

# INTERCEDE

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## UNEQUALLY YOKED

*She's Muslim, I thought as my eyes caught sight of the veiled woman in line ahead of me. Probably an immigrant.*

But when I heard her speak to the checkout lady, I realized that she had a very distinct American accent.

And when I got a better look at her, I saw she had blue

eyes and wisps of blonde hair had escaped her veil.

*Why?* I pondered. Having studied Islam for many years and knowing its teachings concerning women, I cannot understand why American women marry Muslim men. Most have no idea what they are getting into, and few even try to learn about the lifestyle, culture and teachings they will be expected to accept.

Though an estimated 7,000 marriages between American women and Muslim men take place each year, statistics now show that about 80 percent of them will end in bitter divorces.

Marcia was raised in a Christian home and had accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age. In her early

20s, she had married a "born-again" believer who turned out to be very abusive. After their divorce, a bitter Marcia blamed God for the situation.

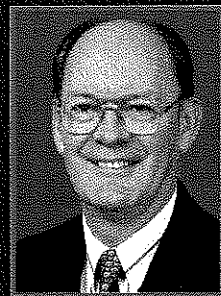
In a backslidden condition, Marcia went to work at a hospital. She clearly remembers the day she met "the man of her dreams."

"It was just before noon and I was standing by the nurse's station when my thoughts were interrupted by a voice telling the charge nurse he needed to take a few minutes off for noon prayer. When I looked up, the man who spoke was just a few feet away. He had an accent and his mannerisms were rather different. Though I had been a Christian all my life, I had never known anyone who asked for prayer time, so his request impressed me a great deal.

"For the next few weeks he was assigned to me for training. As we worked together I really enjoyed his good sense of humor and his charming manners. Not once did I hear him use profanity or show disrespect to anyone. He was working to sup-

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?  
2 corinthians 6:14

# Speaking on Behalf of Muslims



Ron Peck, Director

Center for  
Ministry to Muslims

**How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?  
(Romans 10:14)**

**M**arriage is one of the most important decisions in life. That is why we are using this issue of *Intercede* to speak to the question of interfaith and intercultural marriage.

Intercultural marriage is not a problem in and of itself. Though it can certainly present adjustment challenges that will complicate the relationship, to marry someone of a different race or culture is not wrong.

The question concerning interfaith marriages is quite different, however. The Bible teaches that followers of Jesus should marry those who have a similar faith and spiritual commitment.

The passage in 2 Corinthians 6:14 says, *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?* Although this passage can properly apply to many different human relationships, there is no doubt that it certainly applies to marriage.

I have come to believe that "falling in love" is a fallacy. Love is not the rush of physical attraction. Love is a decision and commitment that is made with heart, mind, spirit and will, and it must be reaffirmed on a continuing basis.

Unfortunately, our Western culture tells young men and women that strong physical attraction is love. Thus, when any two people experience this "feeling," our culture dictates that they have a "moral right" to sleep together.

In the West we think that when we marry a person, we are simply blending our lives with the man or woman of our dreams. This is reinforced by our strong individualistic approach to life. Yet the truth is, you not only marry a person, but you also marry that person's family, as well as the "culture" in which

your mate has been raised.

What surprises await those who marry a culture?


A southern girl from Alabama who marries a young man from Ohio will be shocked beyond words when her mother-in-law cuts the tops off the turnips and throws them away. After all, in Alabama the turnip greens are why turnips are planted in the first place.

A young American lady who marries a man from Iran may be surprised when her husband's two brothers arrive from their homeland and move in to spend six months while looking for a job or seeking entrance to a university. The shock is even greater when she realizes that she is expected to cook meals for her brothers-in-law, wash their clothes and even iron their shirts.

