



Prayer Season 4

12 - 16 October 2020

Corporate Prayer Day: 16 October



Greetings from the Prayer Coordination Group

We bless the Lord as we start our last season of Prayer and Fasting for 2020.

“Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other’s hearts in prayer.” - *Charles Finney*

2020 has been a year of uncertainty but many people have been reached with the gospel through the Home-based Evangelism strategy. We can boldly say the Prayer of Jabez:

“Oh, that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory
That your hand would be with me
And that you would keep me from evil.”
(1 Chronicles 4:10 - NKJV)

Thank you for your faithful prayers!

God has enlarged our territory and kept every evil and plague from us.

Prayer and Fasting

We encourage each office, Board, intercessory group, spouse, and volunteer of African Enterprise to determine your way of spending this time with God. We encourage you to involve the prayer groups around you, both within and outside of AE. The fast can be a full fast, a partial fast, or a fast from an activity to give you more time to pray. Your choice is between you and God alone.

Feedback

Please let us know if you have any God-given messages for the organisation. All comments can be sent to prayer@aeint.org.

“Lay aside everything. Just get as close to God as you can. Walk with Him, talk with Him. Let everything else be secondary but your prayer life. Stay right with Him all the time.” - *William Branham*

Biggie Paul
Prayer Coordinator

on behalf of Stephen Mbogo, Emmanuel Kwizera, Salome Mumbi, Joan Addison, Joana Amegashi, Lucas Owako, and Guide Makore and as the Prayer Coordination Team

12 October 2020

AE International CEO - Stepen Mbogo

Exodus/Promised Land

Dear friends and fellow intercessors for our mutual African Enterprise ministry,

As we draw towards the end of year 2020, I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for having continued uplifting the ministry of African Enterprise before the Lord. This has been one of those uniquely tough years being referred in many circles as a lost year or a down-time year. It can only be through the prayers of His saints in relation to this ministry that in the midst of these descriptions we got the strength to keep dreaming and imagining doing missions in a new way. This has led to the innovative Home-based Evangelism model that has seen us going on and by so doing encouraging others to go into the online streets with the gospel! As we draw to the end of the year we are focusing on the following topics: Exodus/Promised land, Hope in Time of Crisis, Grateful Hearts, Making Blind Eyes See, and Leadership.

Exodus and the Promised Land:

Between Exodus and the Promised Land lies the wilderness. Many are the times we find ourselves passionately setting off on a God-inspired vision but end up being “caught up” in a wilderness. In fact, God anticipated this to be Pharaoh’s thinking of the Israelites who had headed out into the wilderness post their exodus:

Pharaoh will think, “The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.”
(Exodus 14:3 - NIV)

Between the Israelites and the land of promise was the expansive wilderness that they had to cross. Is Israel’s journey to the Promised Land not an all-time lesson that between us and the land of the promise (more often than not) lies a wilderness? However, as in the case of the Israelites, the wilderness is not an accident, but rather part of God’s plan as we pursue the aspirations He has quickened in us:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.
(Exodus 13:17-18)

The (land of) promise, in this case can be taken as the God-given desires birthed in our hearts by God’s Spirit! These include anything from our personal basic needs to major needs including mobilisation of resources in our service to our God. One key lesson from Israel’s wilderness experience is that the experience was also a test:

Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commandments.
(Deuteronomy 8:3)

When being tested, we do need to pray against falling prey to the enemy's expectation: "The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert."

Wandering: Wandering dissipates (wastes) energy. We need to pray against "loss of direction and focus as a ministry."

Confusion: Uncertainty breeds fear and insecurity. Let's pray for confidence in the things the Lord has called us to do as opposed to being uncertain.

Hemmed: Being hemmed is similar to being restrained. We need to pray for strength to break the various holds that could be surrounding us and restricting us from fulfilling our mandate and advancing to the promises the Lord has set before us.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.
(Hebrews 10:35-39)

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. . .

"But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back."

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Prayer Points

- Pray against the loss of direction and focus as a ministry.
- Pray against confusion and pray for confidence on what the Lord has called us to do.
- Pray for strength and pull down strongholds that could be restricting us from fulfilling our mandate.
- Pray that we would have faith like Abraham, believing that God would provide the sacrifice.

13 October 2020

AE Australia Melbourne Prayer Partner - Diana Dow

Hope in Time of Crisis

As for us, we have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us.

We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!

So consider carefully how Jesus faced such intense opposition from sinners who opposed their own souls, so that you won't become worn down and cave in under life's pressures.

(Hebrews 12:1-3 - The Passion Translation)

A monumental time of crisis is still engulfing our world. Where do we find hope in such times, when the future is so uncertain? "Faith brings our hopes into reality" (Hebrews 11:1) and the heroes of faith "lived in hope"

(Hebrews 11:39).

