

PRAYER WEEK GUIDE 2021

**“MAKE ME A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM”
based on Exodus 25:8**

Sanctuaries, dwelling places, houses of prayer for the Lord in healthcare, from whence His love, healing, fragrance and gospel truth may flow out to a broken world. (See Ephesians 2:22).

DAY ONE: “Sanctuaries in the hearts of Healthcare workers and small groups of Frontline workers”. Introduction by PHILIPPE SEGUIN, National Coordinator HBF Israel, Member HCFI Global Prayer Network:

As we enter this new year and this 2021 Prayer Week, can we hear the heartbeat of our God? Do we realize that HCF has a special calling to: “Hear the Cry of the Father”?

At the beginning of this new year can we hear a loving desire, an earnest "Prayer" coming from the heart of our Father for this year 2021? Let us listen to this loving call of God, not only to us individually as to Moses: "Come up to Me" and "Stay there!" (Exodus 24:12) but also to us as a "People", as Jesus said over Jerusalem: "How often I wanted to gather your children together"... [Luke 13:34].

My children, hear me calling to you to "Make me a sanctuary" a HOLY PLACE [Mikdash in Hebrew=kodesh=kadosh] that "I may dwell among them" (I may settle down, I may abide = in Hebrew)

The chapter of Exodus 25 opens with a call "Speak to the children of Israel that they bring me an offering" - the offering of our lives, of our time, of our successes, "and let them make me a Sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (a Holy place where I will settle down among you. It is My passionate desire to meet with you, to abide with you).

In this New year let us envision Sanctuaries in every healthcare facility of the world! Let us pray that where two or three believers are working together they will meet regularly, even for a short time. Let us encourage the solitary ones who have not yet met other believers in their place of work, and together ask the Lord to bring across their paths believers that are still "hidden lights", or to win colleagues for Christ who will be added to "the Sanctuary". **Let us proclaim a year for the dwelling of Jesus in every institution of care around the globe!**

CALL TO PRAYER: The participation of ICMDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association) and NCFI (Nurses' Christian Fellowship International) in submitting daily prayer subjects is appreciated.

ICMDA: * Pray for the national leaders of ICMDA's member groups and for our fieldworkers across each of our 14 regions – may they be Spirit-filled men and women of God that use their skills, networks and opportunities for the glory of God. May their hearts be filled with the love of Christ and may they know his strength and courage to be gospel-centred servants in the workplace.

NCFI: * Pray for unity and mutual support among Christian health professionals of different denominations, organizational affiliations, and countries. Pray that their love and unity will be a testimony. (John 17:21-23). Pray that Christian health professional organizations will be communities where people can find support and encouragement to be faithful in all aspects of work and life.

HCFI: * Pray that the original vision given by God so many decades ago will remain the heartbeat of HCFI: ***“The Perpetuation of Christ’s compassionate care for the total person”*** ... He preached, He healed, He went about doing good in the selfless outpouring of His life and then He commissioned His disciples ... *“As My Father has sent Me, even so send I you.”* (John 20:21). In his inspiring autobiography, Francis Grim said: *“With these thoughts burning in our hearts, Carl and I began to see a great vision on the horizon ... that of leading healthcare staff to Christ, building them in their faith and teaching them how to win their peers and patients to Him.”*

*Dr. Keith Michael has caught the flaming torch and is running with it: As International Coordinator (CEO) he says “HCFI exists in response to God’s heart - a God who loves sick and dying people (Matthew 14:14); the One who sent His Son to bring physical and spiritual healing to people (Matthew 4:23,24) and a God who commissioned His disciples to teach all people what He had taught them (Matthew 28:19-20). The healthcare fields of the world create a unique environment for God to manifest His love and compassion to all people.”

*Pray for the fulfilment of three key strategies in which HCFI seeks to honour God’s plans: **Prayer** - seeking to know His heart and praying it into fulfilment. **Evangelism** - sharing the Gospel with healthcare staff and patients; **Disciple-making** - being true disciples of Jesus Christ in all spheres of life and inspiring healthcare workers to follow His example.

