

**PRAYER MENU**  
**2008, No. 2**

*“I urge you, then, first of all, that requests, prayers,  
intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.”  
(1 Timothy 2:1)*

This passage was used recently as the basis for Pastor Klompfen’s sermon, “What the World Needs Now.” In this passage Paul urges us to be faithful in prayer, not only on formal occasions of worship, but in a host of ways by which we lift concerns for neighbors and our world up to God. Here are just a few concerns to be aware of in your prayer walk:

- **MOVIE INDUSTRY & ADOPTION.** Pop culture often follows closely on the heels of cultural change. *Christianity Today* digs into recent films and reports, with some surprise, that there is a pro-life trend in the marketplace. CT names a half dozen films that came out in 2007 with a “happy ending” for unwanted babies. One viewer said she’s sure there were women who chose life for their babies after seeing *Bella*, one of the films. (CT 2-08) Thank God for filmmakers who help the cause of LIFE.
- **AFRICAN UNREST.** Kenya is just one country in Africa that is in turmoil. Tribal and political hatreds result in atrocities too awful to describe. Those who are “lucky” escape to refugee camps, but even there they aren’t always safe. Refugee camps are also under attack. UN intervention has proved to be of little effect. Chad, too, is in turmoil, interfering with our own missionaries in that country. (World 2-9/16-08) Continue to pray for the war-weary countries of Africa, and especially for the people who live (and die) there.
- **CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.** The state Supreme Court of Nebraska has terminated the use of the electric chair in that state. The court said that execution by electric chair is barbaric: “Condemned prisoners must not be tortured to death, regardless of their crimes.” It remains to be seen if capital punishment will take a new form in Nebraska’s future. (SCJ 2-9-08) Pray for judges who seek justice in our country.
- **RELIGIOUS FANATICS.** Protesters took to the streets of Ankara, the capital of Turkey, because the government removed the headscarf ban. Until now, Muslim women were not allowed to wear a headscarf in public. Officially, the government of Turkey has been secular. Now the new leadership allows women to cover their heads. At issue is a divided country, Muslim and Secular, but a country that wants badly to join the European Union, which may be jeopardized by this move towards a Muslim state. (SCJ 2-3-08) Pray for proper resolutions wherever there is religious conflict in the world.

- ENVIRONMENT. It comes with some surprise that our neighbor, Mexico, is taking steps to sustain a healthy environment. Recently the Mexican government added 45 wetlands to the national registry. These wetlands encompass 6.7 million acres of new preserves. Mexico wants to stop expansion of tourist resorts along their coasts, such as the Cancun area. Motives may be mixed, but the results are environmentally good. (SCJ 2-3-08) Pray that nations of the world, including the USA, take environmental issues seriously. This is our father's world!
- SHALE OIL. Technology is now developed to extract oil from rocks (shale), and there's lots of shale in western U.S. and Canada. The process involves heating underground shale with powerful microwaves. It's not quite as easy as zap-and-you-have oil, but large oil companies are buying the microwaves from a defense contractor, Raytheon. (SCJ 2-3-08) Thank God for science and technology when they serve the good of the world.
- THE SNOW PACK. We may grumble about the ice and snow, especially this winter, but the snow offers new hope for water this summer. After eight years of "drought," the Missouri River is expected to rise significantly as the snow melts. Barge traffic, recreation, and agriculture along the Missouri should improve. There is hope. (SCJ 2-9-08) Thank God for water and for the cycle of seasons.
- ECOMONY. Perhaps we as a community have felt less of the downturn in the economy than others have; however, the number of households on food stamps has increased in Iowa. The number of food stamp families has almost doubled since 2000, when there were 124,384 food stamp recipients. The number is now 241,340 (the average for 2007). (SCJ 1-26-08) Pray for families in our state and nation that are down and out.
- GROW A HEART. Researchers have succeeded in growing a rat heart from stem cell tissue. Not only that. They got it to beat! While this research is promising, the director for Cardiovascular Repair at the University of Minnesota says, "We're not there yet"—meaning that it will be some time before they will be able to grow a human heart in the lab. (SCJ 1-14-08) Thank God for advances in medicine.
- CATHOLICISM. After 10 years of study, dialogue, and debate, the Christian Reformed Church in North America has released its final report that clarifies the CRC's stance on the Lord's Supper as it relates to the Roman Catholic Church. Recently posted and made available on the CRCNA website, "The Lord's Supper and the Catholic Mass" is the result of extensive evaluation and discussion between CRC and Catholic educators and theologians. (CRC News Service 2-26-08) Pray for our denomination and any denomination that gives first place to the Word of God. The 40-page report may be read on the CRC website: [www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org).

We urge you to include items from the PRAYER MENU in family and personal prayers. You may contribute to the menu by giving a news item of concern to one of our committee members: Abe Bos, Diana Gonzalez, Jim & Sally Koldenhoven, Jason & Tammy Lief, Jim & Thea Mouw, Lauren & Barb Ochsner, Andrew Sybesma, Jo Vander Werf, or Lisa Vander Plaats.