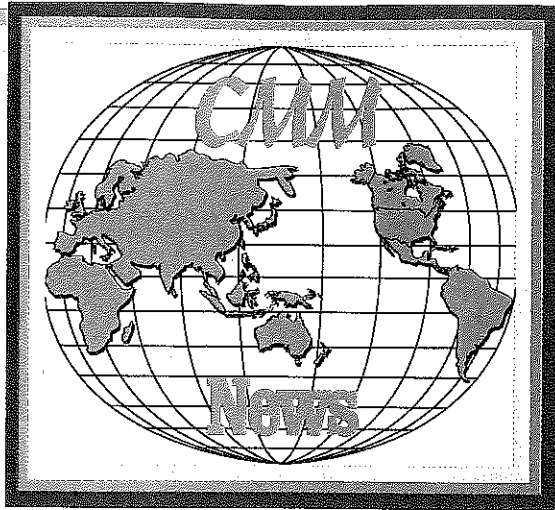
Surprise may turn to disbelief when the new bride finds that her husband has loaned money to his brothers, turning their carefully crafted budget into shambles. Her husband's explanation is the simple statement that he is the oldest brother and, as such, has a special family

responsibility to his brothers.

The Christian home and church needs to do a much better job of teaching children and young people true biblical values. The Bible is the spiritual manual for success in life.

Our society contradicts biblical teaching from the halls of political leadership in government to the television entertainment in our family room. It is time for the Church and the Christian parents of our land to speak and teach what our children and young people need to hear before they make decisions that could potentially destroy their lives. 

**In the West we think that when we marry a person, we are simply blending our lives with the man or woman of our dreams. Yet the truth is...you also marry that person's family, as well as the "culture" in which your mate has been raised.**



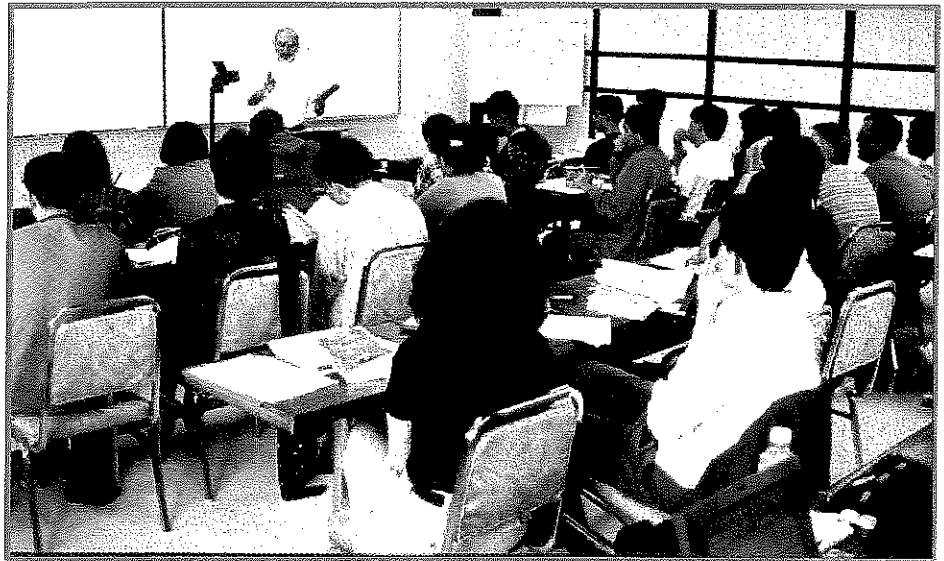
**Institute of Islamic Studies 2000  
Held in Baguio, Philippines  
April 10-June 2, 2000**

The third annual Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) was held on the beautiful campus of Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS) in Baguio, Philippines, from April 10-June 2, 2000. Pastors, missionaries and Christian workers from nine Asian and Western nations devoted eight weeks to intensive training to develop skills for effective ministry to Muslims.

Some came straight from the front lines of service where they minister in the extremely difficult environment of unspeakable horrors of war. For them this was a time of healing and renewal. For all involved, it was a time of spiritual refreshing, in addition to learning practical concepts and creative strategies for ministry.

The Institute, a joint effort of APTS and CMM, in cooperation with Assemblies of God Asian Missions Association (AGAMA), is a comprehensive 8-week program that seeks to prepare Asian missionaries for ministry to Muslims in their own countries or cross-culturally.

Courses are taught by outstanding Evangelical and Pentecostal scholars and missionaries who have extensive experience in ministry to Muslims in various parts of the world.



The Institute offers a unique opportunity to deepen one's understanding of, and love for, Muslim peoples.