*We pray for renewal and revival in the health fields with the above distinctive reason inscribed on our hearts.

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY TWO: **“Sanctuaries in homes of Healthcare workers.”** Introduction by Dr. George McDonald, President Emeritus, HCFI:

“.....that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend....the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:17-19)

For homes of Christian healthcare workers to be sanctuaries, they must be homes where Christ dwells in the heart of each believer through faith. The word “dwell” has the idea of permanence, of Christ “settling down” and being at home in the heart and not just an occasional visitor. Where He thus dwells, leads to being rooted and grounded in His love. How wonderful if everyone in our homes was rooted and grounded - stable in His love, in these unstable days.

Knowing the love of Christ leads to the love of the Word of Christ, allowing it to dwell in us, leading to singing, praise and thanksgiving. (Col. 3:16,17). God inhabits, or dwells, in the praises of His people. (Ps. 22:3). The Holy Scriptures should be known from childhood (2 Tim. 3:15) and often discussed in the home, (Deut. 6:6,7) for they are a lamp, a light and a way of life for adults and for children. (Prov. 6:23). But not without a genuine faith and daily walk accompanying the talk, (2 Tim.3:16; Ps.101:2) so that it can be said, “you are an epistle of Christ ... written by the Spirit of the living God.” (2 Cor. 3:3).

As the temple in Jerusalem was to be a house of prayer for all nations, so the homes of healthcare workers should be a house, a sanctuary, where prayer is made, always - steadfastly, continuously, in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, for daily needs and for all men. I remember as a child my parents praying for daily needs on the mission station and for missionaries around the world. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. This too should be the desire of all healthcare workers in whose hearts Christ is dwelling and whose lives manifest Him in the sanctuary of the home.

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: * Pray for students having a very different experience of studying medicine than they would normally expect due to COVID. May the homes in which they live and the communities they build around themselves be Christ-centred and hope-filled. Pray for success and perseverance in all their endeavours.

NCFI: * Pray for the salvation and healing of families of Christian health care workers where there are members who oppose their Christian faith, where abuse is common, and where divisions and hurt prevail.

HCFI: * Pray that our Heavenly Father would grant all believers in the homes of healthcare workers to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man (Eph. 3:14,16). We all need God-given supernatural strength to be more than overcomers in these days of multifaceted assault on the families of healthcare workers.

*Supplicate for Executives of hospitals and healthcare facilities, asking God to create a thirst within them to spend time in His Word and in prayer and to discover the soul-satisfying benefit of being in His Presence before moving into their loaded programs. In this way they will set the tone in their spheres of influence.

*Pray that children in the home will see the genuine faith of their parents and will also become disciples of Jesus.

*Intercede for those who live alone that they will experience that they are not alone, because the Father is with them (John 16:32), Jesus is with them always. (Matt. 28:20) and the Holy Spirit abides (dwells) in them forever. (John 14:16)

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS:

God's Word is active and alive and continues to impact the lives of men and women and communities around the world. Sharing a 'Holy Moment' from one of the translation consultants: "It was truly a sacred moment as four members of the 'Y' translation and I were drafting a translation of Luke 22: 24 – 46. When we reached vs 44, we began discussing why Jesus was in such agony. I said, 'It wasn't just because He knew He was about to physically suffer on a cross, but also because He was about to bear the sin of all people.' The conversation was taken from there. They replied, 'True! He wasn't just bearing our sins, but everybody's sin .. right across the world. From Africa, America, China, Australia .. everybody, and not just from people today. He bore the sin of all people from all time! Everybody's sin!'

"For several minutes they just kept processing that, over and over again repeating, '**Everybody's sin from all time.**' And then it happened. A holy hush fell on the room. And for no less than 10 minutes the four men sat in silence ... weeping. A couple of the men pulled up their shirts to cover their faces and just wept. I sat there in total awe at their response and began weeping also. I wasn't sure how or when we were going to move on, but after what seemed a long, long time, they wiped their eyes and one of them said, 'We have grasped the meaning .. let's translate it so that other people can understand it also.'"

