

THE HISTORY OF PRAYER IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Note: We are still working on this document to get it as complete as possible. If you have any further information available please email us at: upfsa@absamail.co.za)

Early beginnings: 1983-1987

- In **1983** a prayer awakening started in a few congregations all around the country. A small group of intercessors in Pretoria set out on a path previously unexplored, namely strategic prayer, and eventually became known as **Herald Ministries, led by Gerda Leithgöb**. Namibia also started with a prayer newsletter to mobilize prayer in Namibia.
- In 1987 the group in Pretoria started with spiritual research and a similar initiative also started spontaneously all over the world. In 1987 a lot of books were published concerning prayer.
- A new **prayer letter** for Namibia called "**Prayer Action Elijah**", was led by Bennie Mostert.

1989

- **The Ends of the Earth.** In 1989 **Kjell Sjöberg**, from Sweden, visited South Africa on a prayer assignment to pray at sites called "the ends of the earth". In South Africa, they prayed at Cape Agulhas, the southernmost point of the continent.

1990

- **40-day Fasts.** In May 1990 – **David Mniki**, from the Transkei, called **the 1st national 40-day fast to pray for the country** that was still politically locked in the apartheid system. This fast was localized and not many people participated. During the fast, God gave a scripture from Isaiah – "Can a nation be born in one day?"

1991

1992

- In 1992 a **2nd 40-day fast to pray for the country** took place.
- In 1992 **YWAM** organized an **international prayer initiative to pray at the cardinal points** of the six continents. All four cardinal points of Africa were prayed at Cape Agulhas – South Africa, West Africa, Tunisia, and Somalia.

1993

- In **1993 NUPSA** (Network for United Prayer in Southern Africa – now called Jericho Walls International Prayer Network) started a national prayer network.
- **Ramadan Prayer Initiative.** A prayer initiative called Ramadan, a 30-day Muslim prayer focus started in 1993 In South Africa, participation in this initiative grew from an estimated 15,000 people in 1993 to around 100,000 people in 2000.
- **Cecil John Rhodes and Freemasonry Prayer Teams.** 1993 saw the first prayer teams praying through information gained through spiritual research. Teams travelled from Kimberley to Grahamstown and George, praying through issues

concerning Cecil John Rhodes (a British colonist) and Freemasonry. This had a major influence on the continent, exposing more of the damage done to society through Freemasonry.

- **Pray through the Window.** During 1993 South Africa also started to participate in the Pray through the Window initiative, launched internationally by the AD 2000 prayer track. From 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999, an estimated 700,000 South Africans participated in this initiative.

1994

- In **1994 the 3rd 40-day fast to pray for the country** was organized to prepare for the first democratic general elections.
- Later that same year **a fourth 40-day fast** was organized in conjunction with an international initiative called “A Day to Change the World”. Thousands of people participated in this fast, which culminated on **24 June 1994, in Jesus Marches** all over the country.
- In 1994, **NUPSA** started with a **prayer letter** called **Jericho Walls**, mobilizing individuals to pray for the unreached peoples and revival. The focus of prayer mobilization in that year was in the multiparty elections in South Africa. This initiative had a major influence in opening up the continent for prayer and in the Spirit South Africa was bonded to the continent.

1995

- In **December 1995**, a prayer initiative called “**Operation Breakthrough**” was organized, sending **seven teams to pray around South Africa’s borders**, to seal the nation, and to ask for a breakthrough in the country concerning prayer.

1996

- In **March 1996** a major prayer initiative was launched to pray at the 45 sites of **KwaZulu Natal’s Battlefields**. This province has seen bloodshed ever since the first king of the Zulu initiated a time of terror (Mfecane) in Southern Africa, which reverberated far through this continent.
- **The 5th national 40-day fast** took place in 1996, in which some 100,000 people participated.
- The culmination of this fast was a national assembly, called the **National Day of Prayer** on the 7th of July 1996, in front of the Union Buildings in Pretoria, where about 20,000 people gathered. The National Day of Prayer focused on repentance on behalf of the nation, and reconciliation on different levels of society e.g. man-to-God, gender-to-gender, ethnic group to ethnic group, culture-to-culture, and generation-to-generation.

1997

- **Anglo-Boer War / Concentration Camp repentance.** In **March 1997** a group from England came to pray and bring repentance for the sins of England at the Anglo-Boer War concentration camps in South Africa.
- **June of 1997** saw **30 days of prayer for revival in the nation**.