**Instructors for IIS 2000**

- Dr. Jim Bennett (CMM)
- Dr. Robert Douglas
- Harry Morin (CMM)
- Vivienne Stacey
- Dr. Don McCurry
- Dr. Phil Parshall
- David F. Arzouni

**Directors of IIS 2000**

- Mike Langford
- Dale Fagerland (CMM)

**Goals of IIS**

- Promote vision for ministry to Muslims
- Encourage participation in ministry to Muslims
- Provide guidance to those called to ministry to Muslims in fulfilling their calling with confidence and effectiveness
- Encourage the development of understanding of Muslims, their faith and cultures

- Develop essential skills and disciplines in ministering effectively to Muslims
- Intensify prayer and intercession on behalf of Muslims and specific opportunities to Muslims

**Countries represented  
at IIS 2000:**

- England
- Germany
- Korea
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Thailand
- United States

**For information on  
dates, cost and  
course structure for  
next year, send an  
email message to  
[apts@xc.org](mailto:apts@xc.org)**

## Male-Female Relationships According to the Qur'an and the Hadith

- ❑ Men are superior to women with greater rights and liabilities because they must protect and provide for their wives (Qur'an, Surah 2:228; 4:34).
- ❑ Women are deficient in intelligence, gratitude and religion (Hadith Sahih al-Bukhari).
- ❑ Muslim men may marry women from the "People of the Book" (a Jewess or a Christian), but not an idolatress or atheist. A Muslim woman may marry only a Muslim (Surah 5:5; 2:221).
- ❑ A man may marry up to four women, provided he treats them equally, and he can have sex with an unlimited number of slave girls (Surah 4:3).
- ❑ When women go outside their homes, it delights the devil (Hadith Ihy'a 'Uloum ed-Din).
- ❑ A husband who fears rebelliousness in his wife must admonish her first. If that does not work, he has the right to desert her sexually. If that does not work, he may beat her (Surah 4:34).
- ❑ A daughter inherits half of what would come to her brother (Surah 4:11).
- ❑ The witness of two women is equal to the witness of one man (Surah 2:282).
- ❑ Women must wear hijabs (veils or coverings) to protect not only their own chastity but the chastity of men who might see them (Hadith by Muhammed Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti).
- ❑ A husband's rights over his wife are divine (Hadith Mishkat al-Masabih).
- ❑ The majority of women will go to hell (Hadith No. 33 and 301).

port his education plans, and had great love for the elderly. He always took time to listen to them.

"He spoke of God and his faith without any fear of public opinion, and shared with me about life and his family in the Middle East. I could tell he was from a good, close and loving family with a high sense of moral values.

"As time passed, I found myself drawn to his piercing dark brown eyes, mannerism and the way he called my name. He was an attractive man who believed in family and God, and he had a great sense of morality. I was so attracted to him I didn't even take time to learn more about Islam. He fit the profile of a good, godly man that my parents had always tried to paint in my mind. He never smoke, drank or cursed. He was pro-life and anti-divorce and always said, 'God willing (Insha-Allah).'

"Before we could enter a deeper relationship, he insisted on meeting my family, which lived some 150 miles away. This concept alone impressed me a great deal.

"After he met my parents, he contacted his family to give them his good report and we proceeded with our plans to be married. When I suggested a church, we had our first disagreement. It was impossible for his family from the Middle East to attend a church so we compromised and had a private wedding ceremony.

"Shortly after our marriage, I conceived. He became very excit-

ed and called his family to celebrate the occasion.

"During the first few months of our marriage we had several discussions about religion which ended in heated arguments. Thus, we decided not to bring up the subject of Jesus as the Son of God and the crucifixion story. I was allowed to go to church Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day. But on the way home we would engage in terrible arguments. He would say that I shamed him and the honor of his family because I wouldn't submit to Islam.

"Except for our religious differences, our life was going well until the birth of our first son. I had never seen any man happier to have a son than my husband. He called his family the day our son was born and they were all proud of us. They praised me highly. My husband said that he was proud of me and that God, too, was pleased with me. For a short time I was the jewel on the family crown and it felt wonderful. I was proud to be his wife and the mother of our son.

"After the birth of our first son, my husband became more zealous in his faith. He declared our son was a Muslim and by Islamic law I was a Muslim through marriage. Our son was given an Islamic name and I was informed that my husband had already whispered verses from the Qur'an in his ear after birth.

