

# Global Women<sup>sm</sup>

Connecting and empowering women to transform our worlds



# 2010 Prayer Guide



“But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.”

Micah 6:8 (*The Message*)

**Global Women (GW)** is an ecumenical missions movement with a vision of a world where every woman is empowered by the love of God, valued by her community, and equipped to fulfill her unique purpose. Global Women calls you to pray for the global conditions affecting women on March 8th, International Women's Day, and every day. When, where, with whom, and how you pray is your choice. Not praying is not an option.

*God of justice, call us to account. Inspire us, so that we may cast off our complacency and apathy. By joining hands with people at home and abroad, may we make a stand for justice and righteousness, for all who dwell on the earth. Amen*

We pray because Jesus modeled this life-changing way to talk to and listen to God. And we pray because we believe prayer changes persons and situations. We pray because we long for relief from injustices for our sisters and their families. When we are honest, we admit that at times we pray because we feel helpless and seek refuge in this thing we can do. We pray because we are touched by the testimonies of what prayer means to the pray-er and the one prayed for. We pray because it connects us with God and one another. We pray because we believe, we hope, we anticipate, we despair, we yearn for, we grieve, we need, we want, and because we claim God's promises for God's children.

“We must not sit in silence while many women of the world remain in bondage. C. S. Lewis said, ‘To pray for our loved ones is a sweet duty.’ Perhaps as women we need to pray for the women in obscurity as a sweet duty. Are we the vessels that can enact change for these women who need to be unshackled from their fetters? Perhaps our global responsibility is to minister to these women who thirst for love, who need to feel a ‘togetherness’ with other women, and receive that touch that heals” —Winnie Williams, *The Price & Privilege of Being a Woman*.

Global Women affirms the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Individuals, organizations, and nations are acting together to meet the needs of the world's poorest persons, who are disproportionately women, by 2015. This Prayer Guide is a tool for intercessory prayer on behalf of these women. But, be warned! As you pray God may call you to put feet to your prayers! When God calls, GW can help you investigate where your time, talents, and treasure can help make a difference in a woman's life.

This listing of the eight Millennium Development Goals includes suggested needs to include in your prayers. As you investigate the global condition of women you can add to this list.

**1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.** Of the world's 6.7 billion people, 1.2 billion are hungry. Hunger is the most extreme form of poverty where individuals or families cannot afford to meet their most basic need for food. Hunger manifests itself in many ways other than starvation and famine. Most poor people who battle hunger deal with chronic undernourishment and vitamin or mineral deficiencies.

On behalf of the poor and hungry women of the world pray for:

- Access to adequate, nutritious food for women to feed their families.
- Provision for women to grow food or sell crops.
- Clean water to nourish what has been planted.
- Knowledge of simple technologies to preserve foods and “refrigerate” without electricity.
- Reduction of malnutrition through use of green leaf crops.
- Health issues that are a direct result of the lack of adequate nourishment.
- Income to purchase staple food items.

*To those who hunger give bread; to those who have bread give a hunger for justice. Amen*

*O Dios, A ellos que tienen hambre, dales pan; y a ellos que tienen pan, dales sed para justicia. Amén*

—Latin American Prayer

**2. Achieve universal primary education.** Girls make up two-thirds of children denied primary education and 75 percent of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women. Universal primary education would cost \$10 billion a year—that is half what Americans spend on ice cream.

On behalf of the children of the world who lack access to education pray for:

- Girls who cannot attend school because they must spend an average of five hours daily collecting fire wood for cooking or retrieving the family's daily water supply.
- Gender disparity that devalues girls and prevents them from access to an education.
- The one in four adults in the developing world who are illiterate and thus unable to help their children as they learn.
- Lack of schools, teachers, books, and other supplies.
- More schools so that students are not prohibited from an education simply because the "closest" school is a day's walk away.
- Separate private and sanitary bathroom facilities for boys and girls.
- Additional female teachers to act as role models and to promote girls' school attendance.

*Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can. —John Wesley*



### **3. Promote gender equality and empower women.**

Each MDG is directly related to women's rights. Cultures where women are not afforded equal rights can never achieve development in a sustainable manner.