1998

- In 1998 an estimated 500 000 people participated in the **6th national 40-day fast**.
- In 1998 a **prayer team** with **international intercessors** took a trip from the Matopos in Zimbabwe to Cape Town to **pray** again **concerning** the issue of **Cecil Rhodes and Freemasonry**.

1999

- The year 1999 started with **120 days of fasting and prayer from mid-January to mid-May** with a focus on the national elections of that year. An estimated 800,000 people participated.
- **The Highway through Africa**. In **1999**, an extensive **prayer journey** was undertaken with representatives of the First People of Africa, the **San**, to pray through Africa from Cape Agulhas to Cairo, with a focus on repentance for idolatry and witchcraft. This happened simultaneously with the 120 days of prayer and fasting in South Africa.
- **24/7 prayer watches**. In **September 1999**, a new type of initiative emerged worldwide. God started to speak nationally about 24-hour prayer watches. A 24-hour "Harp and Bowl" watch was started on 1 September 2000 in Cape Town.

2000

- In 2000, the millennium ended with a **40-day continental fast** which Christians from 56 African nations participated in. All in all, seven national fasts were completed in the decade from 1990 to 1999, and then God broadened the focus to include the continent.

2001

- From **1 – 21 March 2001** a prayer initiative called "**Day and Night 21**" mobilized **intercessors in at least 70 towns and cities** (one-tenth of the country) to pray for 24 hours continually for 21 days and ask the Lord to open the heavens above South Africa.
- On **21 March 2001**, a stadium meeting was held in Nuweland Stadium, Cape Town called a "**Day of Repentance and Prayer**". Graham Power, a businessman, received a vision to have stadium events for repentance and prayer. (This became **Global Day of Prayer** and for 5 years, stadium events were held all across South Africa and the Continent of Africa. The Global Day of Prayer eventually culminated in 2010 when every nation in the world participated in a Day of Prayer and Repentance.)
- Another prayer initiative aimed at mobilizing the youth in our country ran from **13 to 20th of May 2001**, called "**Prayer Storm 24/7**", where high schools were mobilized to join in praying 24 hours a day for a week.
- **Cleansing South Africa**. During **2001**, intercessors in about 450 cities and towns participated in the initiative called "Cleansing South Africa". This initiative mobilize the Church as a bigger body to come before God as a nation to humble ourselves on a national level and to ask for the cleansing of our land and people. During **August and September 2001**, for 7 weeks, 450+ cities and towns repented of blood guilt, immorality, broken covenants, and idolatry.

- On **23 September 2001**, a **National Day of Repentance and Brokenness** was held in churches all over the country.
- Following the national repentance was **40 days of the rededication of our cities, towns, villages**, and areas to the Lord. Intercessors saturated their areas with prayer through prayer walks in all streets, highways, and byways, and dedication of schools, businesses, parks, etc. to the Lord.
- On the **3rd of November 2001**, there was a **national gathering of representatives of every town, city, and village of South Africa in Bloemfontein**, in the center of the country, where a **prayer altar was built** with stones from each place.
- At the same time, a meeting was held in Cape Town where **six teams** were sent off to **carry a banner “Prepare the Way, I AM coming”**, on the six national highways of the country to the six neighboring countries. Two weeks later, the banner was handed over at the borders to the intercessors of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho, as a symbolic act to open the borders of South Africa so that the revival may spread and the Gospel was taken to the nations of the world.
- During the same two weeks, **prayer teams climbed the highest mountain** in each of the **9 provinces of South Africa** to plant a banner that read: Jesus Christ is Lord over South Africa.

2002

- **1 February 2002 - United Christian Action hosted a National Day of Repentance prayer meeting** at Parliament in Cape Town. This was to repent from the national sin of abortion. Since the ANC legalized abortion on demand on 1st February 1997, over 2 million babies have been legally killed by abortion in South Africa.
- **International Prayer Council** The first meeting of the IPC was held in **November 2002** at Goudini, in South Africa. In preparation for this meeting, in October 2002, intercessors, together with an international team, prayed at the sites where unholy covenants were made with spiritual forces, cancelled these covenants, and prayed for a release of those who are held in bondage through sin in South Africa.
- **Re-opening of the wells of revival.** In **November 2002**, 50+ teams prayed all over South Africa at the 63 sites of the previous revivals to ask for a re-opening of the wells of revival. Teams also prayed at the 116 mission stations where the seed of the Gospel was sown, to ask for fruit on the labour of those who gave their lives to bring the Gospel to South Africa.