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY THREE: “Houses of Prayer for and in Healthcare”. Introduction by Priscilla Afeke, Member HCFI Global Prayer Network:

“Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them” (Ex 25:8)

The desire of God has always been to dwell amongst His people, just as a Father longs to be with His children. He delights in our communion with Him. “... in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28). He alone can heal, restore, and give hope. He is Jehovah Rapha: The God who heals, Exodus 15:26, Jeremiah 30:17.

In Mark 11: 15 - 17 we read of the Lord Jesus cleansing the temple and restoring it to its former purpose of being a house of prayer for all nations (Isa. 56:7). In the same way the healthcare fields of the world need cleansing from all forms of defilement and ungodly influence so that they become sanctuaries of healing of spirit, soul, and body. Hence the desperate call for houses of prayer in, and for, healthcare.

During all the uncertainties of the pandemic many hearts were torn, due either to the death of loved ones, friends and colleagues, or loss of employment and the sense of stability, sickness, and fear of contracting the virus. Frontline workers needed assurance of the love and presence of God during the turmoil, in order to be vessels of healing to patients and families. Fervent consistent prayer was essential therefore, in crying to God for the release of His sovereign power in the situation. The establishment of houses of prayer in homes, clinics, hospitals and healthcare centres proved to be an urgent necessity.

A house of prayer is a place where an altar is erected for the Lord - it is as it were, “a gateway to heaven”. In Genesis 28: 10 – 19, Jacob had an encounter with the Lord in a dream and received promises which gave him hope and confidence for the future, and in the same manner we can meet with God in a special way. It is the house of God where we seek His face through offering sacrifices of prayer, praise and worship, repentance and proclamation of the Word of God - a place where God’s presence can be manifested daily and in which He will commune with us.

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: The COVID pandemic has brought many groups together for national and regional prayer. Thank God for this new awakening to the priority and importance of prayer. Collaborations such as SEA Change and OCEAN Change (South East Asia and Oceania) are seeing healthcare workers across whole regions unite to pray for spiritual change.

NCFI: Pray for Christian health care workers to be wise in handling ethical and cultural conflicts that arise in their workplaces. Pray that they will make decisions that honour the Lord and that this will be a witness to those around them.

HCFI: Intercession for the lost and engaging in spiritual warfare on behalf of others is made in this house of prayer, supplicating for patients, families, colleagues, leaders, individuals in crisis, and nations in distress, Isaiah 49: 24, 25.

*The equipping, inspiring and support of every “Frontline Health Worker” with tools for Prayer, Evangelism and Discipleship in every area of his/her life. (NB: A Frontline Health Worker is the person who interacts with the patient, a colleague, or the patient’s relative and is therefore in a position of importance in fulfilling the Great Commission through that interaction.)

*The upholding of leaders at all levels to be supporters and friends of the Frontline workers

*Testimonies are given to the glory of God, and healing brought to the nations. Whatever is done is directed by the Holy Spirit who knows the mind of God and who can empower us to obey Him. Labourers are therefore needed who will take hold of the Lord in fervent intercession like Anna, “ ...who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” Luke 2: 37.

*As we trust God for breakthroughs, revival will come in healthcare as we devote ourselves wholly in prayer and worship. Strategies will be revealed that will bring about transformation of individuals and the healthcare

system in general. Therefore, wherever we may be serving ... in city hospitals, rural healthcare facilities or remote areas of the country, let us endeavour to build "houses of prayer" where ongoing intercession will rise as incense to His Throne.

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY FOUR: "Sanctuaries of Christ-like communities in Healthcare". Introduction by Dr. Keith Michael, Member HCFI Board; International Coordinator HCFI:

Could a health facility be considered a community? This thought has come up in some of our discussions in the Global Action Team. If so, what would a Christ-like community in such a facility look like and how would it function?

