



PRAYSERV

INSERV'S PRAYER LETTER - NOVEMBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

Inserv, PO Box 8416, Pretoria, 0001
 TEL: (012) 323 0915 FAX: (012) 328 4596
 Email: inserv@inserv.org.za
 Web: www.inserv.org.za
 (Reg No: 032-373 NPO)

Dear Friends

As we come to the end of another busy year at Inserv (and in our other ministry involvements in our local congregations) we are sure that many of you have also had a busy year. It is our prayer that as you enter the holiday season you will have a blessed and relaxing time of rest, but also that you will not forget the reason for the season as you celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ becoming a man so that he could be our Saviour. We pray that you will be refreshed over this period and ready for what the Lord has for you to do in the New Year. Thank you for your prayers for us. Please do continue to pray for us at Inserv as we enter a very busy 2010 in service of the Lord.

Christ became Poor that we might become Rich.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” – 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

Jesus as God was indeed rich beyond our comprehension. He is the creator of all things (John 1:3) and everything belongs to him (Psalm 24:1–2). Jesus Christ is the sovereign Lord of all with a name that is higher than any name (Philippians 2:9–11). Yet he was willing to become poor, taking on human flesh and live a life of poverty not even having a home of his own (Matthew 8:20). Even more than this, he was willing to suffer and die at the hands of those whom he had created. It was not just any death, but the most humiliating death of a criminal on a cross. Not only was crucifixion a cruel death it was also reserved for the worst of criminal, yet Jesus was innocent. Why was Jesus willing to become poor like this? It was so that we could become rich. Not physically rich. Many Christians are materially poor but spiritually rich. We are undeserving sinner who have rebelled against God and deserve nothing but his wrath and judgment, but if we belong to Christ then through his perfect life, death and resurrection we have become rich beyond our imaging, not because of anything good in us, but because of his love for us (Ephesians 1:3–14).

This verse is written in the context of giving. Paul is encouraging the Corinthian Christians to be generous in giving. He gives them the example of how much Christ has given that they may become rich as a motive to be generous in giving. How are we to give as Christians? We must give our lives in service to God. We must give ourselves in order that other may hear the Gospel and be saved. We must also be generous in financial giving. We must be cheerful and willing givers (2 Corinthians 9:7). The attitude of the heart is far more important than the actual amount given. We are not commanded to give away all we have but we are instructed to be generous in giving. First we should support the work of the local church where we are members but then we should consider supporting others in need and Christian missions so that the Glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ can be taken to the ends of the earth. Is this not the least we can do when we consider all that Christ has done for us? At this time of Christmas, which is a time of giving, let us consider what the Lord Jesus has given to us and let this spur us on to be generous in giving. Pierre Wedepohl.

VISION STATEMENT

“Serving the church through mission research”
 “Om die kerk met sendingnavorsing te ondersteun”

A. INSERV**E - mail: inserv@inserv.org.za**

As we are approaching the end of 2009 we are also preparing for many major activities happening in 2010. Apart for the FIFA World Cup that will take place in South Africa, the 10 year celebration of the Global Day of Prayer is taking place in May and in October the 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization is scheduled to take place in Cape Town. Apart from these programmes we are working hard to gather information for Southern Africa and prepare maps that will communicate critical information to the church.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our last meeting was a great time of fellowship over breakfast. This year we want to do the same but sharing with you on the topics of *Mission Mobilization in Africa* and *A Picture of the church in South Africa*. Please join us for fellowship and breakfast.

WHEN: 6 February 2010**WHERE: Chatterly's in Valhalla (When you confirm your attendance we will send you a map)****TIME: 08:00****Please let us know by 29 January 2010 if you plan to attend for catering purposes.**

We had the privilege of having Ansie Swanepoel working in the office from 1 to 11 December. Ansie is on her way to complete the DTS (Discipleship Training School) with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) in India for the first 6 months of 2010. She is considering joining Inserv after DTS and with what she has experienced during her time here she will be praying to see how God wants to use her further. She has helped us tremendously in the short time she spent with us. Our prayer is that she will have a great time with God as she spends time in the Word and sits at God's feet.

From the side of the staff we would appreciate prayers for the Vumisa family. The health of Peter's mother deteriorated in the past months and they are very concerned. Together with them we thank the Lord for financial provision that enables them to travel to Zambia as a family and visit their family and attend to his mother's situation. We also thank the Lord for a successful shoulder operation of Retha's mother and pray with her for a quick and complete recovery process.

The development of the EIS database is in a critical stage to get it finished. The full success of the Country Assessment Process (CAP) in the Continent is very dependent on the ability of the database to be used. Jacques is under much pressure on a number of levels and we will appreciate prayer for him in completing important aspects of the database. Also pray for Barbara for insight and wisdom, as she is the link between Jacques and the users, to know what is needed and how it needs to work. For the CAP project also pray for the preparation of the meeting planned at the end of January and also for the team members to be able to attend.

Here is a summary of some dates and the program we will be involved with during January and February 2010:

4 Jan 2010	Office opens	
27-29 Jan	CRAF (MANI) consultation Cameroon	Willie
30 Jan – 1 Feb	MANI leadership meeting (Cameroon)	Willie
1 to 3 Feb	DATA (Database Assessment team meeting (Cameroon)	Willie
6 Feb	Inserv AGM	

"Go in that direction" does not mean that you go. To go means, "let's go together!"
(Sena proverb from Mozambique).

