

AVC 40 Days Of Prayer 2008



Today's Quote

My prayers my God flow from what I am not.
I think thy answers make me what I am

George MacDonald

Today's Scripture Reading

Psalm 95

³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

INTRODUCING 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Welcome to our 2nd annual '40 Days of Prayer'. During this period we are calling upon the whole Vineyard family in South Africa to give special attention to prayer. The 40 days will commence on Wed 6th Feb and culminate on Easter Sunday. Whilst we could choose any time within the year, the 40 days of lent has a special significance. Not only is this an important season historically within the Christian Calendar, but it allows us to join our prayers with many other churches and movements who have a focus on prayer and fasting during this time. So not only are we praying together as a movement, but with the church around the world and throughout history. A wonderful opportunity to serve the wider body and to under gird our value of loving the whole of Christ's Church.

We would encourage each local Vineyard to:

- Set aside one day a week to fast, as well as to meet together for a special time of prayer. (A Thursday has been suggested and seemed to work well last year).
- To share this bulletin on Sundays, via email, and on your websites, etc.
- But particularly to pray – to find many creative and alternative times to meet with one, two, or more believers to pray.
- From time to time we will highlight some resources on the AVC website that may be of assistance to you.
- Please continue to feed back to us your suggestions and most importantly any testimonies of how God is answering prayer and what he is doing with you regarding prayer.

THE FIRST WEEK



During this week Psalm 95 is an important psalm. Not only does the psalmist call us to give thanks, to sing and worship but he calls us to exalt the Lord over all the earth.

We would encourage you to worship together – in prayer and in song. To pray for your church and community, but also to extend your prayer into the nation and the continent. During this first week we have felt compelled to focus our prayers on the situation in Kenya. Please pray for the country, the church and our Vineyard brothers and sisters. Allow the Psalm to inspire you and give language and leading to your prayers.

FOCUS SUMMARY Kenya and East Africa

CONCLUSION

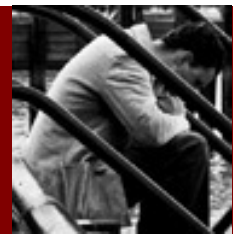


"Do not harden your hearts, as Israel did...." (Ps 95:7, NLT).
Within the wider church and throughout history Lent has been associated with a time of repentance. Take a few moments to commit this 40 day period of prayer to the Lord. Ask the Lord to lead us together into a time of reflection, repentance and refreshing.
Maranatha!

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR PRAYER FOCUS



FOCUS FOR WEEK ONE



Praying for Kenya

It is important that we concentrate this month on the country of **Kenya** because of political turmoil that has occurred there since the general elections on 27th December 2007 and the bloodshed which followed.

Background

Kenya has 122 linguistic groups and the main ethnic groups are: Kikuyu, Luyia, Kamba, Luo, Maasi and Kipsigis. The 2000 census showed there were a total of 30 million people living in Kenya most of whom live in the fertile plateaus of the South and West, while the North is mostly desert. Predominantly agriculture and tourism are the major industries. On the political field the country has been virtually a one-party state since independence from Britain in 1963 with English and Kiswahili as the official languages.

Items for praise

- Kenya has for many years played a key role as a **solid base for Christian ministry** to Africa and the world. It has 36% (or 13 million) evangelical Christians, the highest in Africa and nearly equal to all evangelicals in Europe.
- Secondly Kenya has had an **incredible growth in Missions** which has grown since independence with four-fifths of the country claiming to be Christian and Christians are found in every level of society: government, media, education etc.
- Thirdly, there has been what can only be described as a **phenomenal church growth in the evangelical and Pentecostal churches**. Yes, there was the East African Revival (1948-1960) that made a huge impact on the mainline churches but was quenched by legalism, materialism and personality clashes.

What to pray for

- The two main political parties to sit down as soon as possible and talk to prevent further violence and bloodshed.
- That the churches will be galvanised to meet together irrespective of the doctrinal and denominations differences and **PRAY**.
- That the Lord Himself will intervene supernaturally – clearly **this Godly nation needs a visitation**, which they have experienced before in the “East African Revival”.

- That Christians in all walks of society will be light and salt ushering in the **Kingdom of God**.
- The current president would show humility and put aside selfish political gain as he talks to leaders from the AU, EU, UN and other bodies.
- That the **work of missionaries** will NOT suffer a setback but that they will use the opportunity to share the message of reconciliation through the cross to all the people of Kenya.
- Those missionaries and their families – many **missionaries’ children** attend school at the Rift Valley Academy – will be protected.
- That the **name of Christ will be exalted** across the land and the people of Kenya are given fresh hope.
- That ministers, pastors and priests will **fearlessly preach the gospel**.

Extract from ‘What in the World is God doing’ by John Anderson.

Available on www.hillsidevcf.org.za



East Africa

As we focus our prayers on the region as a whole let us also pray for the churches in East Africa. Over the past few years there has been considerable momentum in missions and church planting. With the current levels of violence and civil unrest in Kenya, the churches are in dire need of basic resources.

Please pray:

- Specifically for all the Vineyards – established churches, plants in progress, and all the associated ministries that reach out from these churches.
- For the Lord’s hand of protection. For individuals and families, for meetings while they are in progress, etc.
- Pray too that ministry will continue, regular meetings of worship and fellowship, as well as outreach and mission.
- Pray that the Lord would sustain, protect and grow these new churches as well as maintain the emphasis of planting new churches.
- Pray for the provision of essential resources:- Food; clothing; bedding; medical supplies; transport; and finances.
- Pray for Karen Vineyard in Nairobi & VCF Dar es Salaam, who are looking for a pastor.

