

**PRAYER MENU**  
**2007, No. 4**

Thank God for actions taken by **Bread for the World**, a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers. Pray for the work of Tammy Walhof and others who promote Bread for the World and its efforts to feed the hungry.

- **ABORTION IN SC.** South Carolina legislators are considering a bill that would require women seeking an abortion to view an ultrasound image of their fetus before the abortion is done. The bill would also require women to wait an hour between viewing the ultrasound and actually having an abortion. The intent is to make sure mothers know what they are doing before it is too late. (SCJ 3-17--07) Continue to pray for the unborn and mothers who contemplate ending their pregnancies.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE.** Engineers are experimenting with a variety of solutions to the climate change (global warming) problem, and billionaire Richard Branson has offered \$25 million to the "first feasible technology to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the air." One experiment under way right now is to seed the ocean with tons of iron dust, which should encourage the growth of plankton, an algae growth that is known to "drink up carbon dioxides from the atmosphere." (SCJ 3-18-07) Pray that we may all do our part to take care of the earth and the atmosphere.
- **FIGHTING BACK.** Like so many university campuses, Harvard encourages "hooking up," having sexual gratification without commitment. Now student groups are fighting back. Among them is a group called "True Love Revolution," a secular organization that promotes commitment before sexual gratification. Other groups, some Christian and some secular, are popping up across the country. (SCJ 3-23-07) Pray for a moral revolution in our universities. We need one!
- **WAKEUP CALLL.** Islam in Europe is a "catalyst" for reminding Europeans that one's religious worldview shapes one's approach to everything else. Europeans have long believed that government and business had no connection with religion, but Islam is challenging that radical secular view. It all started with the publication of cartoons depicting the Muslim religion, which forced Europeans to see that Muslims were passionate about their religion. Now Europeans are admitting that religious worldviews shape politics and business. (CC 3-5-07) Pray for Christian witnesses in the world.
- **DEATH PENALTY.** Four years ago Illinois Gov. Ryan commuted the sentences of 157 people when DNA revealed that some on death row were innocent. Since then there has been a big shift away from capital punishment in the U.S. Crossroad Bible Institute can now claim one of the 157 as a correspondent student. (CBI News 4-07) Continue to pray for CBI, the instructors, and the prisoners enrolled in Bible study.
- **DENIED COMMUNION.** Two lesbians, "married" in Canada, have now been banned from taking Communion in Gillette, Wyoming. The ban was announced after Ash Wednesday, when they flaunted their relationship (and their ashen mark) in the

newspaper. They, and the media, expressed shock at being treated so shabbily by St. Matthew's Catholic Church, even though the priest who took this action stands by the official position of the church. "The sin is one thing. It's a very different thing to go public with that sin," said Rev. Cliff Jacobson. (SCJ 4-6-07) Pray that all Christian churches may remain faithful to the Word of God and take a firm stand against immorality.

- SUPREME COURT ON ABORTION. "The Supreme Court upheld the nationwide ban on a disputed abortion procedure Wednesday, handing abortion opponents the long-awaited victory they expected from a more conservative bench. The 5-4 ruling said the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act that Congress passed and President Bush signed into law in 2003 does not violate a woman's constitutional right to an abortion." (WSJ News Service 4-18-07) Rejoice and thank God for this decision.
- AMAZING CHURCH GROWTH. We have heard of "house church" growth in China among the common people. What is amazing is the sudden growth of Christian "churches" among teachers and academics in China. There are 16 million Protestant "house churches" in China, and five million Catholic groups meeting regularly. The number may be double what's reported! In addition, there are now 30 faculty groups worshipping together and studying the Bible. (CC 4-16-07) Pray for Christians in China and for a continued growth of "churches" in this very large Communist country.
- SRI LANKA CRISIS. Government and rebel Tamil fighting forces have driven 150,000 refugees to leave their homes in Sri Lanka. They are "without sufficient food, drinking water, and basic facilities" to survive. It is a crisis that continues to get worse. The World Food Program is pleading with the international community and humanitarian organization for urgently needed funding and supplies. (REC News, April 2007) Pray that aid may arrive among the Sri Lanka refugees to avert a total disaster.
- BIBLE WORKERS SLAIN. It happened in Istanbul, Turkey, where three employees of a publishing house were killed. Two of the victims were Turks and one a German. All had their throats slit, a sign that Muslim Fundamentalists committed the crime. The publishing company prints and distributes Bibles in a country that has a very small minority of Christians. In order for Turkey to be included in the European Union, such violence against minorities must be stopped. (SCJ 4-19-07) Pray for those who risk their lives so the Gospel may be read and heard around the world.
- WAR & VIOLENCE. Every day we are reminded of the war in Iraq and violent crimes in our own country. Television and other media depict so much violence that we are no longer shocked when 30-some students are shot and killed, or car bombs kill hundreds at a time. Movies and video games simply add to our violent society. Pray for a world where violence is rare and unusual; pray for Christ's return and universal peace.

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 (First CRC), or Christine Koops, James Mahaffy, Lynne Bloemendaal, Scott Van Essen, Brent Kooiman, Stephanie Dykshorn (Faith CRC).