

OSJ PRAYERS

Friday, November 18, 2011

COP-17 in Durban, South Africa

In ten days, world leaders will converge on Durban, South Africa, for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With 194 country representatives, the Convention has almost universal membership committed to addressing climate change issues around the world. The objective of the Convention is "to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system." Please pray for world leaders at the Convention, that they will be blessed with wisdom and insight into addressing climate change issues. Pray for the many participants, that all voices may be heard and respected. And pray that all people may come to a deeper understanding that our world belongs to God.

We Have Faith Caravan

Leading up to the COP-17 Conference, a Pan African youth movement is making its way to Durban. Started in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 2, the caravan has made its way through Tanzania, Malawi, and is currently in Zambia before traveling on to Botswana, and finally Durban, South Africa. The caravan has been hosting concerts and gatherings to bring attention to the issue of climate change and meeting with locals to discuss how it has impacted their daily lives. The Office of Social Justice and CRWRC have sponsored three participants, one from the US and two from Canada. Pray for the safety and health of those traveling; it is a long and arduous trip. Uplift the thousands of people they come in contact with, that the participants may witness to God's love for creation. And pray that this caravan will bring much needed attention to the issue of climate change in Africa and around the world.

Keystone XL oil pipeline delayed

Last week, the Obama administration announced its review of the Canadian proposal for the Keystone XL oil pipeline, effectively delaying its construction. The announcement touched off celebration by creation care advocacy groups around the world. At the same time, many are disappointed with the potential loss of economic benefits of the project, both in Canada and the US, highlighting the complexity of the issue. Please pray for our country leaders, that they will have wisdom in addressing our unsustainable dependency on natural resources. Uplift the many people who stand to benefit from jobs and economic growth; pray that their financial needs may be met in other ways. Pray for our world, that the whole earth may continue to flourish. May the Church be a sound voice of leadership in caring for this gift of creation.

Brazil-Bolivia rainforest conflict

Tension continues to grow between indigenous groups in Bolivia and Brazil's national development bank over plans to build a road through remote indigenous territory. Protesters object to the deforestation that would result from the project. Please pray for this project. Pray for the governments of Bolivia and Brazil, that they will be sensitive to the voices of the indigenous people. Pray that the process results in glorifying Him through care for His creation.

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