

#50 DAYS TO BLESS THE NATION

16 April – 4 June 2017
(Resurrection Sunday to Pentecost Sunday)



NATIONAL PRAYER INITIATIVE
issued by
INTERCESSORS FOR SOUTH AFRICA
(A forum of prayer networks and prayer groups
in South Africa)

The aim of this national initiative “50DaystoBlesstheNation” is for Christians to take responsibility for our Nation; believing that God can and will change the hearts of South Africans. **Our first task**, is to ask Him to change our own hearts from a negative perspective of our Nation to one of faith, and trust that He wants to use us to bring about the change. We are witnessing the powerful effect of the media where the words of leaders are often exploited to incite hatred, racism and violence, and eventually the cursing of others; or where one person, with one irresponsible post on social media, releases a similar effect on our Nation. The words of Christians are to be different – to bless rather than to curse, to heal rather than to wound, to restore rather than to destroy.

Strategy: FILL SOUTH AFRICA WITH PRAYER OVER 50 DAYS BY ...

- Praying a **daily blessing** over South Africa.
- **Prayer-walking, Prayer-driving, Prayer-cycling** your neighbourhood, community, town, township, city, farms, countryside, shopping mall, business district and industrial area.
- **Interceding** for the salvation of those who are lost and without the knowledge of God.
- The **prayers** of Individual believers, prayer-watches, prayer-groups, congregational prayer.

How to participate:

- Download the Prayer Guide to Bless the Nation from www.jwipn.com
- Receive a daily WhatsApp message from +27 817161203 with practical prayer-walk suggestions.
- Prayer-walk with a friend. Pray for the present needs of people and places you see. Read Scripture aloud. Turn biblical phrases into prayers. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and to pray according to the Father's heart. Address your prayers to God when contending with evil. Ask God to restrain spiritual enemies so people can be redeemed.

POSITIONING OUR NATION FOR A BLESSING

Blessings and curses are channels for the release of spiritual power. Our heavenly Father is the sole source of blessings that produce beneficial results. Curses are harmful effects invoked by wicked people and evil forces. Both blessings and curses are released by spoken or written words or even thoughts. Blessings and curses also result from lifestyle choices. Once a blessing or a curse has been released, they can go on for generations until someone revokes them with a prayer or with a lifestyle choice. **Our words have tremendous power** to affect people and situations for either good or evil: *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Pro.18:21 (NKJV); "But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." Jas.3:8-10 (NKJV).*

In the Old Testament the high priest had the responsibility to bless the Israelites: *"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ' "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them." Num.6:23-27 (NKJV).* **In the New Testament, every believer is a priest:** *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;" 1Pet.2:9 (NKJV).* Jesus instructed us to bless all people: *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you..." Mat.5:44 (NKJV).*

GUARD YOUR HEART AND WATCH YOUR WORDS

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you." Pro.4:23-24 (NKJV).

A blessing or curse originates in our hearts. If our hearts are filled with bitterness, anger, hatred or revenge, then we cannot bless: *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Mat.15:18-19 (NKJV).* Jesus said that if we believe in Him, rivers of living water will flow from our innermost being: *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." Joh.7:38 (NKJV).* Pronouncing a blessing does not condone sin. It places the sinner and sinful institutions into God's hands. He is a just and righteous Judge, who will execute justice and righteousness on our behalf.

Christians, as representatives of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, are divinely empowered to overcome sin, temptation and the works of the flesh. Christians' love for God, love for each other, love for all people and even for enemies, obedience to God's commands and a radical new lifestyle of holiness and purity, are the conditions for God to pour out His blessing on a nation. The New Testament blessing does not always secure financial prosperity or physical security, but it enables people to live in such a way that other people are blessed, healed, restored, saved through faith in Jesus Christ and thus, restore the worship and honour of God as our heavenly Father. Such behaviour pleases God and causes the nation to be blessed.

The time has come to allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse the hearts and lips of Christians living in South Africa. **Please join us for the next 50 days as we BLESS THE NATION!**

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

1. DAILY MIRROR

Allow the Holy Spirit every day to search your heart and bring conviction of wrong attitudes, thoughts, motives and words that can hinder God's blessing to flow through you.

DAILY PRAYER: *Father God, please forgive me for hardening my heart towards other people. Where I have become insensitive to your voice and to the suffering of people, I ask that You will remove the darkness and bring light and life. Help me to love again, and look at other people with compassion and mercy. Help me to guard my heart.*

2. SURRENDER YOURSELF

Surrender your life into God's hand and allow Him to transform your heart, to direct your words and actions to become a blessing to South Africa.