Paul's reference to the anatomical structure of our physical bodies in 1 Corinthians 12 may provide some insights. Paul makes it very clear that God's pattern is not to bestow all the gifts of the Holy Spirit on one person but that these gifts are distributed to different people who work together in harmony under the same 'Conductor' who is the Holy Spirit.

Imagine a hospital complex where the admission clerk is a believer, the cleaner in the ward is a believer, the physiotherapist is a believer and the nurse is a believer! As the patient's varying needs are being attended to by people with different skills, the 'Conductor' is reflecting the same image of the Great Physician of body, soul and spirit to the patient through all of these people! The colleagues of these workers also see that the hearts of these workers are inspired not only by their training but by a unique type of Love which radiates through their words, actions and attitudes!

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: As many national events that would normally take place in person have moved online, pray that the fellowship, support and counselling that attendees receive would still be beneficial and that over-worked, fatigued and struggling medics would find refreshment and nourishment within their local CMF community.

NCFI: Pray for Christian healthcare workers who feel as if they are the only Christians in their workplace. Pray that they will find co-workers with whom they can pray together and support one another; Pray for leaders in the next generation of healthcare workers and good handovers in leadership.

HCFI: Pray for Health facilities in every nation where believers will connect and work together for God's Kingdom to come and be manifested in their facility

Supplicate for 'Pioneers' (Labourers) who will seek out 'Men of Peace' in health facilities around the world and inspire and equip them to become small communities of faith in their facilities

Ask God for National Fellowships which will have God-given plans to reach their health facilities with the 'tools' the Lord has given us for Kingdom building in their health facilities

Pray that Healthcare facilities will be transformed by the working of the Heavenly 'Conductor' through clean vessels fit for the Master's use

Trust God for Communities transformed through believing home-based carers working as extension of local churches into the homes of the community

*Pray for the restoration of compassionate care in the health fields of the world. Considered to be the noblest of professions and the epitome of concern, compassion and selfless service appears to be weakening at an alarming rate around the globe. The enthusiasm for the provision of the best care for the least of the people has been replaced to a large extent by practices and protocols that leave the poor more impoverished, and hospitals devoid of compassionate caring. With technology, the professional-patient interface has diminished. Palpation and touch, once part of care, have been replaced by a probe or a device. Fatigue, overwork, and a failure to see the patient as a suffering fellow-human are all contributing factors.

*Restoring compassionate care begins with the health team, where each one feels valued and their work appreciated, while fostering an environment of mutual respect and genuine love. It involves the provision of hope and support to every patient as well as nurturing faith and encouraging healing.

We draw near to God who hears the cry of the distressed and pray that as Christian healthcare professionals His love will be demonstrated through us to all people. We pray that we will consistently be reminded of the poignant question "What would Jesus do? How would He treat this person?" Keep us from compassion fatigue and grant us a fresh infilling of Your love each day!

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY FIVE: "Sanctuaries of Christian Healthcare institutions, clinics and community health projects". Introduction by Dr. Arul Anketell, Member International Board; Member HCFI Global Prayer Network; Regional Promoter for South Asia

"And the LORD spoke to Moses " ... And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell (settle down, live among them) Exodus ch. 25 v 8. This is our theme and as we come to the fifth day we focus on Christian healthcare institutions, (Family Practice GP clinics and Allied Healthcare centres) and projects out in the community. The original tabernacle, the sacred sanctuary, had a number of Divine purposes. May each Christian healthcare centre follow these principles:

A place where God could live with His people. (ch. 25 v 8, ch. 29 v 45 and 46); a place of revelation where God would speak to His covenant people; a place of atonement as this was necessary for a Holy God to live among them. The mercy seat, the cross; a place of worship and intercession . (The golden altar of incense).

A place where His glory was manifest; (The glory cloud of His presence. Exodus 40 v 34 to 38); a place that would draw people from all nations to the LORD. Isaiah 2 verse 1 to 3. (The glory of humility and self-giving love manifested to patients); a missionary base for sending forth the glorious gospel (John 20 v 19 to 23). As the Father sent Me, so send I you".

