

NATIONAL DIRECTOR of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – G.W. WARD

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” “Give ear unto my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.”

I have discovered that praying for the needs of God’s people is one of life’s most fulfilling and rewarding experiences. It offers us a unique opportunity to see God’s power and love working in peoples’ lives as we come, in obedience, to Him in prayer. These past few months, we’ve all heard of the shocking news of various traumatic occurrences, events, and conditions of the people of God around the world and within our own country, The United States of America. We gain strength through believing and trusting in the WORD of God and in the power of PRAYER. As National Director of Christian Education for the Church of the Living God, it is incumbent upon each of us during the Lenten Season of Fasting and Praying, to remember our Brothers and Sisters in Japan, Egypt, war torn areas, and affected neighboring communities.

Tsunami hits Japan after massive quake

A massive earthquake hit northeast Japan Friday afternoon, triggering tsunamis throughout the region.

A massive wall of water swept away cars, ships and even buildings after the 8.8-magnitude earthquake. It struck about 250 miles from Tokyo. Death and casualty tolls continue to rise as the nation begins to dig out amid a rash of aftershocks.

The tremor hit around 2:46 p.m. local time. Seismologists said it is the largest earthquake to hit Japan and the seventh largest to be recorded, according to the U.S. Geological Survey data. Tsunami warnings have extended to the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, the Pacific coast of Russia and Hawaii.

The quake rattled buildings and toppled cars off bridges and into waters underneath. Waves of debris flowed like lava across farmland, pushing boats, houses and trailers. All trains in the country have stopped, as well as all airports shut down.

So far, an estimated 4 million homes in Tokyo and surrounding areas are without power.

This quake was the latest in a series in the region this week. Early Thursday, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 struck off the coast of Japan’s Honshu Island. Wednesday, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck near the same island.

As aftershocks continue to rock the nation and other countries in the area, we are requesting everyone to pray for continued safety.

Japan’s biggest earthquake on record has countries throughout the Pacific on high alert, as more than 50 countries are watching and waiting to see if tsunamis hit their shores.

- The 8.9 magnitude quake struck off the Japanese coast at 2:46 p.m. local time on Friday, sending a massive wall of water hurtling towards the coastal city of Sendai (180 miles northeast of Tokyo). The fast-moving water carried away houses, cars, and even ships in the Sendai harbor. The Associated Press reports that initial recovery efforts discovered up to 300 bodies floating in the city and farmland near the city after the 23-foot wave struck the city. Most victims appeared to have drowned. Japan’s Kyodo News agency said the death toll is likely to exceed 1,000.

- Southwest in Tokyo, workers and residents clogged the streets as they tried to make their way home through the damaged capital city, according to The AP. More than 50 aftershocks have hit the area, Fox News reports, many of them greater than a magnitude 6.0. Public transportation is mostly shut down, stranding hundreds of thousands.
- In Hawaii, where the first tsunami waves were predicted to crash at 9 a.m., officials are breathing a tentative sigh of relief. The initial waves peaked in Maui with 7-foot waves, CNN reports, and no major damage has been reported. Hawaii and other potentially affected nations had hours of advanced warning that Japan lacked, according to the Wall Street Journal, allowing people to move away from beaches and seek higher ground. Still, officials urge caution as further waves could still surprise residents.
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A Call For Prayer Rises Out of Egypt

After an explosion killed 25 believers outside a church in Alexandria, this is indeed an opportunity for the Body of Christ to intercede in prayer for the needs of our Brothers and Sisters in Egypt. In the wake of the attack, they are calling out for prayer and support for those who committed this atrocious crime. The Christian Education Department of the Church of the Living God, encourages you to read and respond in prayer for the spread and impact of God's eternal Word in the lives of Muslims and Christians alike.

Egypt

**Why was Egypt such a significant country during biblical times? How does that fact affect us today?
Read more to find out.**

Egypt is located at the meeting point between northeastern Africa and southwestern Asia. Egypt was one of the great centers of civilization in the world from as early as 4500 B.C. Most Egyptian people live in two main areas of the country. The first area is the fertile strip of land along the Nile River that stretches more than 800 miles from the southern to the northern part of Egypt. The second main area is the far northern end of the river where it spreads out across a valley that is more than one hundred miles wide. This area is called the Nile River delta. Heavy rainfall in central Africa, where the Nile begins, causes the Nile to overflow its banks each year. Because of this, farmers in Egypt could count on plenty of water to grow rich crops of grain each year. In ancient times when Palestine and Syria got little or no rain, people would move west toward Egypt, where they could be sure of a food supply.