"Mixed feelings of anger and resentment came over me. How could he deceive me like this. He had changed and I felt as if I did-

n't know him anymore. All he could think about was to raise his son as a Muslim. We fought and raised our voices in anger almost every day. He was trying to isolate me from everyone, including my family, and though he never raised his hand to me, I wondered when that would happen.

"I became very depressed and thoughts of suicide flooded my mind. *How could this beautiful, loving, caring man change to such a terrifying nightmare? What did I do and where did I go wrong?* I just wanted to lie down, go to sleep and never wake up again.

"Two years later we had our second son. By this time I was not allowed to go to church at all and our second son was called Muhammad.

"Years passed and because of my pride I was afraid to confide in my parents about my self-made situation. What I once loved about this Muslim man, I now hated. He mentioned many times that a divorce was not an option. He said he would take my sons and disappear in his country and I would never see them again.

"I began to pray to the Lord to somehow relieve me and my sons from such a heavy burden. I prayed and read my hidden Bible, and finally decided to visit a church without his knowledge. The Lord restored my lost relationship with Him and His Word gave me strength to walk one step at a time. He also restored my relationship with my parents who had been praying and seeking God's face on my behalf. Many churches were interceding for my family and me. I lived my life daily as the Bible directed me and as a Christian wife should and my husband's treatment of me began to improve.

"After awhile he did not object to

me reading my Bible and going to church. He even visited the church I attended on occasion. Whenever he would argue about the deity of Christ, I just kept my peace and prayed.

"I started to study the statistics concerning marriages between Muslim men and American women. Thousands of marriages are performed yearly, but eight out of ten end in bitter divorces and the children sometimes are taken away by the men and never again seen by their mothers. I refused before the Lord to become another statistic. I prayed and fasted for the salvation of my husband. And though our life was still up and down, I was determined to serve the Lord no matter what.

"The Lord began to open my husband's eyes to see some miracles of healing in my father's life. As the result of ongoing prayers by hundreds of partners in the Lord and unconditional love, my husband began reading the Bible. By the power of the Holy Spirit and grace of God, my husband became fascinated with the story of Jesus. He was drawn to the Fisher of Men, and Jesus manifested himself to my husband in such a powerful way that eventually he was not only saved, but also baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"After the conversion of my husband I had to go through a different kind of battle. His family blamed me for my husband's conversion.

"His father stopped all communication with him and considered him dead to the family. The thought of being dead to his father and family put my husband under great pressure. The feelings of guilt and sorrow created a conflict within him and I was caught in the center of its rage.

"His brothers and sisters took turns engaging in psychological warfare against me. They believed I was the sole reason for the loss of their beloved brother. Despite all the explanations he offered them, they refused to see the real reason for his conversion.

"My mother-in-law came to visit us, hoping to restore her son back to the family and to Islam. Despite the language barrier, for four months she and I battled in a 'love and hate' war zone. I loved her everyday, even when she placed the Qur'an on my husband's dresser. I loved her when she faithfully prayed to Allah five times a day. I understood a mother's love for her son, but the spirit of oppression that entered our home was entirely a force of its own. Every day as I removed the Qur'an to replace it with the Bible, I prayed even harder.

"My husband was battling a spirit that had held him captive for 30 years while the Spirit of Christ in him was fighting to keep him on the right path.

"After my mother-in-law returned to her home we began to pick up the pieces and moved on to the next chapter of our lives, but only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and one day at a time.

"My husband's salvation was a miracle. It has been a hard and long road for both of us and we have not yet arrived.

"The abuse among the women of such marriages is so overwhelming, neither of us recommend such unions. Taking a biblical approach would spare a young lady the heartache and disappointment of such an unwise marital union."



# WHEN AMERICAN WOMEN MARRY MUSLIM MEN

Each year approximately 7,000 American women marry Muslim men. Most have no idea what they are getting into...they are charmed by the gentlemanly ways and the strong moral character seen in the Muslim man. But what can they really expect in their marriage?

In the minds of most American women, Islam is simply a religion. Though they realize that it differs greatly from the ways they were raised in Christian homes, it is still, in their minds, simply a religion. However, this is a very incorrect assumption...one that will cause them grief and heartache in the years ahead should they become romantically involved and marry a Muslim man.

