

Occasional Update #29

March 2025

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE
HE SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE US HIS SON
WHO YIELDED HIS LIFE AN ATONEMENT FOR SIN
AND OPENED THE LIFE-GATE THAT ALL MAY GO IN.

The years fly by and much gets done (and perhaps quite a bit that should be done, didn't!) Anyway, it is about time people know how ***Pray for the Nation*** came about and what has been done over the past years.

Pray for the Nation started in January 1972, with 80 people, who received our Prayer Letters. We had hoped for at least 200, but 80 is a "good start"!

The printed and posted Prayer Letters consisted of 8 pages; the first 4 pages usually discussed some of the situations that really needed prayer, together with some prayer suggestions. The other 4 pages were a Bible study on topics related to prayer, the nation, etc. Over time, these Bible studies were collected together under their particular themes and were published as books. There are about 20 books, all of which are on our website

<https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/> (click the 'Bible Study books' tab on the left).

About 20 books have been printed and/or translated into other languages, and 14 (or more) have been translated into Urdu (a Pakistani language) and put on the internet.

Over time the number of people on our mailing list increased. For some years we printed and posted about 10,000 to 11,000 Prayer Letters each month (these were also posted overseas to people who requested them). In the early '70's there was a 'Jesus Movement', involving thousands of Christians and new Christians. One month we printed 15,000 Prayer Letters!

This was a time when young people especially were witnessing, including "Jesus Marches" in different places, and many people came to the Lord. The tracts "What Next?" and "Ever Been Cheated?" were distributed. A total of 70,000 were printed and distributed, including those which were translated into Korean. (These are also on the Bible Studies page mentioned above). "What Next?" is primarily designed to share the Gospel with 'not-yet' Christians. "Ever Been Cheated?" is primarily for new Christians.

Then the book, "Now I'm a Christian – What Next?" was printed, especially for new Christians and people who want to know what Christianity is all about. (25,000 were printed; in 5 languages). All the above were given out free. In fact, since *Pray for the Nation* started 53 years ago there have only been about four times that we have mentioned our current finances were low. Except for the purchase of printed books, everything else was free.

Many thousands of dollars were given over the years; we were never in debt, praise God. Printing and posting (including overseas) cost about \$2500 each month (\$30,000 per year). This all came from donations.

International groups of intercessors started to arise in 45 countries, and biennial prayer conferences were held in different countries from 1978 – 2000. The groups were each called "Intercessors for ... [country]" *Pray for the Nation* also took on the name *Intercessors for New Zealand*.

1972 – 2022 “Prayer Letters” were printed and sent out monthly for over 50 years: 3.5 million Letters in total. About 550 copies were also sent overseas each month.

2000 – 2022 Over 1000 weekly “Prayer Updates” were emailed to people during these years, about 600,000 emails in all.

2000 – present.

Websites: <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org> and www.lifetrainingsschool.org

Over the years, the Pray-for-the-nation website above has had tens of thousands of ‘Visitors’ and many more ‘pages read’. The Life Training School website is primarily an introduction to the Christian faith, what it teaches, and how we as Christians should live.

2022 – present. “Occasional Updates” (thoughts on a variety of topics) have been emailed to people, at roughly monthly intervals. These are also on the website, under the “Occasional Update” tab.

Books: 20 titles – these have been compiled from the monthly Prayer Letters. Total books printed: 140,000 All the books are online and can be copied and printed.

20 countries have books which have been translated into other languages, and/or printed in English. **14** books have been translated into Urdu and have been online.

Other events over the past years have included:

Prayer Weeks, Prayer Weekends, conferences. Prayer walks. A “Top of the country to the bottom” prayer journey by bus. Numerous prayer groups throughout the country.

All the above is not written to boast about what has happened, but to encourage all those people who have prayed for our nation and/or other nations, given their time or monetary gifts to keep the organisation going, etc., and bringing blessing to our people and nation. There have been many people who have passed on Prayer Letters, Prayer Updates, or used them in prayer groups, etc. This has involved a huge number of people over the past 50 years. To each and everyone who has prayed and helped in any way, **THANK YOU!**

**And to God be all the glory
for people who have come to salvation, been encouraged, and blessed.**

HOW HAS ALL THIS BEEN POSSIBLE?

By the grace of God, working in and through His people

Volunteers:

- Number unknown, but praise the Lord for each and every one of them!
- Thousands of people have received and shared materials, books, tracts, etc. and have come to Christ.
- Through prayer (at one stage we had over 100 prayer group contacts).
- All those people willing to address envelopes, fold Letters, and put them in envelopes (10,000 a month is a lot of work!)
- People’s generous giving of their time, money, support, prayer, etc.

Pray for the Nation

<https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/>

ifnz@xtra.co.nz