DAILY PRAYER: *Father God, please forgive me for every harsh word that I had spoken in anger, impatience, hatred or insensitivity, to family members, to people of other races, to leaders or to foreigners. Remove every curse from my lips and use me as an instrument of righteousness to bless South Africa. Help me to watch my words.*

3. BLESS SOUTH AFRICA

Pray this prayer daily for 50 days over South Africa and the people living in our nation:

DAILY BLESSING: *In the name of Jesus Christ I bless South Africa: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." Num.6:24-26, (NKJV). "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Mat.5:2-12, (NKJV) "Blessed are You, our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...that we should be holy and without blame before You in love" Eph.1:3-4, (NKJV)*

WEEKLY FOCUS AREAS

WEEK 1: 16-22 APRIL: THE CHURCH and OTHER RELIGIONS

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 1. *In the name of Jesus Christ we bless the Church in South Africa: May we be filled with the Spirit, sanctified by truth through the Word of God; may we humble ourselves, pray and seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways; May we be filled with wisdom and spiritual understanding, walk worthy of our Lord Jesus Christ, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit and increase in the knowledge of God; May we be salt and light in our communities and obey the command to go out into the whole world and share the gospel of the kingdom of Jesus Christ with all nations. We bless our enemies, we bless those who curse us, we bless those who hate us, we bless those who spitefully use and persecute us. We bless the adherents of other religions: May their eyes be opened, and may they turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, to receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. May they know the love of God as Father, the grace and truth that comes through Jesus Christ and the power of healing and deliverance of the Holy Spirit. Bless South Africa, o Lord God!*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Churches of different denominations, Christian ministries, theological seminaries, mission stations, mosques, temples, synagogues, independent worship and cult sites, etc.

PRAY FOR: Pastors, ministers, reverends, priests, prophets, apostles, evangelists, missionaries, spiritual leaders, elders, deacons, members of the Body of Christ, etc.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of Jews, Muslims, Hindu's, Buddhists, New-Agers, Freemasons, Sangomas, leaders of Cults and the Occults, nominal Christians, etc.

WEEK 2: 23-29 APRIL: THE GOVERNMENT and JUDICIAL SYSTEM

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 2. *In the Name of Jesus Christ we bless the Government of South Africa, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness, for this is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth; we bless our rulers and give their hearts into God's hand, to direct it like a watercourse wherever it pleases Him, so that this government may rule with justice, honesty and fairness towards all citizens, foreigners, the poor and underprivileged, and that righteousness will be established; Our struggle is not against flesh and blood and therefore we bless our leaders with deliverance from and protection against the powers of darkness, against witchcraft and to not be involved in idolatry and any form of occultism; we bless them with wise counsellors and that all wicked men and women will be removed from the presence of the president, ministers and other governmental officials. We bless our judges, lawyers, attorneys, advocates, prosecuting officials and protection services, with safety, integrity, authority and godly wisdom to guard our nation against destructive ideologies, crime, murder, violence, genocide, revolution and rebellion. Bless our Government, o Lord!*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Government institutions, municipalities, service delivery agents, border control and customs, courts, magistrate offices, police stations, army bases, special forces, metro police, security services, emergency services, prisons, etc.

PRAY FOR: President, MEC, LP, political leaders, government officials, mayors, council members, municipal workers, magistrates, lawyers, advocates, judges, prosecuting officers, policemen and women, soldiers, foreigners, refugees, prison guards, customs officials, etc.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of perpetrators: Illegal immigrants, crime syndicates, hijackers, murderers, prisoners, etc.

WEEK 3. 30 APRIL – 6 MAY: ECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES and AGRICULTURE

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 3. *In the name of Jesus Christ we bless South Africa's economy! May we have a healthy currency, a quick repayment of national debt and no need to borrow from the World Bank; may our economy have a stable environment to attract foreign investors; May corruption be dealt with speedily; May the Government be accountable, wise and responsible in their spending of national revenue and resources and for a healthy balance between government grants and entrepreneurial development; May we all have a healthy work mentality. We bless the natural and mineral resources, with responsible utilisation for sustainable development; for protection of our wildlife and biodiversity, and a healthy respect and interaction between people and environment. We bless the infrastructure and labour forces. We bless South Africa's agriculture with fair, wise and responsible distribution of land, with healthy relationships between farmers, workers, market developers and financial institutions. We bless our farmers with the farming, marketing and financial skills, to develop innovative ways to cultivate our land and assure long-term food security. Father God, please bless our land, give us rain in its season, help us to manage and remove the historic injustices and other issues that still plague South Africa.*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Banks and financial institutions, businesses, retail, infrastructure (roads, airports, harbours, railways), environmental agencies, game reserves, mountains, beaches, parks, mines, dams, rivers, farms, small holdings, abattoirs, grain silos, agricultural hubs and depots, etc.

PRAY FOR: Managers, business men and women, labour unions, reps, retailers, vendors, shop assistants, cashiers, insurance brokers, estate agents, factory workers, the unemployed, beggars, poor and needy, road and construction workers, flight attendants, pilots, freight businesses, bus and taxi drivers, garage attendants, mine workers, farmers, farm workers, fishermen, environmental personnel, etc.

INTERCEDE for perpetrators: corrupt officials and citizens, thieves, poachers, murderers, instigators of unrest, rebellion and violence, etc.