We are told to "fasten our gaze onto Jesus" who "endured the agony of the cross" because His focus through it all was "the joy of knowing that you would be His." How amazing that He sets His love on us and is with us through all circumstances (Hebrews 13:5-6).



At World Prayer Together (19 September), there was a vision of the globe of the world with the cross right over it. The stars above the southern continents form the Southern Cross.

In Australia, the first National Solemn Assembly led by Aboriginal believers (26-27 September 2020), reminded us that God sees our world through the cross. Jesus broke down the walls that divided and brought us reconciliation. What good news! Through the cross, all are one in Christ Jesus. To walk through the cross, leaving all offences behind, is to be pulled into resurrection life, and no-one is excluded.

“Celebrate with praises the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has shown us his extravagant mercy. For his *fountain of mercy* has given us a new life—we are reborn to experience a living, energetic hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”ⁱ
(1 Peter 1:3)

The footnote ⁱ of The Passion Translation says, “Peter states that the first result of our new birth is that we are brought into a living hope in the power of God, based on the resurrection of Christ. The God of resurrection gives us a powerful hope to excel in life.”

Fasten your gaze on our risen Jesus: He gives hope enough for every crisis and enables us to endure by His resurrection power.

Prayer Points

- Thank God the Father, who has given us new life through the death of Jesus and the Spirit's life in us.
- Come in repentance to the cross, to leave behind every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into.
- Pray for those who have lost hope and those who reach out in Jesus' name with love and compassion.
- Praise God for the opportunities He has given in the crisis and those who have been brought into a living hope through faith.

14 October 2020

AE International Board Chairman - Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi

Grateful Hearts – Psalm 116

We named our first grandchild, “Mwagala” (I love the LORD), to express our thankfulness to God. My wife and I have found that the gift of each grandchild comes with a big package of an involuntary love and inexpressible gratitude. It is always good news.

Hardships are never good news. The migrating children of Israel used it as opportunity for grumbling as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. Complaining comes naturally when faced with hardship. COVID-19 has restricted our freedoms. Can we still thank God in the midst of such constraints?

During a 17th century plague in Germany, Pastor Martin Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day in his town, Eilenburg, including members of his own family. Yet in those years, he wrote 66 sacred songs and hymns. One of them is “**Now Thank We All Our God.**”

The Bible places no restrictions on thanksgiving.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

This does not say, “Give thanks to God for all circumstances”, but specifically that grateful hearts are not muzzled by circumstances. In ordinary and extraordinary situations, in settings we can explain scientifically and in unexplainable happenings, in happy and in hard circumstances, we are commanded to be thankful.

There is much to give thanks for, which gives us reason to give thanks in all circumstances. The most precious things in life are ORDINARY and FREE! Your 23,000 breaths every day, the ground you walk on, your precious body parts, the family and people who genuinely and unconditionally love you, or the sun, rain and bounty in nature. One or two hardships should not sum up your life.

When Jesus cleansed the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19), only one returned to thank Him. Each probably had good reasons not to return. In our generation doubt is the first reaction. Is it real? The miraculous evokes incredulity in us. “Miracles do not happen anymore”, we say. Or if it happened, we wonder if the last medicine we took is not the cause for the healing. Definitely not walking to the priests! And why walk back to Jesus who did nothing but tell you to walk to the priest? So we dispense of gratitude.

We are often so unmindful of the Hand that runs the world! When pain jolts us, we complain. In C. S. Lewis’ *The Problem of Pain*, he called pain, “*God’s megaphone*”! Suffering comes

infrequently but it gets our attention! It should not be a megaphone to grumble some more, but rather to remember the good we have had thus far. Indeed, pain is unsettling because it jolts our ordinary comfort. What has God done for you up to today? Count your blessings, and it will surprise you what the LORD has done.

The Psalmist implicitly suggests that, “Ingratitude has no memory”; it judges God exclusively by present circumstances! A grateful heart remembers, God has been good to me: that at a time of utter helplessness, God delivered my soul from death to walk “***in the land of the living***”. For only God can turn away God’s anger.

He further teaches us that a grateful heart nurtures trust in God. Gratitude sees that the God of our past is the God with us in our present situation and in our future. We can trust Him about tomorrow because we have witnessed His gracious hand in our past. By His grace our God saves the objects of His wrath!

Finally, a grateful heart cannot be suppressed; it bursts forth into public thankfulness. For gratitude cannot be bottled up. Consequently, the Psalmist pledges to, “. . . ***pay (his) vows to the LORD in the presence of all the people***” and “. . . ***in the courts of the house of the LORD, in the midst of Jerusalem.***”

Yet most of all, we thank God for Jesus and His cross! If I cannot think of something to thank God for, there remains this unchanging truth: Jesus died for my sins. Amen.