In the Book of Revelation we read the ultimate consummation of this plan as the dwelling of God with man and a river of healing: Love and Life flowing from the Holy City to the gathered nations. (Rev. 22 verses 1 to 5). May Christian healthcare institutions have all these purposes fulfilled through them. These are wonderful scriptures to use in praying for Christian healthcare ministries. Please do meditate on these scriptures. The picture of a river of life clear as crystal flowing from the throne and of the tree of life with life giving fruit and its leaves for the healing of the nations, is a beautiful picture for us to pray for Christian healthcare.

We suggest the following scripture portions for study and for praying that these will be models replicated all over the world in healthcare.

Colossians ch. 3 verses 12 to 17: Christ-like , compassionate , love filled communities of Christ giving excellent, skilful healthcare to the sick, their families and communities.

Philippians ch. 1 verses 27 to 30 and ch. 2 verses 12 to 18: Christ-like communities standing firm in unity and holding out the Word of Life.

Luke ch. 7 verses 11 to 17: the procession of death met by the procession of Life headed by Jesus. "Lord do this over and over again especially in giving spiritual life to thousands of patients through these institutions".

Luke ch. 9 verses 37 to 45: The cruciform community of Christ coming down the mountain and restoring a desperate situation. The boy and his father are a true representation of people today. Broken and helpless and no one able to meet the deepest need. How wonderful that the Only Begotten Son of the Father, said, "Bring him to me" and then returned the only son of this distraught father back to him. So may Christian hospitals be havens of refuge and hope to the hopeless and hurting! May these scenes be repeated all over the world!

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: Praise God for the inspiring stories coming out of India of mission hospitals serving their communities with faith, grace and perseverance. As many clinics face a lack of resources and overwhelming need, Christian leaders are modelling Christ-centred service, innovation and compassion.

NCFI: Pray for opportunities and protection for Christian healthcare workers to meet and pray with co-workers - especially in workplaces where Christians are not allowed to openly meet together.

HCFI: * Rejoice with thanksgiving for the history of medical missions and lives of godly men and women who gave their lives for Christ and others. * Revival of Christian healthcare institutions; * Revelation of Biblical healthcare principles and practice; * Release of new models of healthcare;

* Restoration of vision and passion and the Lordship of Christ in Healthcare; * Removal of Idols and idolatry and the recovery of true worship in healthcare; * Relevant research done in these places; * Raising of Nazarites and prophets - a young holy generation in healthcare; * Refuge for the poor, marginalized, and addicts; * Reconciliation centres in healthcare; * Raising the banner of Christ Crucified in the health fields.

*For the Kingdom of God to come in the health field. * Healthcare leaders who will welcome the King of Glory into their hearts and institutions/organizations. * Biblical policies for healthcare to be implemented with integrity. * Equitable salaries for healthcare workers instead of exploitation - especially for nurses and paramedical staff.

*Restoring the link between healthcare and the Body of Christ. * Churches adopting (mission) hospitals as one of their priority ministry areas. * Christian/Mission hospitals returning to their original Biblical Evangelical roots. * Churches becoming actively involved in comprehensive community health ministries in both rural and urban settings.

*Inside-out transformation of the people serving in the health field. * Intentional multiplication of maturing disciple makers in all areas of healthcare in all countries worldwide. * Repentance of backsliders and first-love renewal of believers in healthcare globally. * Rivers of grace to flow in and through transformed hearts and lives in all four of our social circles: family, church, work and community.

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY SIX: “Sanctuaries in Church Fellowships engaged for healthcare and in healthcare”.

Introduction by Erica Grunewald, National Coordinator HCF South Africa

Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Peter 2:5.

Since we are part of the body of believers and belong to different churches where members of the same Body of Christ congregate, it is vitally important for us to motivate them to join in prayer and outreach to healthcare workers. How do we do this? Allow me to share a testimony of how a church can be involved:

Some years ago I was seated in a clinic in one of our major hospitals, waiting for my colleague who was in consultation with a doctor. At this time people of ‘another faith’ were handing out refreshments to the patients who were still waiting for their turn to be called. Then suddenly like a bolt from the blue, the thought came to me: “This is something HCF could do!” With this in mind, I visited a local clinic and asked the Nurse in charge how she thought HCF could serve the staff in a practical way. Her spontaneous response was that we run a soup kitchen. Excellent proposal, but this would need careful planning and a good deal of practical preparation!