WEEK 4: 7-13 MAY: EDUCATION and HEALTH

DAILY PRAYER FOR WEEK 4. *In the name of Jesus Christ we bless South Africa's educational system. We bless the development of godly curriculums for schools; we bless our schools, colleges, universities, teachers and lecturers, with the ability to shape the minds and attitudes of our youth with godly truth, wisdom, responsibility and competence. We bless the youth of South Africa with a teachable spirit. We bless South Africa's health industry with compassion for the sick and needy; with healthy medical practices and responsible use of pharmaceutical products. We bless medical personnel with insight into physical, emotional and spiritual causes of disease and sickness, and to bring healing for the suffering. We pray for the restoration of the gift of healing to the Body of Christ, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We bless South Africa with physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual health.*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Nurseries and pre-primary schools, day-care facilities, schools, special needs institutions, colleges, universities, training and research institutions, hospitals, clinics, veterinary clinics, pharmacies, abortion clinics, rehabilitation clinics, psychiatric institutions, etc.

PRAY FOR: Principals, teachers, lecturers, learners, students, student councils, prefects, doctors, nurses, hospital workers, dentists, care-givers, frail care personnel, the sick, pharmacists, paramedics, relief workers, addicts, blind and deaf people, para- and quadriplegic, etc.

INTERCEDE for salvation of perpetrators: school bullies, drug pushers at schools, abortionists, human-traffickers, illegal trade in human organs, false medical practitioners, etc.

WEEK 5: 14-20 MAY: MEDIA and SPORT

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 5: *We bless South Africa's media with accurate, truthful and unbiased journalism and broadcasting. We bless them with the ability to discern the truth from the lie, to be bold in exposing hidden agendas and to be responsible for the content of their programs, magazines, newspapers and social messages. May South Africans accept the challenge to build the nation, rather than tear it apart; to encourage people, rather than accuse, curse and demean others, especially through social media; to be the solution to overcome racism, rather than perpetuating hate, violence and racial discrimination. Lord Jesus Christ, please help us as Christians to remove all hate speech from our mouths. We bless our sportsmen and women to be responsible role models for our youth, to excel in their sport and to be worthy ambassadors for South Africa. Lord God, please bless South Africa with a new heart!*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Radio-stations, TV stations, newspaper offices, media stations, sport stadiums, health clubs, etc.

PRAY FOR: broadcasters, journalists, newspaper sellers, editors, commentators, coaches, athletes, sportsmen and women, social media: Facebook, Instagram, whatsapp, email, twitter, etc.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of perpetrators: fake, false and distorted news and information, citizens who stir hatred, racism and instigate violence, cyber bullies, cyber fraud, match-fixing, use of illegal performance enhancers, etc.

WEEK 6: 21-27 MAY: CULTURE, ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 6. *We bless South Africa's diverse cultures. May we all receive forgiveness for allowing our cultural backgrounds to blind us and hinder us from walking in the truth of God's Word. May all cultures in South Africa be purified and redeemed, so that we may honour our Lord Jesus Christ from all cultural backgrounds. May we all receive an inheritance in Jesus Christ. We bless the tourism industry. May tourists that visit South Africa be blessed and be exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We bless South Africa's visual and performing artists! May God be honoured in everything they create and perform. We bless South Africa's entertainment industry. May it be cleansed and purified from all perverse, immoral and occult influences. May people in South Africa be set free from addiction to pornography, visual stimulation, computer games, gambling, drugs, alcohol, etc.*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Museums, cultural buildings and monuments, theme parks, drama theatres, movie-theatres, bars, shebeens, adult entertainment sites, gambling-houses, casinos, drug-hotspots, brothels, game-centres, human-trafficking hotspots, escort agencies, night clubs, etc.

PRAY FOR: Actors, film producers, photographers, artists, architects, bikers, tourists, DJs, prostitutes, etc.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of perpetrators: drug dealers, human traffickers, occultists, immoral and perverted sex-abusers, pimps, etc.

WEEK 7: 28 MAY – 4 JUNE: FAMILY

DAILY BLESSING FOR WEEK 7: *In the name of Jesus Christ we bless the families in South Africa with responsible, loving, god-fearing fathers and mothers, with healthy family relationships, with respect towards parents and children, with healing for wounds of abuse and rejection; we bless the fathers in our nation with the ability to care and provide for their families and to love and cherish their wives and children; we bless the mothers in our nation with the ability to protect and nourish their families, to love and support their husbands and to raise their children in the fear of the Lord; we bless parents to responsibly discipline and train their children in godliness; we bless married couples with godly marriages; we bless the children, including the orphans in South Africa with a safe and protective environment, with respect for and obedience towards their parents, with a future filled with promise. May they grow up to know the Lord. We bless single and lonely people, single parents and divorcees; may they know the companionship of friends and family, may the Lord provide in all their needs, comfort their hearts and heal their wounds. We pray for perpetrators who abuse men, women and children, who lead our youth astray with immoral relationships, that they will turn from their wicked ways and find healing for their own addictions and wrongful behaviour.*

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Your neighbourhood.

PRAY FOR: Families, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, babies, toddlers, children, teenagers, young adults, singles, elderly, divorcees, single mothers and fathers, marriages, lonely people, pregnant mothers, gays, lesbians, depressed and suicidal family members, etc.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of perpetrators: rapists, paedophiles, abusers, domestic violence offenders, adulterers, etc.