B. RESEARCH TRAINING

E- mail: manager@inserv.org.za

The first Research workshop was presented in June 1996 at a LSA (Love Southern Africa) conference. That was the beginning of the development and presentation of Inserv's research training course in South Africa and after that in about 7 different countries on the continent. People trained by Inserv represent about 22 countries.

We are aware that to merely do research ourselves will have little effect in reducing the amount of work in reaching the un-reached. We want to share the knowledge we gained with others, to assist them to do their own research and become more effective in their own outreach efforts and ministry. We see this research as a combination of three important elements working in close relationship with one another:

1. SPIRITUAL (Praying and discerning),
2. DATA (Searching and sorting) and
3. STRATEGY (evaluating and strategizing).

Within these aspects there is a close spiritual process applied by God Himself to prepare us better for the ministry we are planning and the process is very often more important than the information itself. We believe one learns to do research by doing research. Therefore we present the materials in such a way that participants learn the principles by applying them to the area or target group that they want to reach. We try to tailor our course presentation to match as closely as possible the needs of those attending. Subjects include for example:

- Biblical perspective on research,
- Research process,
- Sources of information
- Goal setting,
- Interviews,
- Documentation,
- Interpretation,
- Participant observation,
- Culture,
- Planning a strategy,
- Writing a research project proposal etc.

The course is ideally done over a period of 5 days where theory is done in the morning and practical exercises in the afternoon. For settings in congregations, we also present it from a Friday evening, Saturday and finish on the Sunday. The aim is in the end to tailor the training in such a way that the learners, organization or church will get the best results in their specific setting. Often the feedback we receive after a training session state that the person's understanding regarding the use and application of research and information in the context of mission, the church, and ministry has completely changed and that they realise the importance of research in any ministry context.

THANK THE LORD FOR:

- Opportunities to share with more people what we have learned over many years.
- Material that we have available to use in teaching people.
- Translations already done into French.
- Developing partnerships with different organisations and especially the current partnership developing in West Africa.

PRAY FOR:

- A person to take full responsibility for the management of the training department.
- The ability to serve the church in the Continent as we are assisting with training regarding the CAP (Country Assessment Process).
- The identification and training of Trainers to assist in training others in research.
- Development of well based partnerships with organisations and groups to be more effective in the training of workers.

VISION STATEMENT

"Serving the church through mission research"
"Om die kerk met sendingnavorsing te ondersteun"

C. PIERRE WEDEPOHL (Mapping Director)**mapping@inserv.org.za**

Pierre with Siegfried Ngubane (guest preacher) at BramFischerville

Most of you know that I am the mapping director at Inserv. However, many of you do not know more about me than that. So I will share with you some more personal information as well as some of my ministry involvements outside of Inserv. I hope that this will enable you to pray more meaningfully for me. Thank you for all your prayers.

I have a Masters Degree in Geography and Environmental Management. I have long had a desire to serve the Lord and I believe he opened the doors for me to work with Inserv. I am now able to use my training in Geography and

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to serve the Lord. As well as being responsible for the mapping ministry at Inserv, I am also a researcher helping with the research projects Inserv is involved with.

I am single but I do desire to get married and I am trusting the Lord in this matter. I live in Johannesburg. The Inserv offices are in Pretoria. I travel to the Inserv offices 2 or 3 days a week. Since the majority of my work is computer based I am able to do some of my work from home. Not having to travel to Pretoria every day does save some money on petrol expenses. I have often before asked that you pray for my financial needs. The situation has become more urgent and I would ask you to please continue to pray that I can find the additional financial support I need whether through personal support from churches or individuals, support for the ministry I am involved with at Inserv or other means. If you wish to partner with me in my ministry in this way let me know.

Apart from my ministry at Inserv I am also actively involved in church ministry both at the local church level and the denominational level. The local church where I am a member is Christ Church Horison, in Roodepoort. Christ Church Horison is a congregation of the Church of England in South Africa (CESA). I am a member and secretary of the Church Council. I am also responsible for the production of our weekly Sunday bulletin. Our congregation is involved in an outreach ministry at BramFischerville, which is a low cost housing development on the outskirts of SOWETO. Our desire is to plant a faithful Bible believing Church there. For many years I have been involved in this ministry. This year I have been less involved but still visit the Sunday services there from time to time and keep an eye on what is going on there. Pray for our congregation's outreach into our community which is changing from being a predominately white Afrikaans community to being a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-lingual community. Also pray that God will help us to plant a strong faithful church in BramFischerville. On a denominational level I regularly attend the CESA Annual National Synod meetings and CESA Gauteng Area Council meetings as a delegate from our local congregation. I have recently been appointed as the secretary for the CESA Gauteng Area Council. Pray that CESA as a denomination will remain faithful to the Bible and will be active in evangelism and missions, reaching the lost with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Also pray for the CESA Synod to be held in Durban in September 2010. Frank Retief, the Presiding Bishop of CESA, will be retiring in 2010. Synod needs to elect a new Presiding Bishop in 2010. Pray that the right man may be elected who will have the Biblical qualities required of church leaders mentioned in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5.

Yours in Christ's Service

The Staff and Trustees of Inserv

"Go in that direction" does not mean that you go. To go means, "let's go together!"
(Sena proverb from Mozambique).