To set the ball rolling, I approached the pastor of the church of which I am a member, and he agreed with my suggestion that members of the congregation be involved in this new initiative. The church considers HCF to be one of their partners and for some years we have worked together in harmony as we reach out to this clinic on a monthly basis. Not only are refreshments provided, but literature is also distributed in the different languages of our country.

Recently the church offered to prepare a gift bag for each staff member of the clinic. Our assistant pastor accompanied the HCF team as we handed out the gift bags and expressed our gratitude to the staff for being willing to serve the community on the front line during the pandemic. Following this, the pastor was invited to bring a short Gospel message after which the Nurse in charge gave a vote of thanks. In her closing address she expressed the hope that the staff would meet together in the same way for prayer once or twice a month.

A final proposal is that we involve our churches in different HCF projects such as: * Adopting a hospital or clinic for specific prayer; * Concentrating on the “4/14 window” (involving young children to pray for hospitals and their staff) and * Silver Line (motivating the elderly and retired to intercede for health centres and their staff).

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: Pray for ICMDA’s national fellowships as they seek to cross the bridge from clinical settings to church communities. Pray for greater awareness in the church of the needs of healthcare professionals and for Christian doctors and dentists to bring their insight, leadership and service to the whole body of Christ.

NCFI: Pray for ministry among students who are studying to become healthcare workers. Pray that many will come to faith during their student years and that solid foundations of faith will be laid during this time. Pray for those who minister to students.

HCFI: * Restoring the link between healthcare and the Church: Down through the annals of history, healing has been an integral part of the propagation of the Gospel. The mission and ministry of the 1st century Church resonated with Jesus’ ministry of healing, and following this came concern for the physical wellbeing and spiritual transformation of people irrespective of their status or faith. Healing then was considered central to both the mission and engagement of the Church which felt called to respond to health needs, especially of the poor and the marginalized. Today the Church has largely consigned health and healing to science and medicine or to mission hospitals. In a time such as this let us, on behalf of the Church universal, reaffirm health, healing and healthcare as one of its key mandates.

*Specific prayer is made for a closer collaboration between the Church and HCF - that in ever increasing measure the input of both in the lives of health workers will result in hospitals and health centres becoming halls of healing, both physically and spiritually.

*Inside-out transformation of the people serving in the health field. * Intentional multiplication of maturing disciple makers in all areas of healthcare in all countries worldwide. * Repentance of backsliders and first-love renewal of believers in healthcare globally. * Rivers of grace to flow in and through transformed hearts and lives in all four our social circles: family, church, work and community.

Dr. Alex Bolek, indefatigable prayer warrior in South Sudan, reminds intercessors of Exodus chapter 17 where Joshua defeated the Amalekites through the joint prayer support of Moses, Aaron and Hur. He says: "Corona Virus, the Amalekite of our time with the long list of threats and fears it brings with it, will be defeated through the joint intercessory prayer of the saints across the world." Together we unite in prayer according to Job 38:11: *"This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!"* (New King James version). Irreversible damage has already been done to world economies and hundreds of thousands added to the death toll as Covid 19 sped across the globe at an incredible speed, leaving nations and societies reeling in shock. Nations and societies have been affected in the devastating deluge of its massive impact and the heart-rending cry of millions continues unabated: *"How long, O Lord, how long ...?"*

Local Prayer Points may be added here:

DAY SEVEN: The grand finale: **"The ultimate dwelling place ... Behold the Tabernacle of God is with men ... Looking to the final home and living for that day"**. Introduction by Dr. Chris Steyn, President HCFI

