

## GLOBAL 24/7 NEWSLETTER 5: SEPTEMBER 2008



### **Actup - Support for families in crisis**

**Leah Grobler (Director since 2001)**

"My earnest desire is to serve God's Kingdom on earth."

On the 29th of July 2000 God called her to start a prayer chain and support network for parents of addicted children. God gave her Isaiah 41:18-21 as the foundation for Act-Up. This Scripture has been her inspiration through many trials and tribulations they have faced together during the past four years.

Act-Up is based on the acceptance of your God given responsibility as a parent for your child. God calls us to be actively involved with our children even though we feel disappointed and let down by them. It is only through our ongoing support and prayers for them that we and our children will reach our full potential in Christ.

Through the years God blessed them with many gifted Children of God to help them adhere to His vision.

God confirmed His vision for Act-Up with Habakkuk 2:1-4 during July 2004

#### **PRAYER CHAIN - HOW IT ALL STARTED**

Early in the morning of 29 July 2000 the Lord gave Leah *Isaiah 41:17-21* when she was crying to Him for help regarding her son who had a severe drug problem.

"This assured me that He, Himself will answer our prayers. That He will silence our fears and encourage our faith. That He will support us and our children on their way to recovery. I experienced the fountains of water as the Spirit of God who will come and bring life into our weary bodies, spirits and souls. That He will teach, comfort and lead us and bring joy back into our lives as He lifts us up, above our circumstances. Most exiting was His promise to touch us and our children, that we shall experience renewal of character through His hands. This I envisioned as trees that will grow in the desert. This will empower us to overcome the powers of darkness and to stand firm as His witnesses.

The world will see these wonderful, miraculous changes and see the power of God's favour. They will then know that such healing is above the ordinary course and power of nature. Then they shall acknowledge the Mighty Hand of our Father in this."

She immediately started with a group of 5 parents praying through 24 hours during weekends for their children. Today there are 54 chains (a chain is a whole week, 24 hours) all over our country and internationally.

We thank our Heavenly Father for the total healing and restoration of so many of our children. Some of them are still on their road to recovery but by the grace of God, we will never give up. Although prayer is at the heart of Act-Up Support, the need arose for various other activities.

**How to join:** If you feel the need and are willing to commit to one hour per week in prayer at your home, you are more than welcome to fill in the [form](#) and send it to us. You will have access to the monthly prayer letter on line which serves as a guide line for your hour of prayer.

[http://www.actup.co.za/prayer\\_chain\\_about\\_E.asp](http://www.actup.co.za/prayer_chain_about_E.asp)

## **Unified Prayer Engages with Ocult in Oulu, Finland**

***"The presence of God was so intense that I almost couldn't keep away from the Prayer room"***

How do you transform a city? The 24-7 Prayer community in Oulu, Finland are pushing through church and gender divides to cry out with one voice to the Father for change.

I received an email from a young Finnish woman organizing a 24-7 Prayer Room in a city. The first thing that shone through the type on the screen was her heart. I could sense that she was totally sold out for Jesus. Sinikka Hepola cared about prayer.

Her enthusiasm was infectious, even through cyber space, as we talked/typed about setting up a 24-7 Prayer Room for the city of Oulu I could tell that this wasn't going to be a one-off event. *"We started initially in autumn 2006,"* writes Sinikka. *"Inspired by my spiritual mother, I read Red Moon Rising and we decided to organise a prayer week before a big evangelical meeting in Oulu,"* she continued. *"After that amazing week I couldn't forget about prayer. I felt like we had to continue. So in January 2007, together with one other interceding enthusiast we arranged a prayer week in January that sparked a rhythm of monthly 24-7 Prayer that has continued, almost unbroken ever since."*

Clarity of vision and hard earned unity has marked the progression of their prayer. Sinikka and others have forged new friendships and gone out of their way to spread the word and welcome all Christians to pray with them. Their target: the City of Oulu. Their aim: to see the Kingdom of God break out.

*"There are currently 7 of us in the team from 4 different churches in the Oulu area. Since I stepped away from leading the 24-7 team, God called out a great leader for us. Hannu, such a man of faith and prayer has now been pushing through some tough times of just keeping the prayer room going over the past year. All together there are at least 8 different congregations from very different backgrounds coming together in prayer. All ages, both men and women praying together for our city. We close every prayer week with a two-hour session where anyone is welcome. It's an informal get-together with lots of prayer and worship where we really get into blessing each other. God gives us loads of encouragement and prophetic words; it really builds the community and strengthens our relationships."*

Unified prayer has had a great effect; *"It really has had a huge impact on the atmosphere of the city that we are praying"* explains Sinikka. *"Large groups would gather in the Prayer Room and take turns going out onto the streets to offer prayer to the people they met. Last spring we found out there was a new age fair in Oulu the same weekend as our 24-7. We weren't sure what to do. Should we pray against it? Do we stand outside with signs of protest? As we prayed and prepared for our weekend we felt God nudge us in a very different direction: why not go to the fair and introduce Jesus to the people seeking spiritual truth?"* What an incredible way to seize an opportunity. Their attitude reminded me of the Apostle

Paul in Athens in Acts 17, preaching the gospel through the 'Unknown God' to people who were searching.

