



## Cities of South Africa

### Gospel in the city

**THE CITY IS** where ideas immerge and identities are discovered. The city is a place bustling with life yet with the smell of death as thousands upon thousands long for hope and peace. The people cry out for a God who truly sees their need and wonder if their prayers will be carried along through the spirit world.

Nearly 70 percent of South Africa now lives in urban areas, and almost 70 percent of South Africa's urban dwellers are below the age of 30, with approximately half a million university students studying in just four of the nation's cities.



It is estimated that nearly 5 million immigrants from all over the world live in South Africa, many in cities, and many coming from some of the most unreached peoples of the world.

The cities of South Africa have become known as epicenters of political, social, and economic influence throughout Africa and beyond. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers and to awaken existing believers in these cities to share Christ so that the gospel can be firmly rooted, bearing fruit that multiplies throughout all of Africa.

*On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. (Psalm 62:7, ESV)*

**1 CITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA.** South Africa is 65 percent urban—strategic prayer is critical for its cities. Pray that these centers of political, social, and economical influence will become a hub of gospel advancement, bearing fruit among the nations.

**2 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for a new church start among Iranians in Central Asia. Ask that they will grow in the Word, learn to trust each other, and live out the gospel in love. Pray also for their safety.

**3 WESTERN HIGHLANDERS OF EAST ASIA.** In recent months, many Highlanders have received videos, songbooks, and gospel recordings in their heart language. Pray that the Truth will take root in their hearts.

**4 CITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA.** More than 50 percent of the cities' populations are below the age of 25. Students are rapidly influencing the culture around them. Pray that God would raise up workers to make disciples and plant churches among university students.

**5 LIBYAN ARABS OF NORTHERN AFRICA.** Ask God to pour forth His Word into the hearts of Libyan Arabs who have little access to the gospel. Pray that each day this month, a Libyan Arab family will hear and accept the gospel.

**6 MUSLIM SINDHIS OF PAKISTAN.** Pray for Sindhis who have received gospel resources on SD cards. Pray that those who access these resources on their mobile phones will confess faith in Jesus, lead their families to follow Christ, and start house churches.

**7 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.** In October and November, personnel in Johannesburg will focus on finding and training new leaders. Pray that they will find partners committed to investing in the multiplication of disciples and churches.

**8 ISAAN OF THAILAND.** The Isaan people have always used Thai-language Bibles. However, the New Testament is now being printed in Isaan. Pray that God will use His Word to draw many to a relationship with Himself.



*Johannesburg, South Africa*

**9 DEAF PEOPLES.** Hannah and Paul Yount\* recently made some new Deaf friends while watching a soccer game between Deaf nationals in West Africa. Pray that God will use these relationships to turn Deaf to Himself.

**10 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.** Although churches exist in Johannesburg, there are many segments of the city still considered to be unreached. Pray that laborers will take responsibility for seeing their segments of the city saturated with the gospel.

**11 BUCHAREST, ROMANIA.** This past summer, Romania was filled with short-term teams from the United States and Canada. Pray for Baptist representatives as they follow up and continue the work of the volunteers.

**12 AMAZON PEOPLES IN COLOMBIA.** Daniel\* has been challenged by local authorities because of the kingdom work he has been doing. Pray that he will walk in the shadow of God's almighty hand and that he will grow in his faith in the midst of persecution.

**13 PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.** Only New York City has more embassies than Pretoria. Pray that God will lead new personnel in Pretoria to address this enormous potential. Pray that they will find God-prepared people in business and in government.

**14 LAST FRONTIER.** Workers among a Last Frontier people group request your prayers for a martyred partner's family. Ask God to comfort this family, and pray that the gospel will be made known in light of continuing persecution.

**15 AZERIS OF AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA.** Pray that the believers in one weekly Bible study will have a better understanding of how to serve Christ, and that the nonbelievers present will realize that Christ is their only hope for salvation.

**16 CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.** Diversity is the norm in Cape Town. Pray that God will open doors so that people from all walks of life can respond to the gospel. Pray for new life in Christ, resulting in existing churches being revitalized and new, racially-diverse churches being planted.

**17 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES.** Praise God for first-generation believers throughout East Asia! Pray that they will find fellowship with others and will mutually encourage one another to share their faith.

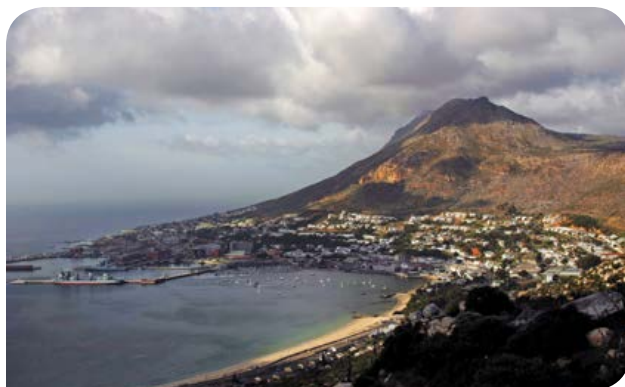


**18 RUSSIAN-SPEAKING JEWS OF RUSSIA, ISRAEL AND BEYOND.** As Jews, Meir\* and Irina\* believe that Jesus is not for them, but they are interested in learning more about what His followers believe. Pray that they will have opportunities to learn about what it means to follow Jesus.