2003

- **Khoi Highway.** In May **2003**, the Khoi, also a First Nation People undertook their first journey from Cape Town to Musina, to place “stepping-stones” for a highway that would eventually end in Jerusalem.
- In **August 2003**, the Khoi travelled from Cape Town via East-London, Kokstad, and Lesotho to end in Walvis Bay, Namibia on an East-West Khoi Highway.

2004

2005

2006

By June 2006, what began as Transformation Africa became the Global Day of Prayer with participation from 200 nations from seven continents around the world. And this prayer movement is still growing.

2007

- **Khoi Highway.** In 2007, the Khoi undertook a prayer journey from Cape Town to Jerusalem.

2008

2009

- **18 April 2009**, a group of five-fold ministers came together in Pretoria, the capital city of South Africa, to covenant with God in taking the responsibility of praying for South Africa. Out of this covenantal prayer, a movement to intercede for South Africa to change was birthed and was named the **South African Prayer Movement for Change (SAPMC)**. This would be a national prayer altar before God.

2010

2011

- **Dealing with slavery and Islam.** In **2011** a South African prayer team was sent to Hong Kong, China, to open the gates of Africa for the Chinese Church. At that meeting God challenged them to confess the sins of the first Europeans, the Dutch, who planted a settlement in Cape Town and 8 years later began importing slaves from Mozambique, other African nations, and eventually from Malaysia and Indonesia. In the process, Islam as a religion was established at the foot of Africa in Cape Town.

2012

- In **2012**, the ICLD (Institute for Christian Leadership Development) in conjunction with the ACDP (African Christian Democratic Party) and SAPMC (South African Prayer Movement for Change). Led the 9 provinces in South Africa in **an initiative of repentance and dedicating each province to the Lord.**
- In **2012** a **prayer team from both South Africa and the Netherlands** travelled to **Malaysia and Indonesia** to pray concerning the neglect in not preaching the Gospel to slaves, way back in the 1600s.

2013

2014

- In **2014** a **prayer team from Malaysia came to pray in South Africa** at the southern gate to remove this stumbling block in the southern gate of the Isaiah 19 Highway. Together the Malaysian and South African teams travelled to the Netherlands to offer forgiveness and blessing to the colonizing Dutch. This left the South African southern gate cleansed and ready for someone to come through the gates to travel to Jerusalem.

2015

- **#YTAUNITE Prayer Event.** Youth Transformation Africa hosted an event at Newlands Rugby Stadium on **27 April 2015** with the aim of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with young people across Cape Town. 2500 youth attended the event and were encouraged by speakers like Angus Buchan; and UE Founder, Dr Graham Power. Time was also allocated to create opportunities for those who wished to commit their lives to Christ, and for intercessory prayer focused specifically on the challenges faced by youth.
- **The time of Singing** has come. In **November 2015**, a prayer team from Jerusalem came to South Africa with 3 prophetic words: a. The time of singing has come! b. The key of David. The team from Jerusalem brought with them a key from Jerusalem as symbolic of the 'Key of David' which was given to the Church of Philadelphia (Rev 3). Incidentally, Pretoria, the capital city of South Africa, was originally called Pretoria Philadelphia. This key was to unlock a door of hope for South Africa, which is like a country with hope deferred. This key is also to unlock a reconciliation in this nation that will lead to a brotherly love amongst all South Africans. c. They rang a bell – calling the Church to alignment with Israel and the end-time movement of God.
- **Cleansing the Southern Gate** from witchcraft in **December 2015**. According to a vision from Rick Ridings from Jerusalem, a team of intercessors had a prophetic action at the Cape of Good Hope.

2016

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meetings** is held on **28 February 2016** around South Africa. This is the first year that UP4SA held the yearly prayer day for South Africa.
- **A reconciliation initiative** took place on **11 and 16 June 2016**, in Soweto, hosted by the South African Defense Force, the Afrikaans churches, and the South African Council of Churches, with the theme: **Sing a new (South African) song!** A 40 Day Prayer Guide was produced to provide intercessors with guidelines to pray for reconciliation in South Africa as preparation for the events in Soweto in June.
- **14 Jul – 2 Aug 2016 – Prayer for the Elections.**
- **Welcoming the Father's Glory** at the Southern Gate of Africa (Cape Agulhas) in **August 2016**. The team started in the Solomon Islands with a vision called 'The Deep-Sea Canoe Project' to travel from the ends of the earth back to Jerusalem. It developed into the All People Prayer Movement (APPA) Trumpet Call. They went to the Americas, Middle East, and Europe, and in 2016 came to Africa on its last leg before reaching Jerusalem in 2017.

- **Intercessors for South Africa (IFSA)** was birthed out of the **Uniting Intercessors for South Africa Conference** that was held in Bloemfontein from **17-19 November 2016**. This was a historical conference that took place where intercessors and intercessory leaders of different Prayer Networks from around the nation joined together in unity to hear God for the future of South Africa.

2017

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meetings** is held on 26 February 2017. It is the second year the these prayer gatherings are organized all around South Africa.
- **It's Time Prayer Gathering in Bloemfontein – 22 April 2017**. It all started by the Holy Spirit speaking to uncle Angus to call the nation together and to pray – 2 Chron. 7:14. At Bloemfontein over a million people believers came together in response to the invitation. As a result there was a change of government, they shelved plans for the nuclear power station, the rand strengthened and there was the singing of choruses and hymns in parliament, and many other miracles.
- **50 Days to Bless the Nation** Prayer Initiative coordinated by IFSA from **16 April – 4 June 2017**. This was a 50-day national prayer initiative with the aim of asking the Lord to change our heart and our negative perspective of South Africa and to pray a daily blessing over the nation. Ordinary believers in Christ were motivated to be active in prayer, in their own households, their neighborhoods, their cities, workplace and every sphere of society where they find themselves operating. Interceding for the lost was emphasized as well as activities such as Prayer-walking, Prayer-driving, Prayer-cycling neighbourhoods, communities, towns, townships, cities, farms, countryside, shopping malls, business district and industrial areas were carried out by believers all across South Africa.
- **Intercessors for South Africa (IFSA)** has their **Consultative Prayer Conference** from **14-16 Sept 2017**.
- **#CrosstheBridge** on **16 December 2017**. At an IFSA conference held in Bloemfontein in September 2017, the Lord highlighted the state of our nation as broken, wounded, hurting, disappointed, angry, hopeless, rejected and racist. In response the Holy Spirit gave a practical strategy to begin to address this by crossing the bridges of racial divide entrenched through apartheid using the Day of Reconciliation. Deliberate action for reaching out was implemented by many groups and congregations of different tribes and languages who met together to love and to pray for one another in their communities, towns and cities.

2018

- **40 Days of Prayer for Healing & Reconciliation** held from **19 February – 30 March 2018**.
- **It's Time Cape Town** held on **24 March 2018** - Angus Buchan called believers together. Cape Town that had had no rain for three years. Thousands of believers gathered. They repented and prayed and God answered their prayers and abundant rain started to fall in Cape Town.
- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meetings** is held on **24 February 2018**. It is the third year that such prayer gatherings were organised all around South Africa.

- **Intercessors for South Africa (IFSA) Conference** held in East London from **6-8 September 2018** with Past. Laban Jumba from Uganda.
- **December 2018.** Cape Agulhas. Burying the Bow and the Arrow, as the completion of all the Isaiah 19 Highways and asking God to bring it into fulfilment.

2019

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meetings** is held on **22-24 February 2019**. It is the fourth year that such prayer gatherings were organised all around South Africa.
- **“Return to Me!” - Rebuilding a Holy Nation.** This IFSA Prayer initiative was held from **25 February-7 April 2019**. It was a 5-week national prayer initiative with focused prayer specifically for the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa. The Lord had impressed that there were five rocks representing false constructs or things that we trusted in and leaned on in our pursuit of well-being. These needed to be broken and our trust put back on Jesus Christ the Rock of our Salvation. Each week there was a different wave of prayer with a particular prayer focus on the different counterfeit rocks that were identified, with the aim of dismantling these in our lives personally and in the Church collectively.
- **Intercessors for South Africa (IFSA) National Prayer Conference** held from **5-7 Sept 2019** at Light House Church Secunda.
- **It's Time Prayer Gathering in Tshwane** (Pretoria) – **27 October 2019**. Angus Buchan called believers together. Thousands of people gathered east of Pretoria to pray for the nation of South Africa and Angus gave a message to the nation.

2020

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meetings** is held on **1-3 March 2020**. It is the fifth time that prayer meetings are brought together all around South Africa
- **Africa Day Prayer** on **25 May 2020**. Organised by Healing the Nation of Africa and hosted by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.
- **50 Days of Word Treatment Prayer Initiative** held from **12 April – 31 May 2020**. Hosted by Ariella Ministries and Vuka Africa Foundation, in partnership with other ministries.
- **The Trumpet Call** – Days of Fasting and Prayer held from **10-12 July 2020**. Organised by 24-7 Prayer South Africa.
- **AFM Day of Prayer & Fasting** held on **2 Aug 2020**. Praying about the COVID pandemic and other social and economical issues.
- **The Return Prayer Initiative**, “Repent, Return, Revive” held from **18-28 September 2020** launched by IFSA. Calling local congregations in South Africa to 10 days of repentance. THE RETURN was a global prayer call issued by Johnathan Cahn in the USA with one purpose – the return to God – individually, corporately, nationally, globally – and the end-goal of world revival. Nations outside the USA were encouraged to adopt this and apply it in their own context. Responding to this call, The Return SA was initiated. **26 September 2020** was set apart as a **National Day of Prayer & Repentance** for divine intervention in South Africa.
- **16 Days of Prayer for Healing South Africa** held from **1-16 December 2020**. A Prayer Initiative by IFSA.

2021

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **28 March 2021** – Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Wild Coast FM and streamed online). Representatives from the 9 provinces led prayers for South Africa.
 - **Heal Our Land SA** Prayer Initiative held from **21-23 July 2021**. Organised by Global Voice of Prayer.
 - **United in Jesus** – Worldwide prayer for SA held on **24 Jul 2021**.
 - **Day of Prayer** held on **25 Jul 2021**. Organised by the National Pentecostal Forum
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• **2022**

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **26 February 2022**. Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Link FM, and streamed online). Prayer Network leaders led prayers for South Africa.
 - **National Day of Thanksgiving** held on **1 May 2022**. Organised by JWIPN
 - **54 Days of prayer for Africa** held from **26 September 2022 – 18 November 2022**. A Prayer initiative by the South African Christian Leadership Initiative (SACLI), toward the healing of Africa from the wounds caused by slavery, colonialism, exploitation and racism.
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2023

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **26 February 2023**. Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Link FM, DSTV and streamed online). Prayer Network leaders led prayers for South Africa focusing on themes such as healing, reconciliation, and social issues in South Africa.
 - **54 Weeks of prayer for Africa** from **25 May 2023 – 5 Jun 2024**. A repeat of the Prayer initiative by the South African Christian Leadership Initiative (SACLI), toward the healing of Africa from the wounds caused by slavery, colonialism, exploitation and racism.
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2024

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **15 February 2024**. Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Link FM, DSTV and streamed online). Prayer Network leaders led prayers for South Africa focusing on themes such as healing, reconciliation, and social issues in South Africa.
 - **20 May – 9 Jun 2024 - Awakening SA Prayer Initiative** coordinated by IFSA. To pray for the Church, Godly Government and the Restoration of Society. A call to the Body of Christ to **21 days of night-and-day, prayer and fasting** for South Africa.
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2025

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **19 February 2025**. Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Link FM, DSTV and streamed online). Prayer Network leaders led prayers for South Africa focusing on themes such as healing, reconciliation, and social issues in South Africa.
- The first **24-7 Prayer South Africa National Gathering** took place in JHB from **27-29 March 2025**.

- **One Heart** - Pray for Reconciliation - **27 July 2025** - A journey of 50 days of prayer towards Reconciliation and Oneness held by 24-7 Prayer South Africa
- **SAPMC National Prayer Conference** held from **17-18 Oct 2025** in Pretoria – with Dr. John Mulinde from Uganda.

2026

- **United Prayer for South Africa (UP4SA) Prayer Meeting** is held on **19 February 2026**. Live Prayer Session (Broadcast on Link FM, DSTV and streamed online). Prayer Network leaders led prayers for South Africa focusing on themes such as healing, reconciliation, and social issues in South Africa.
 - **90 Days of Prayer** – 1 February – 1 May 2026 – United 24/7 Prayer facilitated by A Praying SA. Believers from across the nation book 24/7 prayer slots online and pray for the tide in our nation to be turned.
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