
Weekly Schedule

Tues, Jan 27th (Lewisville) Joseph & Lillykutty's residence (7 PM)

Thurs, Jan 29th (Garland) Shiju & Bindu's residence (7 PM)

Fri, Jan 30th (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Fri, Jan 30th (Metro) Bible Study & Impact @ Metro (7 PM)

Sat, Jan 31st (Metro) Sunday School Teachers Workshop (10 AM)
All teachers, substitute-teachers, & interested folks welcome
Prayer Meeting @ Metro (7 PM)

Prayer for the Nations: Burkina Faso (Africa) *

- Landlocked in West Africa, on the edges of the Sahara Desert, Burkina Faso is a country troubled by drought and famine. One of the world's poorest countries, most of the population make just enough food to get by each day. Almost 2 million people have left Burkina and resettled in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and France.
- Since gaining independence from France in 1960, Burkina has seen several military take-overs of government and a string of dictators. Although it now has a 'fairer' democracy, in reality much power still rests with President Compaore. The assassination of a popular journalist, Norbert Zongo, in 1998 stirred up public feeling against the government.
- Since the 1990s the evangelical churches have been growing.
- There is a lively network of Assembly of God churches in Burkina - with as many as half of the people becoming Christians from a Muslim background.
- Half of the population are Muslim but only a small minority of the missionaries are working specifically with these people groups. Pray that more people would respond to this challenge and have the passion and perseverance to reach more Muslim communities.
- Burkina Faso is dominated by idol worship, secret societies and the occult, even in some churches. Pray that the power of the occult would be broken and the truth of Jesus would not be compromised.
- 1,500 students around the country are linked with Ougadougou University through cell groups. Pray for effective support and discipleship for these students.
- The massive emigration of a fifth of the population to surrounding countries has caused devastating upheaval to individual families and the country as a whole, particularly since most of those who have left are men.
- Only 2 indigenous languages in Burkina have a Bible - pray for the translators who have taken on the awesome challenge of translating more.

*http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=61

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metrochurch
of God



*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

January 25, 2009

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. (Ps 71:3,5)

Welcome

"Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." (Prov 3:3 NRSV)

Greetings to all of you in the sweet name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with great pleasure we welcome you all to this time of worship and fellowship with one another and with the Triune God.

There is an incident in the book of Jeremiah that is both enlightening and eye-opening. It is the story of the Rechabites found in Jeremiah chapter 35. The Rechabites are equivalent to the modern day Bedouins (desert dwelling nomads).

Here is how the story begins, "The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD...saying, Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink. And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine. But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever" (vs 1,2,5,6).

Jeremiah lived in a time where wine was a common drink (no coke or Pepsi available here), but the Rechabites refused the wine since they were handed down a heritage from their forefathers which they continued to keep despite what everyone around them did. The issue here was not whether drinking the wine was sin or not (Jeremiah was the one who handed them the wine!), but the focus of this story is on the commitment of the Rechabites in following the good heritage that was handed down to them.

In fact, we can see that the Lord is pleased with the Rechabites and their decision, "And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever." (vs 18,19)

The Rechabite's obligation may have seemed foolish to everyone around them since wine was a very normal part of society, but the Rechabites refused to do something that was an accepted norm! The Rechabites honored their heritage, and God was pleased with their dedication, steadfastness, and faithfulness to their forefathers.

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Sermon Notes

I encourage all, especially the youths, to stand up for the good heritage that has been handed down to you by your parents. Society should not dictate your decisions, but your allegiance to your family and your loyalty to the legacy given by godly men and women of God is something that God truly honors.

We as part of the church leadership are committed to teach our young people biblical truths that will keep them grounded in their faith and commitment to Christ, and at the same time our desire is to maintain the legacy of you, the parents, just as the Rechabites did so long ago and set an example for us to follow. May the Lord give us the courage and devotion to keep our commitments these days.

Yours in Christ,
Abie