Prayer Points

- Thank God that Jesus died for our sins.
- Grateful hearts are not determined by our circumstances. In every situation praise God.
- Thank the Lord that He called us to proclaim the good news to the lost.
- Thank the Lord that even through the Covid-19 pandemic people have still been reached with the gospel.
- Praise God for delivering you from your strong enemies. Never forget where you have come from. Come against prideful spirits.

15 October 2020

Communications South Africa – Gavin John

Making Blind Eyes See

Stirred from deep slumber by nature's inconsiderate call, I gingerly brave the dark, weary not to disturb the peace. A fool's errand as I stub my toe and send a glass of water crashing to the floor. My household is now abuzz and light is powered on to reveal my merry mess: a drenched floor, shattered glass, a sore and bleeding toe. If only I had first looked to the light!

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."
(John 8:12 - NLT)

Scriptural reference to blindness generally denotes spiritual blindness and invariably that Jesus alone restores *sight*. There were occasions however when Jesus restored physical sight as a testimony to His divinity; analogous to the Word being the only cure for spiritual blindness.

He sometimes inflicted forms of blindness to cause followers to become "spiritually sighted". He joined Cleopas and another on their journey to Emmaus, *"But their eyes were holden that they should not know him"* (Luke 24:16 - KJV), to first reveal himself in the Word before physical recognition. He blinded Saul, en route to Damascus, to convict him of his spiritual blindness: *"For three days he couldn't see and didn't eat or drink."* (Acts 9:9)

Aren't we so often found groping in the dark? Consumed by the materialism, mesmerised by public opinion, hypnotised by the tunes of the Pied Piper of this world: simply preferring every other thing above God. Spiritual blindness is a pandemic, much like COVID-19, against which we must protect ourselves.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in His wonderful face:
And the things of the earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Look to the Light! He makes all things clear; cleans up our messes, nurses us back to health and gives us a peace that passes all understanding!

Jesus makes our blind eyes see.

Prayer Points

- Pray that God would remove every spiritual blindness.
- Pray that God would give us the anointing of the sons of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32) to discern times and seasons.
- Pray that our spiritual eyes will be able to see what God is doing in the spiritual and political arena.
- Pray for the young people to be protected against the dark forces around them. Pray for the light of Jesus to shine in their lives.
- Pray that the gospel would lead people out of darkness into God's marvellous light.

Acting Team Leader Tanzania - Emmanuel Kopwe

Leadership

We live in very perilous times: there is much fear, hopelessness, and economic hardship due to the pandemic. Technological advancements should have been swift to provide solutions. *We should see exemplary leaders who provide inspiration, motivation, and high excellence in actions. We should see leaders exhibiting strong can-do postures and skills.* This art is unfortunately in short supply at all levels of society.

Fortunately, it's not all that grim. Generally, people are spiritual beings, aware of some deity with all authority and power. This perspective gives those who belong to the Biblical Deity a great advantage and responsibility to reflect the glory of God. These are the times when those who are *"the light and salt of the world"* need to be bold and invoke God to shine through them; *"the good works they were created for"* need to be seen in every sector of life and in every human activity. Hard times are so ordained to make people respond to God.

We are mandated to be on the frontline of the battlefield making our leaders see their divine calling. The truth is, when the leaders of nations take the spiritual lead the Lord intervenes. Exemplary leadership today is an oxymoron. However, what Tanzania has seen during this corona pandemic is a leadership that followed the example of King Jehoshaphat. It is good news to hear a President confess, *"... the Blood of Jesus is more powerful than the virus!"*

Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20) was confronted by an army of allied forces. His actions were critical: *he resolved to seek God, decreed a prayer and fast for all his people. In humility, he invoked God, publicly confessed, and reminded God of His covenants with His nation.* God in turn, gave an unconventional victory strategy for battle.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the leaders of your country that they will be full of wisdom and will be able to discern the times.
- Pray for Godly decisions to be implemented to run the country.
- Pray for the leadership of African Enterprise to discern the move of God.
- Pray for boldness to effect changes.
- Pray for all the Team Leaders of African Enterprise as they give leadership to their teams.

Final Prayer

- Give thanks for all those who came to faith this year despite the challenges.
- Pray that the strategic plan for evangelism and missions will be implemented faithfully by all AE teams.
- Pray for commitment from all the teams to the work of the Lord.
- Pray that God would put the passion back into our lives to reach out to the lost and broken.
- Pray that we would live sacrificial lives to accomplish God's purpose and plan.
- Pray for the finances that we would not look to man but to God for all our resources.
- Pray for Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi and the International Board as they plan for 2021.
- Pray for Emmanuel Kwizera, International Missions Director, for guidance and wisdom for 2021.
- Pray for Rev Dr Stephen Mbogo, CEO, as he gives leadership to the partnership.

Thank you for your Prayers!