

PRAYER MENU
2007, No. 7

Pray for CPJ and those planning an October 26-27 conference in Northwest Iowa on the theme *Caring for the Environment: Putting Biblical Principles into Practice.*
“This is our Father’s World.”

- **YOUTH.** A new survey by The Associated Press and MTV, the music channel aimed at young people, has found that religion and family are two of the strongest components contributing to the happiness of people aged 13 to 24 in the United States. (*CRC News, 8-28-07*) Pray for the youth of our nation.
- **TREES FOR FUEL.** The U.S. Forest Service chief proposes replacing 15% of the nation's gasoline with ethanol made from wood. At the same time, he proposes, we could double the amount of carbon dioxide emissions absorbed by forests by planting more trees than are harvested. Both are needed if we want to balance bad emissions with good ones. (*SCJ 9-8-07*) Pray for any effort to reduce the effects of burning fossil fuels.
- **GAY “MARRIAGE” IN IOWA?** On August 31 Judge Robert Hanson, in the Polk County Courthouse, struck down Iowa's ban on homosexual marriage. One gay “couple” were “married” before Hanson’s ruling was stopped by an appeal process. The only way to stop activist judges is by a Constitutional Amendment to the Federal Constitution and Iowa's Constitution to further define marriage as a "covenant relationship between one man and one woman." (*Rep. Dwayne Alons, 9-4-07*) Continue to pray for the restoration of biblical values in state and national laws.
- **KOREAN HOSTAGES.** An email from Korean Jung Suh says it all: “All Korean hostages were released from Talebhan. Thank you for your prayer for them. God saved them from Talebhan with His mighty hands. I would like to ask you to pray for Saemmul church and Eun Cho Park, a senior pastor. One of two men who were killed by Talebhan was young adult Christian who had non-Christian parents. His father wants to sue Saemmul church and Korean government for his son’s death although other hostages are released. A lot of non-Christians and anti-Christians argue that Saemmul Church has to pay the cost for releasing the Korean hostages. Please, keep praying for Pastor Park and Saemmul Church.” Thanks, Jung Suh.
- **DISASTER.** In early September, farmers in the villages near Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua expect to be busy harvesting their rice crop. This year, however, their efforts were interrupted when Hurricane Felix tore through the area on September 4 with winds of over 150 mph and nearly 12 inches of rain. In the face of ruined crops, damaged homes, and an uncertain future, these farmers are looking to others for assistance. CRWRC is responding with much needed food, water, and housing supplies. (*CRC News 9-11-07*) Pray for those affected by natural disasters and for agencies such as CRWRC who are responding.

- DARFUR. Pray for the Darfur region of Sudan, that the genocide might come to an end, and that the 2 million refugees might be able to return to their homes to rebuild. Eric Reeves, author of *A Long Day's Dying*, writes that the mortality rate "will soon reach to 3,000 human beings a day." (*World 8-18-07*) Pray for the people of Darfur and, that the UN may soon deploy peacekeepers to the region.
- EATING PETS. Under the corrupt dictatorial rule of Mugabe, Zimbabwe is in shambles. Inflation is at 25,000 percent and without food people are eating their pets, mostly dogs. Since 2002 Mugabe has seized thousands of white-owned farms and totally destroyed the ag-based economy. Zimbabwe was once the breadbasket of the region and the envy of its neighbor, South Africa. (*DR 9-15-07*) Pray for justice and good government in all third-world countries.
- INTOLERANT CAMPUSES. Christian students at state universities continue to meet intolerance. Recently, in an ethics class at a South Dakota university, a professor distributed this statement: "Most people have convictions about what is right and wrong based on religious beliefs [and] family background. These are not the best values to make ethical decisions by--not because they are not important but because they are not universal.... There is nothing wrong with having strong personal and professional moral convictions about right and wrong, but unfortunately some people are 'moral imperialists' who seek to impose their personal moral judgments on others. The universal ethical value of respect for others dictates honoring the dignity and autonomy of each person and cautions against self-righteousness in areas of legitimate controversy." Pray for Christian students who are confronted with intolerance in secular universities and labeled "moral imperialists."
- IAPCHE. The September 2007 issue of CONTACT is posted on website www.iapche.org/CTC191.pdf. Of special note are announcements of upcoming IAPCHE events in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Taiwan, and Seattle (USA). The International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education, with offices at Dordt College, is making a significant impact on Christian Education around the world. Include IAPCHE and Christian higher education in your prayers.
- ABORTIONS IN KANSAS. The Kansas law reads, "no person shall perform or induce an abortion when the fetus is viable." Exceptions, when the mother's health is threatened, are permitted. A doctor in Wichita is accused of violating the law "thousands of time," but nothing is being done about it. Enforcement of the law is too weak to make a difference. (*World 9-15-07*) Continue to pray for unwanted fetuses.
- 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 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.