*"One of my friends called the exhibition organiser and found that someone had 'conveniently' just cancelled a fair stand right in the centre of the gathering. We decided to do what we felt God was leading us to and we weren't disappointed: God did some amazing stuff. People were saved right there and then and lots of New Testaments were given out to people curious to know more."*

*"Next year the organisers asked whether there could be some Christian lecturing about marriage, love and relationships. This would be alongside the lecture on astrology. What an amazing opportunity to bring truth to such a gathering."*

*"Though there have been many encouragements, the last year and a half hasn't always been easy. At times filling the hours and organising the Prayer Room has been a sacrifice, but we feel that God has gathered us to promote and enable all churches to come together to pray for our city and for the entire nation, and we are anxiously waiting to see where God is going to take us in the coming years."*

*"Our get-togethers between the prayer weeks and our relationships within the 24-7 team are much more important than the work itself. Together we model the unity we want to see spread wide across our nation. Men praying with women. Denominations uniting around Jesus."*

*"We're here to pray for this city. It is our mission, no matter what it feels like. Knowing why we're here keeps us together."*

I asked Sinikka what one thing would she say to the rest of the 24-7 movement if we gave her the opportunity to broadcast it across the globe. She responded passionately, *"Dream big and expect God to answer to your prayers. Remain faithful at times even when it feels like nothing is happening and all the excitement has worn off. Be prepared to make changes, even big changes to direction if Jesus tells you to. And most importantly, enjoy Him!"*

**Carla Harding**

<http://www.24-7prayer.com/cm/content/905>

## **Prayer Mountain Uganda**

On a hill, about seven miles from the capital Kampala along the route to Uganda's International airport Entebbe is the "Africa Prayer Mountain for All Nations".

Africa Prayer Mountain For All Nations, is a vision that was given to John Mulinde, birthed through thanksgiving to God for what He did in answering prayers during the troubled years under Iddi Amin and Dr. Milton Obote's regime. Prayer Mountain was established in 1999 by World Trumpet Mission, in cooperation with partnering nations, and officially dedicated to the purpose of unceasing prayer for the nations of the world by Uganda's First Lady Mrs. Janet Museveni in January 2001. Visitors from more than 40 nations have already come to pray at Prayer Mountain.

The vision for this 80-acre venture features three wings: (1) prayer, (2) humanitarian ministries, (3) income generation to support Kingdom work. Currently the project has 80 acres, and structures include a central meeting hall and block of offices, a tent village and special retreat area for pastors. A hall for intercessors is under construction and missionary training school facilities are in a planning stage.

The programs on Prayer Mountain include daily lunch-hour services and weekly Friday all-night prayers attended by over 1,000 people from many Churches and denominations. Pastors and leaders, church and intercessory networking groups come for prayer and retreats. Visitors can stay in tents up to 2 weeks at a time and over 200 people per month are regularly using these facilities.

### **WHAT' S HAPPENING AT AFRICA PRAYER MOUNTAIN FOR ALL NATIONS**

Everyone visiting Prayer Mountain in Sseguku is most welcome, and should register at the Prayer Mountain offices on arrival.

You may use an available tent and mattress (limited number and available at Ush 1000 per night) or you can bring your own. Groups that wish to stay on the mountain overnight should contact Nathan Kibiike in advance, at 075 808053.

Groups may arrange for one large tent at a lower rate per person. Children are welcome on the mountain during the day, but those under the age of 10 are not permitted to stay overnight. The maximum length of stay for a person on the mountain is 30 consecutive nights.

[http://worldtrumpetmission.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3&Itemid=28](http://worldtrumpetmission.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3&Itemid=28)



## **Awakening of Aliyah from the East**

"It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will set His hand a second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elan and Shinar, from Hamath and the Islands of the Sea." Isaiah 11:11

The Lord is awakening new sounds of prophetic proclamation for the fullness of return of His Covenant people from Elam (East of Mesopotamia) and Shinar (the Euphrates delta). This will include the modern day China, Japan, Taiwan and nations of the east.

In order to see the release of His people from the east, a highway needs to be prepared for their return to their homeland, Israel. A highway is built in the Spirit first, with worship, proclamation of His Word (reminding Him of His precious promises), and intercession. Then the Lord woos and uproots His people in His loving-kindness to step onto the highway for their journey into their destiny.

Once a week we faithfully gather in Jerusalem to worship and build the highway in the Spirit, and call for His covenant people to return from the four corners of the earth.

During the past two weeks when we have gathered, the Lord has very significantly brought in groups from Japan, Taiwan and China. A representative of each of those nations took their place, with the authority of their national identity, and standing in the gap, called the Jews from their nations of the east, home to Israel. What a precious anointing there was, resting on each of them, as they cried out to the Lord for the release of the Jews from their respective nations, Japan, China and Taiwan!

After each had released their hearts in intercession, we blew the shofar over these nations for the breath of God to be sent forth to fulfill His Word.