Many of the huge temples and tombs of Egypt have survived down to the present day. Some of these are known as the pyramids. French scholars in the time of Napoleon (late eighteenth century) discovered an ancient stone tablet called the “Rosetta Stone,” which had the same passage repeated in three different languages, including Egyptian and Greek. The scholars' knowledge of Greek made it possible to decipher the Egyptian text and use what they learned to help them translate other ancient Egyptian documents and monument inscriptions that had been found. These writings showed that the history of Egypt was to be divided into a series of periods called “dynasties.”

EGYPTIAN DYNASTIES	
DYNASTIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	APPROX. DATES
<p>Pre-dynastic and early dynastic periods.</p> <p>Early Egyptian village groups began to band together.</p>	3400-2950 B.C.
<p>First and Second Dynasties.</p> <p>The Nile River valley and delta were brought under one ruler.</p>	2950-2675 B.C.
<p>Old Kingdom--Third to Sixth Dynasties.</p> <p>The great pyramids were built near Memphis.</p>	2675-2180 B.C.
<p>First Intermediate Period--Seventh to Tenth Dynasties.</p> <p>Outsiders controlled the delta--Libyans from the west and Asians from the east.</p>	2180-1970 B.C.
<p>Middle Kingdom--Eleventh to Twelfth Dynasties.</p> <p>Egypt was again unified with the capital at Thebes. This period was the high point of Egyptian art. Abraham was in Egypt during this time (Gen 12).</p>	1970-1756 B.C.
<p>Second Intermediate Period--Thirteenth to Seventeenth Dynasties.</p> <p>Egypt was ruled by the Hyksos, Asian invaders who had high technical and military skills. Based in the delta, the Hyksos traded with Syria and Palestine. Possibly Joseph, and then Jacob and his sons were in Egypt during this time.</p>	1756-1520 B.C.
<p>New Kingdom--Eighteenth to Twentieth Dynasties.</p>	1539-10

Many famous Egyptian rulers lived in this period, such as Amenhotep IV, who worshiped only Aton, god of the sun; Tutankhamen, also known as King Tut who restored the worship of Amon, the traditional god of the Egyptians; Rameses II, who may have been the pharaoh when the Hebrews were led out of Egypt by Moses.	
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King of Egypt (Pharaoh)

Pharaoh is the title for the chief ruler of Egypt and comes from two Egyptian words that mean “great house.” To the pharaoh’s name was added other titles of honor, such as “Son of Re” (the Egyptian sun god) or “King of Upper and Lower Egypt.” About the time of Abraham, “pharaoh” meant “king,” so the Bible uses both these terms to refer to the ruler of Egypt. When the Egyptian king died, he was identified with Osiris, the god who died and overcame death, and was thought to rule in the world of the dead. Ancient pictures of the pharaohs often show them holding a symbol of power, such as a shepherd’s crook, a mace (a club-like weapon), or a curved sword. On the headpiece was a cobra snake symbol, which was supposed to protect the pharaoh from his enemies.

A number of Egypt’s pharaoh kings are mentioned in the Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament).

EGYPTIAN KINGS (PHARAOHS) IN THE BIBLE

- Unnamed Befriended Abraham and took Sarah into his household (Gen 12:14-20)
- Unnamed Put Joseph in charge of food supply in Egypt (Gen 41:37-57)
- Sety I (Sethos) Ruled 1291–1279 B.C. Possibly the “New King” (Exod 1:8) who was Pharaoh during the Hebrews’ time of slavery in Egypt (Exod 1–14)
- Rameses II Ruled 1279–1212 B.C. Followed Sety I and may have been the Pharaoh at the time of the Hebrews’ exodus from Egypt (Exod 1–14)
- Unnamed Father of King Solomon’s Egyptian wife (1 Kgs 3:1; 7:8)
- Shishak Ruled 945–924 B.C. Raided the Jerusalem temple during the reign of Rehoboam of Judah, but let King Jeroboam of Israel hide in his palace (1 Kgs 14:25,26; 2 Chr 12:2-9)
- So Ruled 727–720 B.C. This may have been Pharaoh Osorkon IV, who was sent a message by King Hoshea of Israel just before the Israelites rebelled against the king of Assyria
- (2 Kgs 17:1-4)
- Tirhakah Ruled 690–664 B.C. Called “King of Ethiopia” who battled with Assyria during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah (2 Kgs 19:9; Isa 37:9)
- Neco Ruled 610–595 B.C. Killed King Josiah of Judah at Megiddo, replaced Jehoahaz with Jehoiakim as Judah’s ruler, and was defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia
- (2 Kgs 23:29-34; 2 Chr 35:20—36:4)
- Hophra Ruled 589–570 B.C. The prophet Jeremiah said Hophra would be captured by his enemy Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia (Jer 43:6-13; 44:30)
- Other kings Little is known about the kings mentioned in 1 Kgs 11:14-22; 2 Kgs 18:21; 1 Chr 4:17-18

God Bless & Keep each of you and may your needs be met as you intercede for the people of God world-wide.

Shalom-shalom,

George W. Ward