The truth is, Islam is a total way of life for the Muslim community, laying out the rules for how things are to be done in every walk of life—including marriage.

The Muslim community is cohesive and forms a group pressure that its members must abide by. For Muslims, family and community are very important...much more so than for most Americans.

It is important to know that when an American woman meets a Muslim man, regardless of whether he is a devout or nominal Muslim, the sense of belonging to a culture, a family and a community is deeply ingrained. Even if the man does not appear religious, Islam goes beyond a religious belief to the person's very identity in his family and community.

Customs regarding engagements, weddings and marriage in the Middle East are very different than here in America. When a man decides he wants to get married, he tells his family and his mother and female relatives begin looking for a suitable wife. If he has someone in mind, his mother will check her out for him. If the girl is not engaged or already pledged to someone and is interested in getting married, the boy's family will arrange a meeting to formalize an agreement to marry. Families are involved in the whole marriage process. And though the son might be marrying an American woman, the man's family is still usually involved in the process.

Islam places a great responsibility on the man in his role as a Muslim and as the head of the house. That responsibility has been ingrained in the Muslim

man from birth.


The Qur'an speaks of the man's responsibility to raise his children as good Muslims, and the community helps reinforce these ideas by subtly pressuring its members to conform. Thus the greatest difficulties in these interfaith marriages most often come when children are born.

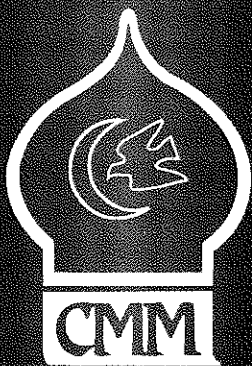
Even if the Muslim man has previously agreed that their children can learn of Christianity and perhaps even go to church with his wife, when a child is born, the man's deeply ingrained sense of responsibility comes to the forefront. Not only will he have an internal pressure to raise his children in the faith of Islam, but his family and the Muslim community will place outward pressure on him as well.

Cross-cultural marriages are a challenge and require enormous amounts of prayer to work through the differences in language, culture and family upbringing. However, interfaith marriages, especially those between Muslims and Christians, are decisively more challenging.

Today statistics show that an estimated 80 percent of all marriages between Muslim men and American women end in divorce. In many instances, the children of such unions are taken by the father and never again seen by the mother. After all, the Qur'an and Hadith give the father this right (see Women's Rights on page 4).

Though some Muslim men do convert to Christianity, the man's family will exert great pressure on him, causing the couple to have to deal with difficult situations. Very often these problems become insurmountable and the union still ends in divorce.

For American women who might be dating a Muslim man and contemplating marriage to him, we encourage you to study Islam to learn about the cultural differences and how Islam views women's rights and roles in marriage. Doing this might save you heartache in the future. 



# Jumaa Prayer Fellowship

Praying for Muslims  
Around the World!



## Friday, September 1, 2000. Please pray

...for the students who are taking the Approaches to Muslims class being taught by a CMM team member at Evangel University in Springfield, MO. Pray that their hearts will be open to learn how to understand Muslims and reach out to them with the gospel message.

...for the 375,000 Muslim Dongxiang people in NW China with no known Christians among them. Only 12 percent of them are literate in Chinese, making them difficult to reach.

...that the government of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, will not be influenced by the Muslim political parties in that country that are appealing for the introduction of Islamic law and the teaching of Arabic in state schools.

## Friday, September 8, 2000. Please pray

...that God will intervene in the situation in East Timor, Indonesia, and provide workers to bring physical and spiritual food to the refugees in the camps in West Timor.

...for B, an Iranian man who came to a church and said, "I am tired of my life, I want to become a Christian." Pray he and others will make a total commitment to the Lord.

...for the refugee situation in Jordan, which has become the haven for refugees from the Arab world. Pray that the Church will seize every opportunity to minister physically and spiritually to these displaced people.



## Friday, September 15, 2000. Please pray

...that God will continue to draw Muslims unto himself as they interact with Christians who may be hesitant to share their faith because of restrictions placed on them. May God's love shine through their lives.

...for a Turkish woman in the Chicago area who seems close to making a clear commitment of her life to the Lord.