This is a "kairos" time that the Lord is highlighting, for the Jews from the east to return home. We anointed these representatives, commissioning them as a voice to their nations to stir up the urgency of the hour, and call forth the fullness of 'aliyah' from the east.

"I will bring back the captives of My people Israel... I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up..." Amos 9:15.

Hilda Chen

<http://www.pavilionprayertower.org/>

## **The IPMI 2008 Twenty-One Days Fast**

September 14 - October 4



Is it not this fast the fast I have chosen that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?(Is. 58:6)

Since 1997 IPMI has hosted an annual 21-day period of prayer and fasting for breakthroughs. This time of prayer and fasting generally runs from the middle of September to the first week of October, culminating with a special prayer service at a local church in New York City. Since its inception, Rehoboth Open Bible Church in Brooklyn has hosted this service. There is no cost to participate in this program. The 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting Guide is available free of cost to all persons who sign up to participate.

### **Growth of the Twenty-one Days of Prayer and Fasting Program**

As a result of the advertisement of this program on the ministry's website we have seen a significant increase in the number of persons participating in the program over the years. For the 2006 and 2007 events, for example, we had persons from churches of various denominations and ministries participating from the following nations outside of the US:

Afghansitan, Pakistan, India, Israel, South Africa, Zambia, Kuwait, Indonesia and Jamaica.

## Twenty-one Days of Praying and Fasting Objectives

- For humility
- To repent and seek the Lord
- To receive spiritual direction
- For spiritual enlightenment
- As part of your Christian ministry
- For deliverance from demonic oppression
- For deliverance from trouble
- For physical healing and health
- For financial provisions
- For revival
- For salvation of the family and breaking generational curses
- For mercy and grace

The Twenty-One Days of Prayer and Fasting Aims to: provide believers with the opportunity to apply the combined effort of fasting and prayer to those personal challenges confronting them in their homes, families or on the job; those facing their local pastors and congregations; their communities, cities or nations.

Who should participate: Intercessors; Prayer Warriors; Anyone encountering special difficulties or challenges and is trusting God for a breakthrough; Pastors; Leaders; Students; Congregations

[http://www.goipmi.com/main.asp?\\_p=62](http://www.goipmi.com/main.asp?_p=62)

## Young adults and prayer at Taizé

Three times each day, everything stops on the hill of Taizé: the work, the Bible studies, the small-group discussions. The bells call everyone to the church for prayer. Hundreds, sometimes thousands of young adults from many different countries across the world pray and sing with the brothers of the community. Then the Bible is read in several languages. At the center of every prayer service, a long moment of silence offers an irreplaceable opportunity to encounter God.

We brothers are often impressed by the ability of the young people to remain in our church, sometimes for hours on end, in silence or supported by meditative singing. They themselves are sometimes astonished to discover how much they have prayed in Taizé.

What enables the young people to become truly open to an inner dialogue in prayer? How do we manage to let them discover that, even without knowing how to pray, even without knowing what to ask for or what to expect, God has already placed in us the longing for a communion?

I can mention three dimensions of prayer in Taizé which seem to me to echo the searching of the young: an accessible prayer, a meditative prayer, a prayer of the heart.

### **An accessible prayer**

The community's prayer has changed quite a bit over the years; it has become constantly simpler. Nothing in the prayer should appear inaccessible.

This concern to make the inner experience of prayer accessible to a large number is the reason why the community developed a way of praying with simple and meditative songs. I believe that our songs are deeply rooted in the monastic tradition. By their vocabulary, which is that of the psalms, the long tradition of sung prayer that began in the earliest assemblies of Israel. By their meditative, and even repetitive, character.

What touches the young people in Taizé is perhaps the sense that we strive to make the expression of faith as simple as possible, without at the same time watering it down. They feel instinctively that the prayer proposed to them is not so much the translation into their own language of a reality that is foreign to them, but rather an invitation to a search that draws them onwards beyond themselves, that, by placing on their lips words from another age, gently forces them to de-center themselves, to empty themselves.

### **A meditative prayer**

Prayer with the songs of Taizé is also meditation on the Bible. I sometimes wonder if our way of singing is not a kind of introduction to lectio divina, that way of reading the Word attentively that opens a space to let the text reverberate in all its dimensions. In Taizé, the repetition of the songs echoes this mastication, this respiration of the Word.

### **A prayer of the heart**

"Keep watch over your heart vigilantly," says the Book of Proverbs, "for from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23).

Prayer is that preparation of the heart to be attentive to the vigilance that love requires in different situations.

Through singing and silence, young people discover that they are able to have new hearts, simple hearts. "Every desire within us that calls to God already constitutes a prayer. Your desire is already your prayer. There is an inward prayer that never stops: your desire. If you want to pray, then never stop desiring." (Saint Augustine, Commentary on Psalm 37.)

I hope that young people can understand that "Prayer does not make us less involved in the world. On the contrary, nothing is more responsible than to pray. The more we make our own a prayer which is simple and humble, the more we are led to love and to express it with our life.

[http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article3148.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article3148.html)