

Transforming and healing a nation – the Global Day of Prayer in South Africa.

The legacy of the Global Day of Prayer began in the South African city of Cape Town in 2001. In March of that year a Christian businessman, Graham Power, called together all of the Christians in the city for day of repentance and prayer. Who could ever have dreamed that 7 years later 215 of the world's 220 nations would be gather to "...humble themselves and pray, seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways" (2 Chronicles 7.14)?

The seed for this great vision was planted in 2000 when God captured Graham's heart – the burning question was then, and still is today, is God welcome in our City? On that first day of prayer 45 000 Christians gathered in the Newlands Rugby stadium to intercede for the City of Cape Town which had been ravaged by bomb blasts, crime, violence and poverty. God heard the prayers and confession of the city – since that day there has not been a single bomb blast in Cape Town! With this testimony to God's grace, and with great courage, Graham and his team challenged the other provinces in South Africa to gather in 2002. The provinces responded, and in that same year Graham received a second, more challenging, and vision – he was to call the whole continent of Africa for a day of prayer and repentance! And so for the first time in history, on the 2nd of May 2004, a whole continent gathered to pray as all 56 nations participated on the continental day of prayer. It was clear that God's desire was to have the whole world saturated in prayer and repentance. And so, Africa invited the world to join in the Global Day of Prayer at a meeting of the International Prayer Council in Malaysia in November 2004. The number of participating nations has multiplied each year. We are trusting the Lord to see every single one of the world's 220 nations gathered in prayer on Pentecost Sunday 2010 (23 May 2010)! Then we can truly cry together - *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea"*(Hab. 2:14).



The story of the Global Day of Prayer is a story of ordinary people, in ordinary places, being used by God to do extraordinary things! In 2008 the Cape Town city had a number of regional gatherings on the 11th of May. These included stadium gatherings in Belville and Atlantis (from where the live television feed was broadcast via GodTV). In Mitchel's Plan about 3000 persons gathered in a local high school hall to saturate the community with their prayers, their praises, and their confession. The gathering comprised of a wide spectrum, including ward councillors and business people.

The intercessors prayed with those who needed special prayers in separate rooms, while the program was in progress. Fifty or more Pastors, their wives and youth leaders partook of the Lord's Supper as a public demonstration of their desire to work together in the interest of the Kingdom God.

Another remarkable testimony came from a prayer gathering in the Drakenstein Prison. Here prison officials, offenders, and members of the local community gathered together to pray and seek God's face!

Prison staff and offenders had prepared for the event by entering into a 40 day Daniel fast. On the day of the event itself there was a wonderful move of God's Spirit as 270 members of the local community gathered in a large tent at the prison to pray and worship as a united community. What a wonderful testimony to God's loving and forgiving grace! Elsewhere in more than 20 venues of various sizes Cape Town residents of all ages, races, and cultures gathered in unity as they prayed throughout the city, asking for God's guidance, healing, renewal and grace.

Over the years we have witnessed many wonderful interventions from the Lord in our city. Relationships have been healed, communities have been transformed, and God's grace and love have touched the inhabitants of our city. We thank God for all that He has done, and for all that he will continue to do for us. We look forward to the Global Day of Prayer in 2009!

Dr Dion Forster – Global day of prayer (Cape Town) 2008

For more information please visit <http://www.globaldayofprayer.com> or <http://www.transformationafrica.com>