

# OSJ PRAYERS

Friday, February 10, 2012

### **Fair trade chocolate and MDGs**

Fair trade efforts received a boost as Hershey's announced that its Bliss brand will be 100% made from Rain Forest Alliance-certified farms. Hershey's has also pledged \$10 million to educate West African cocoa farmers on improving their trade and combating child labor. Praise God for these steps towards protecting vulnerable children and promoting fair trade practices for cocoa farmers in Africa. Pray that consumers will continue to actively advocate for fair trade and protection against child labor. Ask that farmers in West Africa will be trained effectively to combat child labor and trafficking through Hershey's initiative.

### **U.S. banks settle with homeowners**

Five of the biggest US banks have agreed to provide \$25 billion to homeowners to settle claims over improper foreclosure practices. The deal is a victory for justice for homeowners who suffer under unmanageable mortgage debt or have lost their homes to foreclosure. President Obama voiced his support for the settlement saying that the deal will "speed relief to the hardest hit homeowners in some of the most abusive practices of the mortgage industry." Praise God for renewed justice, and for our country leaders pursuing justice! Continue to pray for those who have lost their homes, that they will find ways to establish a new one. Ask that they will find peace and restoration.

### **Disruption of peace talks in Sudan**

More than ten people were killed when clashes broke out at a peace meeting in South Sudan last Friday. The local authorities called a meeting in Unity State on Wednesday in response to escalating violence between ethnic militias that had killed hundreds of people in the past few months. Pray for South Sudan. Uplift the many families who have lost loved ones in the violence. Pray that warring groups will end their violence; ask that their hearts will be filled with peace. Pray for leaders in South Sudan and around the world, that they will be able to lead the way towards a lasting peace.

### **Libya includes women in drafting new constitution**

Libya's National Transitional council adopted a law to guarantee representation of women on the 200-member Constituent Assembly. This Assembly will draft the country's new constitution and under the new law 40 seats will be given to women. The victory for women's rights comes after a month-long campaign among civil society groups to ensure the women's representation. Praise God for the just treatment of women in Libya and for strong efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of gender equality and women empowerment! Pray that women's voices will continue to be heard under the new constitution and government. Ask that leaders around the world be inspired by Libya's actions and follow suit.

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