Scripture for day seven: *Revelation 21:1-6 (CJB) "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, 'See! God's Sh'khinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away.' Then the One sitting on the throne said, 'Look! I am making everything new!' Also he said, 'Write, 'These words are true and trustworthy!' 'And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' the Beginning and the End. To anyone who is thirsty I myself will give water free of charge from the Fountain of Life.'"*

When I had to face my possible death due to cancer some years ago, the Lord took me through a very intensive process of cleansing and a humbling review of my life. It was not too long before an intense desire to look into my Saviour's eyes took hold of me, completely suppressing all other considerations. The ultimate dwelling place that He went to prepare for His own had an almost irresistible magnetic pull. Although I did not die at the time, that deep longing to at last enter the new heaven and the new earth to be with Him has never left me.

May I ask you how ready you are to meet the Lord? What about your loved ones? Your colleagues? The people in your neighbourhood? Shall we pray for them today, asking for the Kingdom of God to come in our families, our workplaces, and our neighbourhoods? Anybody the Lord puts specially on your heart?

CALL TO PRAYER:

ICMDA: Pray for medical students and junior doctors to seek first the kingdom of God. ICMDA runs training events to equip and inspire the next generation to see their vocation not just as a career or a means to prosperity but as a calling from God to walk in the footsteps of the Great Physician, the Lord Jesus Christ, who sent his disciples to preach the gospel and heal the sick.

NCFI: Thank God for the different Christian healthcare organizations and the vision and opportunities they have been given for building God's Kingdom (HCFI, ICMDA, NCFI and other regional or country-specific ministries). Pray for ongoing mutual respect and good relationships. (John 17:21-23)

HCFI: *Supplication is made for fundamental changes in the area of patient care, staff relationships and the effective use of resources. Pray that the healthcare team will take spiritual responsibility for their work places, since a vast mission field is open to Christians and prayer should remain the dynamo at the heart of their activities.

*We pray for Ministers of Health and the entire healthcare system; that compassion will once again become the hallmark of efficient health services; that medical care will be all that God intended

*As Christian health workers, it is incumbent upon us to exhibit an exceptional Kingdom lifestyle before those who pass through our hands on a daily basis. Patients who come into contact with believers serving in the field of health care will sense a difference in their manner of speech, demeanour and actions. By the grace of God they will consistently strive to be "letters of Christ, known and read of all men." (2 Corinthians 3:2).

*We pray for renewal and revival in the health fields with the above distinctive reason inscribed on our hearts

*Supplicate for the transformation of Healthcare Systems across the world into places where the Kingdom of God is manifested and experienced in its fullness

*Ask God for the Gospel to penetrate all unreached areas, particularly in restricted countries, with a large end-time harvest to follow

*We pray also today for Healthcare staff and their patients in all the restricted countries of the world; for protection and encouragement for secret believers; for emotional and physical healing for those bereaved, abused or traumatized by persecution.

*We intercede for believers converted from other "isms" and now imprisoned for their faith in Christ that they will remain strong despite harsh conditions and pressure to recant; for their family members and especially their children who suffer intensely as a result.

Brother Andrew, Founder of Open Doors International, has inscribed these indelible words on the hearts of many thousands: *"Our prayers can go where we cannot. There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray."* We unite in prayer for the Suffering Church worldwide.

Philippe Seguin, Member of HCFI Global Prayer Network, has been singularly used of God in the launching of an international platform of prayer on ZOOM, the first Tuesday of each month. As the National Coordinator of Health Believers Fellowship in Israel, Philippe wrote recently: "We have begun to get out of our second wave of total confinement. Many healthcare workers are injured in their souls because of working in COVID Units where people died on every shift. Some nurses reported suffering symptoms of post-trauma, unable to sleep because of seeing their dying patients when they closed their eyes." Then he added these poignant lines, so indicative of a solicitous shepherd of the flock: "If you are one of those, contact our office. We are praying for you, and this mail is going out to people that are praying for all of us with love and compassion. Don't suffer alone; we can walk together to the Father to cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). We are here to pray for you, encourage you, and help you to stand strong in the Lord at this critical time."

Rev. 7:9,10: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the Throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying: 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"