...for those Bengali people who feel hungry and deprived. Pray that they will have divine appointments to seal their encounters with Jesus.

...for Bible distribution and ministry work in difficult-to-access countries in the Middle East.



## Friday, September 22, 2000. Please pray

...that this time of financial difficulty in Brunei will serve as a wake-up call for those who have become complacent because of their wealth. Pray that the tension created by this problem will cause them to look to Christians for help and hope.

...for the many workers who are teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) all around the world. Pray that the Lord will provide many opportunities to share the truth of Jesus with students, especially refugees who are trying to make a new life for themselves.

...that God will raise up Americans and Iranians to share the gospel with the growing Iranian population in California. The field is ripe for an abundant harvest.

## Friday, September 29, 2000. Please pray

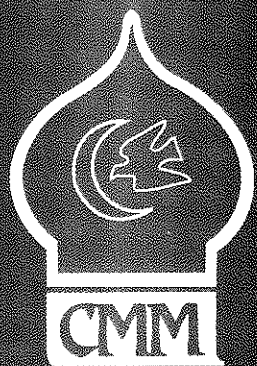
...for CMM team members as they conduct a training seminar in a difficult-to-access country in Eurasia. Pray that church leaders will be encouraged and motivated to reach Muslims.

...for J.M. and other missionaries who are trying to learn Arabic. Pray that God will give them the perseverance needed to accomplish this important step for effective ministry.

...for the situation on the Molucca Islands of Indonesia. Muslim mobs have run through the streets creating a disastrous climate in which several Christians lost their lives.

*I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.*

—(1 Timothy 2:1, NIV)



# Jumaa Prayer Fellowship

## Praying for Muslims Around the World!



### Friday, October 6, 2000. Please pray

...for the plans being made for Urbana 2000. Pray that many of the students registered will be motivated to commit their lives to ministry among Muslims.

...for outreach to the 100,000 Muslims in Central Florida. Pray that God will guide the nucleus of Arab families who are endeavoring to reach other Arabs in that area with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

...that God will raise up more Arabs with skills in communication to enhance efforts that are being made to reach the Muslim world with the gospel through media. The opportunities for the use of media to reach into difficult-to-access Muslim countries are limitless if qualified personnel are available.

...for the thousands of destitute Christian families in Iraq. Pray that they will be encouraged in their faith and be able to cope with the hostility they experience as Christians.

### Friday, October 13, 2000. Please pray

...for the healing of two Iranian pastors' wives in California.

...for several hundred Turkish businessmen and university students in Bombay, India, who are being challenged with the message of Christ.

...for those who have been impacted by the "Peace Train" as it made 12 major stops between Peshawar and Karachi, Pakistan, last December. Thousands of "Jesus" videos and Scripture portions were distributed. Pray for future endeavors like this.

...that peace will once again exist in Sierra Leone following the bloody civil war, and that Christians will give hope as well as aid to the traumatized victims of war. Many have become amputees.

### Friday, October 20, 2000. Please pray

...for Christians in Iran who are prohibited by law from attending one of the few registered churches. Pray for the gospel radio programs that are providing "church" for these converts.

...for the Muslim-background believers in a North African country who have been threatened with exposure by having their names published in a national newspaper. Pray for their protection.

...that many Christians will fill the thousands of openings in Turkish primary and secondary schools and universities as teachers of English, science and other subjects.

...for the daily FEBA radio programs in Dari that are offering hope to a Muslim audience living in dreadful conditions in Afghanistan.

...for the new translation of the Bible in modern Turkish. Pray that it will have wide distribution and be effective in reaching people with the good news of Jesus.

### Friday, October 27, 2000. Please pray

...for the few Yemeni believers, since all forms of missionary activity are forbidden. Pray for God's wisdom to direct them to people with open hearts.

...for a lawyer in Sudan who sends thanks to those who are praying for him and for the imprisoned believers whom he is defending. He admonishes Christians to "keep it up."

...for the man who had been the head of a local mosque in Tanzania for over 40 years. He is now one of the newest Christians in town and his health has never been better. Pray for the impact of his life on his colleagues.

...that Christian school children in Sudan may receive an education. The government has announced it will turn all state primary schools into Qur'anic schools.



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