ways. Pray also for their vindication in the eyes of people who do not trust in God.

### **DAY 38**

Pray for businesses to be honest, accountable, and have good integrity.

*<sup>2</sup> Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2 NIV)*

Ethics is a personal choice and therefore how workplace ethics are governed depends upon the personal ethics of those who are in authority over that workplace and those who work in that environment. Workplace ethics are an extension of the personal standards or lack of them inherent in the people who make up the workplace. The idea here is one of a position of responsibility and of submission to authority.

The ethics of a workplace has far reaching impacts on the performance and longevity of a business. Nothing is missed or overlooked by God: He sees all and unless forgiven, all manners of conducting our business which are not honouring God will be judged as away from His will.

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.  
<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;  
whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.  
(Galatians 6:7-8 NIV)*

Pray against corruption of vision, avoiding truth in reporting, despising the law, and perverse ideas of prosperity and competition in Business.

Pray business leaders and workers will:

- Promptly compile and send required regulatory and performance reports.
- Promptly pay taxes, levies, commissions, and royalties as they are due.
- Promptly pay employees, contractors, consultants, and suppliers as and when the business has committed to pay.
- Promptly pay shareholders and other creditors when payments are due.
- Be honest and consistent in all their business deals and delivery.

### **DAY 39**

Pray for trust and respect to be built and strengthened between management and workers in all businesses.

Often management treats workers as easily replaceable, i.e. little more than commodities. Similarly, workers often see their management as prison wardens; to be tolerated, and only do what they must to get paid.

Frequently there are also tensions between the employees and non-employees brought in by management when there is extra work. Employees are fearful in these uncertain times that they will be replaced and can become jealous of any special treatment or exemptions

given to non-employees. Non-employees also live in fear of being let go at any time (no work security), are often envious of employees and their benefits, and have to put up with 'cold shoulders' from employees without complaint.

These sorts of attitudes cannot produce the best results for any business or its customers.

*<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men  
(Colossians 3:23 ESV)*

Indeed, it should be clear that God has called us all to work. If we honour God's calling, we must strive to be the best at what we do, and to produce the best results. This is not just for the products and services we supply to customers; this is also how colleagues speak to and treat each other within the organisation. People are eternal, not the things of this world.

*<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky  
<sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. (Philippians 2:14-16a NIV)*

Pray for the relationships between management staff, worker employees, and also independent workers (contractors and consultants), to be healed where there are rifts.

Ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to convince all sides to be hungry for reconciliation and restoration of good relations, and for that conviction to continue so all deliver on their commitments to improve relations.

Pray for Jesus to crush the enemy's lies and deceit under His feet and to bring His pure light and truth into Businesses. Pray for Him to send the right people at the right time to pray for and speak healing words to the people in these organisations.

## **DAY 40**

Pray for Christians to be a blessing to businesses.

*<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.  
<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.  
<sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.  
(Colossians 3:1-6 NIV)*

Christians only need to reflect Christ in their lives and words to make a positive impact on all around them. This includes the workplace: many see the workplace as only a means of gaining an income for the other parts of their lives, including church stuff. This is a deception from the enemy as if to say; "You need money to live in this world, so don't mix up your private life with it." Eternity and God are not private. We don't need to 'bash' people with our beliefs, but when they see our faith spoken through the way we live our lives accountable to Father God and continually thank Him for all things, joys *and pain*, they will

be stirred in their souls to seek Him. In this increasingly virtual society today, being genuine is something that stands out and people are hungry for genuine experiences.

Pray for Christians how manage and work in businesses to have the courage and wisdom of Christ to live The Word publicly and speak when prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Pray they are reminded of scriptures in every situation; to pray and speak them in gentle encouragement to their colleagues when it is appropriate. Pray for keen and loving wisdom.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bless Christians with clear discernment of when Satan and his minions are trying to temp them away from the path of righteousness which is Christ. Pray they will resist these temptations in their home and public life and hold fast to Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

*<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NASB)*

## CONCLUSION

Consider what you have learned and experienced during this period and how to apply them in achieving the goals God has given you in the spheres you occupy.

Our Lord bless you and may He be glorified through you.

We'll celebrate together in heaven!

### **FINAL PRAYER AFTER FINISHING THE 40 DAYS**

#### Put God's Word into Action

*<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV)*

Let us pray:

*Lord, grant me everything I need to continue your good works as You direct me.*

*"Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master,*

*grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;*

*to be understood as to understand;*

*to be loved as to love;*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life."*

*(attributed to St Francis of Assisi)*

Rejoice!

*<sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy and be glad,  
Who favor my righteous cause;  
And let them say continually,  
"Let the Lord be magnified,  
Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."  
(Psalm 35:27 NKJV)*

*Lord, how I rejoice in your presence, the joy of your peace makes me ready to preach the gospel and feel happy to share it with others.*

*Give me always your joy to rejoice with you and others.*

*In Christ Jesus' name,*

*Amen.*