

# OSJ PRAYERS

**Friday, December 9, 2011**

## **COP-17 in Durban, South Africa**

As COP-17 nears a close, disappointment is mounting over the lack of leadership shown by the U.S., Canada and China in reaching a new agreement to address climate change. United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, implored developed countries to contribute to the Green Climate Fund and fulfill their obligations to the developing world. Countries agreed to set up the fund last year, but western leaders are balking at supporting it and agreeing to an extension of the Kyoto Protocol. Please pray for our world leaders. Pray that they will take the concerns of the poor developing countries seriously. Pray for the poorest of the poor, who are affected the most by climate change. Pray that the church will lead the way in assisting them in dealing with the challenges of climate change.

## **Child brides in Turkey**

A women's rights group in Turkey is releasing a documentary, entitled "Child Brides," to draw attention to the issue of young girls being married off at an early age. About 28 percent of Turkish women are married before age 18. To further highlight the issue, Turkish television is airing "Life Goes On," directed by famous Turkish singer and screenwriter Mahsun Kirmizigul. Please pray for the young women in Turkey. Pray that they will be able to speak out against the trend of child brides. Pray that the Turkish population will be sensitive to the message of this documentary and television show, and that they will respond with lasting change in protection for young women. May witness be given to the power of God in transforming the lives of young women in Turkey.

## **Conflict diamonds**

Global Witness, an international advocacy organization that helped establish an international diamond review process, withdrew from the Kimberly Process coalition this week citing concerns over a recent decision to allow diamond exports from Zimbabwean military controlled mines. Concerns with the process have been growing for some time, with complaints that member countries lack the political will to prevent one another from breaking the rules, and that the diamond industry was using the process as an excuse for turning a blind eye. Please pray for those involved in the Kimberly Process, that it may be strengthened to ensure protection of those working in diamond mines. Uplift those who have been trafficked and abused in the diamond industry; pray for their healing and that justice will be restored. Pray that consumers will speak out against these injustices.

## **Women's rights in Afghanistan**

Women in Afghanistan continue to face hurdles in establishing their rights. Gulnaz, 19, was jailed for 12 years for committing adultery after being raped and impregnated. She may be freed after only one and a half years because she has agreed to marry the rapist - a condition offered by the judge for an early release. Similar cases have been reported around the country. Please pray for Gulnaz and women in Afghanistan. Pray for reform to the court system in Afghanistan, that women will be treated fairly. Uplift the many other women around the world who suffer from injustice; ask that their rights will be defended. Pray that God's love will be the guiding light in the pursuit of justice and peace.

## **U.S. to review deportation cases**

The Department of Homeland Security has begun a review of all deportation cases before the immigration courts and started a nationwide training program for enforcement agents and prosecuting lawyers, with the goal of speeding deportations of convicted criminals and halting those of many undocumented immigrants with no criminal record. The news is welcome to many immigrants struggling with fear of being separated from their family. Praise God for positive steps towards addressing issues of our broken immigration system. Pray that progress will continue towards comprehensive immigration reform that welcomes our immigrant neighbors. Pray for churches around the country as they reach out to those in their communities. Ask that immigrants will sense God's peace through the love of their neighbors.

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