On behalf of the women of the world who experience the injustice of gender inequality pray for:

- Guaranteed and legally enforced rights for women.
- Elimination of inequality in employment.
- Increased women's representation in governing bodies.
- Reduction in violence against girls and women.
- Decent working conditions, wages, and hours.
- Women's entrepreneurship and microfinance programs.
- Land and property rights for women.

*God of Sarah, Rachel, Tamar, and Deborah, hear the prayers of Your daughters. Our sisters are bound by cultures and traditions whose dominance restrains them from knowing or experiencing basic human rights. Give us wisdom to act in ways that will bring empowerment to them. Amen*

### **4. Reduce child mortality.**

#### **5. Improve maternal health.**

Eleven million children below age five, about 30,000 a day, die every year from preventable causes.

On behalf of mothers and their children pray for:

- Access to quality obstetrical care.
- Availability and distribution of birthing kits and access to birthing attendants.
- Education on healthy pregnancy, delivery, and child development.
- Improved nutrition.
- Basic first aid care.
- Elimination of cultural taboos that restricts health care intervention.
- Distribution of proven medicines.

*"Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:12-14*

### **6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.**

Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis (TB) are the major public health challenges undermining development in the poorest countries in the world. Over the past year, 3 million



people died of AIDS, more than ever before and more than from any other infectious disease. Pregnant women and their unborn children are also particularly vulnerable to malaria, which is a major cause of infant mortality, low birth weight, and maternal anemia.

On behalf of women suffering from or at-risk for diseases pray for:

- Comprehensive, accurate knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
- Availability and use of insecticide-treated bed netting.
- Treatment and support for affected households.
- Abolition of rape by HIV infected persons as a weapon of war and control.
- Acceptance of and implementation of preventatives for all diseases.
- Opportunities to provide for the basic needs of her family.
- Measures to reduce the spread of disease.



*God of justice, pour your mercy on those whose lives are bound by injustice and oppression; those oh, God, who hunger for wholeness and freedom. Give us boldness to speak out on behalf of those whose voices cannot be heard over their cries for help. Grant us courage to act where the need arises. In the name of your Son, who came to proclaim freedom to the captives. Amen*

**7. Ensure environmental sustainability.** An estimated 900 million people live in slum-like conditions characterized by insecure occupancy, inadequate housing, and a lack of access to water or sanitation.

On behalf of women worldwide pray for:

- Access to safe water.
- Basic sanitation.
- Reversal of the loss of environmental resources.
- Safe, affordable, permanent housing.
- Reduction in environmental challenges (pollution, deforestation, climate change, etc.).
- Improved conditions for slum dwellers.
- Policy changes needed at local, state, and national levels.

*As we celebrate the joys of creation, we pray for the people who are denied their share. May the earth and everything in it be for the benefit of all human beings.  
Lord of Life, Lord of All, Hear your people's plea.*

#### **8. Develop a global partnership for development.**

Wealthy countries working with developing countries can create an environment in which rapid, sustainable development is possible.

On behalf of women in poor countries pray for:


- More aid from richer countries.
- Increase in fair trade.
- Reduction of the unemployment rate.
- Debt relief to allow countries to care for their citizens.
- Use of nondiscriminatory financial systems.
- Equitable distribution of aid.
- Basic technology training.

*Faithful Christian servants change lives, communities, and cultures.—the message of Beulah & Sarah Woolston*

In 2010, Global Women is partnering with like-minded organizations, churches, and indigenous leaders in Burma (Myanmar), Central Asia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Moldova, Thailand, and the United States to fulfill our mission. Our projects focus on global concerns for women and are reflective of the MDGs. We are addressing issues such as refugees, economic development, leadership development, maternal health, cultural oppression, human trafficking, violence against women, education, as well as women called to serve. We invite you to join us as we pray for God's welfare for women worldwide.

**A Call To Action:** Admittedly, the number of women worldwide who's basic needs go unmet and who live in fear, oppression, darkness and despair is overwhelming. It is understandable that even Christians turn away with a sense of powerlessness to affect change, yet Global Women holds fast to God's promises to hear and answer our prayers.

To learn how Global Women is making a difference in the lives of women and how you can join us, visit the Global Women Web site or contact us at the address below.

Your tax-deductible donations to Global Women help sustain this missions movement and our projects. Donations can be made securely on the Global Women Web site or mailed to the international office. 



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