

PRAYER MENU
2007, No. 8

International Justice Mission (IJM) works to combat sex trafficking in India, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. In the 10 years since the organization's founding, IJM investigations have resulted in freedom for hundreds of children and women held by force in the commercial sex trade. Pray for IJM and its director Gary Haugen, a possible speaker for Justice Week in our church next year.

- **ABORTION IN SD.** After defeat in the courts, defeat in their legislature, and defeat in a statewide ballot, the anti-abortion leaders in South Dakota are back in action. State Senator Julie Bartling, among others, are pressing for another bill to ban abortion in South Dakota. It continues to be an uphill battle, but they are not giving up. (SCJ, 10-12-07) Continue to pray for the unborn and those who defend them against abortion.
- **IMMIGRATION.** The California legislature has passed a law that prohibits landlords from asking tenants about their immigration status. Landlords favor this law because it shields them from becoming "immigration cops." Immigration issues continue to be a serious national concern. (SCJ 10-1307) Pray that our nation may find a way to balance legal measures with compassion in the matter of immigration.
- **NEPAL.** We received this email from Arbin & Bimala Pokharel, missionary friends of Troy Bierma. "Life here [in Nepal] is very unstable. On October 9, a group of angry men were protesting around our place and as they came nearby, they started throwing big stones towards the windows of Higher Ground Bakery. No one was hurt but the windows were broken. Every day is a protest in the street and sadly, schools get closed a couple of days of week due to riots and the unstable political situation. The election was supposed to take place in November but now that has been cancelled and we do not know what to expect in the coming months." (Crossway Ministry 10-10) Please pray for Arbin & Bimala and for Crossway Ministry.
- **KENYAN CONSECRATES U.S BISHOPS.** The Anglican Archbishop of Kenya recently consecrated two American bishops in the Episcopal Church. This unusual event is the result of the split in the American Episcopal Church over the ordination of a practicing homosexual. There are 52 million Anglicans worldwide, of which 42 million are members of congregations that now align themselves with the conservative branch of Anglicanism. (CC 9-10-07) Continue to pray for the Church of Jesus Christ, that it may rely on God's Word for wisdom and understanding.
- **BANGLADESH.** The *Christian Courier* of September 10 contains an article, "Bangladesh: Muslims Force Converts Back to Islam." We cannot print the story here, but note that this is the Muslim country to which Troy Bierma feels called to do mission work. The stories told in the *Courier* show a Muslim authority that is fearful of losing its grip on the country. They use threats, torture, and bribes to retain their majority in Bangladesh. (CC 9-10-07) Pray for persecuted Christians in Bangladesh and for Troy Bierma.

- **ABORTION CLINIC CHARGED.** A Planned Parenthood clinic in Kansas City has been charged with providing unlawful abortions. The county district attorney charged the clinic with 107 counts, 23 of them felonies. Many of these charges are for performing late-term abortions, which is illegal in Missouri. *(SCJ 10-18-07)* This is another reminder that abortions, legal and illegal, go on in our country. Continue to pray for the unwanted children in America and for adoption agencies, such as Bethany Services.
- **A GLIMMER OF HOPE.** Pakistani Christians have a hard time of it under the military dictatorship of Musharraf. Returning now to share power is the exiled former Prime Minister Bhutto, an elegant woman and moderate Muslim, who is known to provide protection for Christians against Muslim violence. Recently there have been a number of Christians murdered, and Bhutto herself was nearly assassinated. Making up only about 2% of the population of Pakistan, the Christian minority is looking for help from Bhutto. *(World 10-20-07)* Pray that religious hatred will stop in places like Pakistan.
- **AUSTRALIA GETS TOUGH ON MUSLIM RADICALS.** In a lengthy speech on national television, Prime Minister John Howard of Australia has made it clear that Muslim clerics in Australia have a choice: they can accept the law of the land or leave. In his words, “if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you.” He added, “If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Muslim laws and courts and have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices them, then that's a better option. ... IMMIGRANTS, NOT AUSTRALIANS, MUST ADAPT. Take It Or Leave It. I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture.” Pray for healing of the nations and diverse cultures.
- **GLOBAL WARMING.** It seems that the issue of global warming has been settled. Few anymore question the science. In fact, new shipping lanes are now opening up where once icecaps prevented passage. Will the next phase of negotiations in the Kyoto Protocol—soon to begin—include skeptical American participation? Will other large and polluting countries, such as China and India, participate? *(US News 10-15-07)* Pray that all world leaders may offer real leadership on issues related to care of the creation.
- **CROSSROADS BIBLE INSTITUTE.** David Feddes of CBI tells of a judge and newly-released prisoner who knelt together in prayer. When asked about that occasion, the judge spoke of the “marvelous miracle of grace.” Ironically, the judge was not referring to the ex-prisoner, but himself: “I had to admit that I was no better in the eyes of God than the man I sent to prison.” *(CBI 10-07)* Continue to pray for prison ministries nationally and locally and thank God for the miracle of grace that saves us all.
- **PRAYER REQUESTS.** Social Concerns Committee stays in touch with a number of ministries, and we ask that you pray for them: ATLAS (locally), The Lighthouse (Lincoln, NE), the Alpha Centers (Sioux Falls & Sioux City), and the Center for Public Justice (Washington).

We urge you to include items from the PRAYER MENU in family and personal devotions. You may contribute to the menu by giving a news clip of concern to one of our committee members: Diana Gonzalez, Jerry & Shirley Isakson, Jim

Koldenhoven, Jason & Tammy Lief, Jim & Thea Mouw, Lauren & Barb Ochsner, Jo
Vander Werf, John Wesselius.