
Weekly Schedule

Thurs, Feb 25th (Mesquite)	Ladies Prayer @ Sis Susan Jobkutty's res. (7 PM)
Fri, Feb 26th (Mesquite)	Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)
Sat, Feb 27th (Metro)	Fasting Prayer @ Metro 1st Session: 10:30 AM 2nd Session: 2 PM 3rd Session: 5 PM
Sun, Feb 28th (Metro)	Child Dedication Service: Janice Rebecca Jacob Sunday School starts at 9:15 AM

Prayer for the Nations: Zimbabwe (Africa)*

- In the 1920s the 1% white minority owned 70% of the best land. After independence from colonial control in 1980, Zimbabwe maintained stability under a new black president.
- In 2001 the president started a land redistribution process in which the black majority could take hold of white farms by force.
- Many white farmers have fled. Yet their farms are now mismanaged and falling into ruin. Agriculture, once Zimbabwe's mainstay is struggling and the country is now in freefall as unemployment increases.
- The increasingly unpopular President Mugabe, maintains power by heavily censoring opposition and press. He has lost international support and Zimbabwe is increasingly isolated.
- 1 million children (10% of the population) have been orphaned because their parents have died from AIDS.
- Almost 40% of the population are under 15. Many young people are really disillusioned with the political system and the high unemployment rates.
- The numbers of Christians is growing, particularly amongst indigenous Zimbabwe churches.
- Recently, Christian denominations within Zimbabwe have become united in a common goal to be a voice of moderation and reconciliation amid their country's seemingly unstoppable slide into chaos.
- In 1992 Christians in Zimbabwe committed to seeing the number of churches double by the millennium. This goal was reached! – 10,000 churches grew to 20,000 in eight years.
- The high rate of unemployment is putting pressure on Zimbabwe's cities, as hundreds of thousands of people come looking for work. Crime is on the increase and more people are living as squatters in poor conditions.
- AIDS is devastating Africa and Zimbabwe is one of the countries which has been most badly affected; 25% of the population carry the virus and 700 people a week are dying from AIDS. This means that in the next 25 years the population of Zimbabwe could fall from 12 million to 9 million. Pray that the government and the people of Zimbabwe would start to resolve the problem.
- Zimbabwe is under great pressure. Unemployment and food shortages are growing. Pray for the nation– that there would be change without violence.
- Pray for a peaceful and fair resolution to the issue of the distribution of the land.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=52

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

February 21, 2010

"But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore." (Ps 92:8)

Welcome

“Mirror”

“No man hath seen GOD at any time the only begotten son, which is in the bosom of the father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

Once there was a simple believer who was relatively unknown even in his small community. He always carried a heavy burden to spread the gospel to the unreached. He did not see many a time the fruits of his labor. Days and months went by without a clear vision from GOD about how to proceed. One night he saw a frightening dream.

A beautiful middle aged woman, well employed and well respected in her society met with a tragic accident. As a result of the accident initially she spent several days in the hospital in a coma state. Later on she recovered but was completely bedridden without much limb movements. During the initial days of her hospital admission many of her friends, colleagues, and family members visited with flowers and consoling words because of her high social status. She felt very much comforted by her visitors even though she was bedridden with excruciating pain. As days and weeks went by, the flow of visitors decreased and finally stopped. Her physical condition improved slowly and her doctors decided to allow her to do her daily routine by herself.

Finally that day arrived when she got out of her bed with some assistance. As she entered her bathroom and looked in to the mirror, she was shocked because her beautiful face was severely deformed beyond recognition. Her screams of shock and unbelief resonated in the hospital for many hours. The poor believer too woke up from his dream with a scream. This incident kept on bothering the believer for many days and finally God in his mercy began revealing the spiritual meaning of the whole event in a very profound way. The woman was visited by many in the hospital but none dare tell her the extent of her injury. The visitors only comforted and consoled her with artificial expressions and twisted words. It was only when she saw herself in the self-revealing mirror that she found the true extent of her injury. It was only the mirror that could reveal her true state of condition.

The Lord began to teach that in a similar way when Jesus was on the face of earth, he revealed the Father to the world through his words and deeds. So also the least that he expects from his children is that they would be the mirror to the world so that everyone may be exposed to Jesus in their sinfulness. Christ wants us as individuals, family, church and society to be mirrors exposing the world of its true state of condition. We are surrounded by many injured people who need the touch of Jesus and it is only possible if we allow ourselves to be transformed like the mirror so that the glory of Jesus may be seen in us and by us.

We also know that the word of God is a double edged sword. It is time for us to open the word of God with a sincere desire to learn and the knowledge of the word of God will surely help transform us to the image of that mirror. This may be an opportunity for all of us to realize the fact that where each one of us can fit into that dream. It will then definitely help people whoever looks at us and our surroundings to get truly fascinated and they will in turn seek Jesus.

In Christ ,
Joy Paul

Sermon Notes