**19 CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.** The suburbs of Cape Town are considered a refuge. Pray that faithful believers in the suburbs will be moved to carry the gospel to those in the City Bowl who live with temporary struggles like addiction, poverty, and unemployment.

**20 DELHI, INDIA.** Church members in the south of Delhi are being trained to go and make disciples that will also go and make disciples. Pray that those being trained will be faithful to go and share what they are learning.

**21 PEOPLES OF THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS OF LAOS.** When Lao believers come to faith, the Bible is often hard for them to understand because it is filled with many new terms and names they have never heard before. Pray that God will teach them how to read His Word.



City Bowl, Cape Town, South Africa

**22 PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA.** In Port Elizabeth, the winter months (June-August) were focused on "casting vision" among believers to engage and

equip people to share Christ and make disciples. Pray for strength and direction for those trained to identify their place in God's mission.

**23 DEAF PEOPLES.** Recently, workers Amy\* and Polly\* were prayerwalking in a sewing district in East Asia. Many Deaf live and work there. Ask the Father to provide opportunities for the gospel to be shared.

**24 GEORGIANS OF GEORGIA.** Most Georgians hold to a faith based on works (through keeping traditions). Their struggle to find assurance of salvation is constant and without rest. Pray for Georgians to find true rest in Jesus.

**25 PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA.** Pray for Parsons Vlei Church in Port Elizabeth. Formed in a community marginalized by society, members of this new church plant experience many social ills. Pray for gospel-centered leaders that will multiply and lead out against existing pressures.

**26 LAST FRONTIER.** A group of partners were recently trained to reach a Last Frontier people group that they have access to where they live. Ask God to lead them to boldly share the gospel.

**27 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Workers in one area of Central Asia are encouraged that local believers are sharing with others. Pray for hearts to be opened and for local believers



Port Elizabeth, South Africa

to continue to be bold and courageous.

**28 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.** Durban is known as the largest Indian city outside of India. Pray that the vast number of Indians would no longer be led astray by mute idols (1 Corinthians 12:2). Pray that Indians following Christ will boldly declare their faith, leading to multiplying groups of believers.

**29 OUTER RIM PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA.** Several volunteer teams have completed fruitful times of service in recent months. Pray for the regular harvesters as they follow up on seeds sown, cultivate new seedlings, and prune some older plants.

**30 KABYLE BERBERS OF ALGERIA AND FRANCE.** Some Kabyle believers have experienced difficulty in being able to worship in the buildings they have rented. Pray that their faith will not be bound by buildings, family, or fear. Ask for an even greater harvest of souls from within this people group.

**31 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.** Known as the place to do business, Durban is becoming one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa. Pray for small business owners to find success in their work while making disciples in their city segment.



## Refuge in the city

**ACCESS TO PEOPLE** in cities can be a challenge due to high-rise buildings or security walls. On the other hand, unprecedented access has come in the city to some of the most hard-to-reach people. They come from war-torn countries and from persecution. They come from places where corruption has led to poverty. They come seeking refuge and a new life and are found easily while moving about the city.

Amina\* has fled turmoil and seeks refuge in Cape Town. When Mary\* met her, she was selling children's clothes. Mary's need to buy her son a pair of pants

opened a door for her to stop and share Jesus openly right there in the street.

In cities, access is granted among peoples that would be nearly impossible in their own country. Pray for creative means to share the love of Christ among those seeking a new life. Pray for more Christ followers to be proactive in stopping along their way to share life in Christ with those who long for refuge.

## Church in the city

**THE CITIES OF** South Africa are places where the harvest is indeed plentiful, but so are the laborers. The greatest untapped resource is harvest-field mobilization.

Personnel in Johannesburg are investing in fellow church members who are now planting churches in one of the most strategic and needy places in the inner city. Personnel in Cape Town are training seminary students to map the city, identify unreached peoples and places, and then walk alongside them to reach them.

Field workers in Durban are training Baptist leaders to enact relief work addressing enormous human needs in order to speak to true spiritual needs. Meanwhile, church-planting conferences among city churches are beginning to abound.

Pray that the conferences will be gospel-centered and produce fruit. Pray that so-called churches that are teaching false doctrine will be silenced, yet opened up to the truth of Christ.



*\*Names changed*

**PRAYERPOINTS** is available as a free email or print subscription. Subscribe at **(800) 999-3113, option 3.**

You can also find **PRAYERPOINTS** on the IMB Pray app - available for iOS and Android devices.

Connect with IMB Pray at [imb.org/pray](http://imb.org/pray) and find us on



**imb**

INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD