

PRAYER MENU

2008 No. 5

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

- DYING OF CANCER. “My friend Harry der Nederlanden is dying of cancer.” That’s how the guest editorial begins in the latest *Christian Courier*. A Dordt alum and a Reformed visionary, Harry has been editor of the *Courier* for the past eight years. Those who knew him personally or read his insightful writing in the *Courier* will miss him sorely. If anyone wants to read what Bert Witvoet has to say about Harry, but more importantly, about God’s grace in the process of dying, see page 4 of the August 25 issue of the *Christian Courier* at the information center. (CC 8-25-08) Pray for continued grace for Harry’s family and the *Courier*.
- HURRICANE VICTIMS. We have all seen the devastation caused by hurricane “Ike.” Few of us will have an opportunity to provide hands-on help, but we can all pray for the people whose homes and belongings were destroyed by the flooding.
- PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. Rest assured that God is “ruler yet,” so we can be sure that the outcome of the presidential elections in America will turn out as He plans. What we can do, must do, is pray for civility, for justice and freedom, and for the best decision made in the process. We are not excused from praying, even when we know God is sovereign. Prayer is our first call to social action.
- PRO-LIFE STRATEGY. Editor Marvin Olasky of *World* magazine speculates that moderate members of his congress will seek a compromise on the abortion issue. Called the Pregnant Women Support Act, the legislation would require all women who are considering an abortion to view an ultrasound video of their fetus. Women could still elect to have an abortion, but there is evidence to suggest that a women who sees the video is much more likely to opt for full-term and adoption. (*World* 6-14/21/08) Pray for full term life in America.
- ABSTINENCE EDUCATION. Contrary to what Planned Parenthood says, abstinence education makes a difference. A recent survey of adolescents (7th graders) who had abstinence education showed that they were “half as likely to initiate sexual activity as students who did not receive abstinence education.” (CC 6-9-08) Pray for parents who instill wholesome sexual values in their children and for advocates of abstinence in schools.
- CLASHING THIS SUMMER. Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for homeless, backed out of a deal to partner with Planned Parenthood to build a new abortion clinic in Sarasota, Florida. After a torrent of phone calls and e-mails, the board of directors for Habitat’s Sarasota branch voted to “dissociate” itself from the project. (CFC, 6-08) Thank God for people who respect the lives of the unborn.
- FOOD CRISIS. While evidence shows that China and India have improved nutritional needs in their country, the sky-rocketing prices of food has significantly increased the number of poor people in other countries. In Djibouti, for example, “extreme poverty” has increased from 40 percent to 54 percent. In Africa there are

30 million people now at the poverty level, many living on a dollar a day. (CC 7-14-08) Continue to pray that the U.N. and governments around the world will address poverty and famine.

- WE DROPPED THE BALL? One of the Anglican Bishops is up front about why homosexuality and same-sex marriage now has a footing in our culture. Peter Jensen, Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, says the Bible-believing churches of the West were caught “flat-footed” when feminism hit the social scene. The problem has to do with “human nature, human relationships, and the call of the gospel.” He says we failed to preach what the Scriptures say is the created norm for human relations. Now the Biblical norm is viewed as “absolutely impossible and extraordinary.” (CC 7-14-08) Pray for bold preaching and teaching of the Word of God and God’s expectations in sexuality and human relations.
- PROTECTING MARRIAGE. After this year’s presidential elections on November 4th—and if projections hold up—at least three (3) more states (California, Arizona, Florida) will protect marriage in their state constitutions, raising the total to thirty-three (33) states or a full two-thirds (66%) of the country! (CFC 7-08) Pray for a solid vote in favor of Biblical marriage.
- HEALTH INSURANCE. Iowa now ranks fifth in the nation for the number of residents without health insurance coverage. In fact, 9.4 percent of lowans do not have health care coverage. The national average for uninsured is 15.3 percent. Nationally, however, the total number of uninsured dropped from 47 million in 2006 to 45.7 million in 2007. (Rep Alons 9-3-08) Pray for families who face expensive medical care without insurance.
- MUSLIM-BACKGROUND BELIEVERS. It comes as something of a surprise, but Muslims are converting to Christianity in large numbers. In many places, especially Arabic countries, converts are shunned, or worse. However, those from Persian cultures, especially those whose native language is Farsi, are becoming receptive to the Gospel. The big surprise is that so many Iranians now embrace Christianity, even if they have to meet in homes. One California-based church of “Muslim-Background Believers,” as they call themselves, broadcast their services and testimonies into their native land, Iran. (CT 9-08) Pray for Muslim-Background Christians around the world, a fertile field of new believers.

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.