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# Woman In Leadership

AE Prayer & Fasting Guide - Season 3  
22nd - 26th July 2024



## Greetings from the Prayer Coordination Group

Welcome and thank you for joining us for Prayer Season 3.

This season we have chosen the topic “Woman in Leadership”. Be blessed and encouraged that God hears and answers our prayers as we Fast and Pray.

This 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. **(Please use the guide posted below for practical advice/suggestions on FASTING and PRAYER on how to approach the PRAYER SEASON).**

### Prayer

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.

### Feedback

Please let us know if you have any God-given messages for the organization. All comments can be sent to [prayer@aeint.org](mailto:prayer@aeint.org).

Thank you for your faithful prayers!

**Biggie Paul**

Prayer Coordinator

**on behalf of Stephen Mbogo, Emmanuel Kwizera, Salomi Mumbi, Joan Addison, Joana Amegashi, Esther Chongo, and Irene Mugambi as the Prayer Coordination Team**



**Woman In  
Leadership**

## CAN WOMEN BE LEADERS?

Clearly, we see from the New Testament that women helped to build the church. The church does itself a disservice when it does not recognize the gift God has given to women in the church. We know all gifts are given for the building up of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:7) and Paul encourages us to use the gifts God has given (Rom. 12:6-8). Just as Jesus and Paul validated women and recognized their contributions to the building of his kingdom, we should do the same. With the birth of the church in Acts, it has always been God's intention to use women in various capacities within the church.

## The Important Role Women Played In Leadership In The New Testament And Formation Of The Church

Women played a very important part in leadership and the formation of the Church in the New Testament they include:

**Mary**, the mother of Jesus: She played a central role in the early church and was a loyal follower of her son. She was also a close friend and confidant, and a critical witness of his crucifixion and resurrection.

**Phoebe**: A deacon of the church in Cenchreae, Phoebe was a dedicated servant of the Gospel and was recognized by Paul in his epistle to the Romans. She played a pivotal role in the spiritual life of the community and was a generous supporter of the early Christian community.

**Priscilla**: She was a dynamic figure in the Bible and exercised leadership in the developing church. Priscilla was referred to as Paul's "co-worker" in teaching the Gospel, and she and her husband, Aquila, risked their lives for him.

**Lydia**: A successful businesswoman, Lydia led her entire household to Christianity. She also hosted Paul and his company while he was spreading the Gospel.



Dear Family of AE and Friends,

Greetings and peace to you as we embark on this third season of prayer for 2024. Our focus in this third season will be women in leadership. Women play an important role in our lives and society at large.

As we enter this season of prayer and reflection let us pray for and honor the role of women who work for the Lord in the many echelons of society, especially in evangelization and missions. Let us think of the contributions they have made to leadership in the kingdom of God especially. Let us pay tribute to the many women who serve us in various roles and capacities within AE, often at a price.

The church has historically been slow to recognize the value of women in leadership, but it's time to embrace the biblical mandate for gender equality. Women bring unique perspectives, gifts, and experiences that enrich the church's ministry and mission.

Scripture affirms women's roles in ministry and leadership (Galatians 3:28, Romans 16:1-2, Philippians 4:2-3). Jesus defied cultural norms by engaging with women and recognizing their worth (John 4, Luke 10:38-42).

Women in leadership:

- Provide diverse perspectives, enriching decision-making and ministry
- Serve as role models, inspiring younger generations
- Bring spiritual gifts and talents, enhancing the church's effectiveness
- Demonstrate the value of equality and mutual respect in Christ

By embracing women in leadership, the church:

- Fulfills the biblical vision of unity and equality
- Taps into the full potential of its members
- Better reflects the diverse kingdom of God

Let's celebrate and empower women in church leadership, unleashing their gifts for the advancement of the gospel.

Let us continue to pray for their valuable role and the contribution they make and continue to make.

Yours ever in Christ,

Biggie Paul  
Prayer Co-Ordinator AE International



## **Focussing your attention during this prayer season!**

Consider the following:

1. Set a goal: Define the purpose and duration of your prayer season.
2. Create a schedule: Establish a regular prayer routine, including time and location.
3. Prepare a prayer space: Designate a comfortable and distraction-free area for prayer.
4. Choose a prayer method: Utilize techniques like journaling, meditation, or liturgical prayer.
5. Seek guidance: Explore prayer resources, such as books or online devotionals.
6. Invite accountability: Share your goals with a friend or mentor for support.
7. Be consistent: Commit to your schedule, even if it's just a few minutes daily.
8. Be patient: Trust that God is working, even when answers aren't immediate.
9. Listen actively: Pay attention to God's whispers and guidance.
10. Persevere: Persevere through challenges and doubts, knowing that prayer is a powerful tool for spiritual growth.

Remember: The key to a successful prayer season is consistency, sincerity, and an open heart. May God bless your time with Him!

## **Types of Fasts**

- Absolute Fast: Abstaining from all food and water
- Partial Fast: Abstaining from certain foods or drinks
- Liquid Fast: Consuming only water and juices
- Daniel Fast: Abstaining from meat, dairy, and sweets

## **Breaking Your Fast**

- Gradually introduce food and drinks
- Start with light, bland foods
- Avoid overeating or rich foods
- Reflect on your fasting experience and what you learned



## Suggestions on how you can Fast during this prayer season.

### Preparation

1. Set clear goals and intentions for your fast.
2. Consult a doctor if you have health concerns.
3. Choose a type of fast appropriate for you (absolute, partial, liquid, Daniel).
4. Prepare your spirit through repentance, confession, and meditation.

### Fasting

1. Start with a clear mind and heart, focused on God.
2. Abstain from food and drink (or chosen items) for the duration.
3. Stay hydrated and rest when needed.
4. Use the time for intense prayer, meditation, and scripture reading.
5. Journal your thoughts, insights, and revelations.

### Prayer

1. Find a quiet, distraction-free space.
2. Begin with praise, worship, and thanksgiving.
3. Confess sins and repent.
4. Intercede for others and yourself.
5. Listen for God's voice and guidance.
6. End with surrender and commitment.

### Spiritual Disciplines

1. Meditate on scripture and God's character.
2. Practice gratitude and praise.
3. Engage in intense intercession.
4. Seek guidance and wisdom.
5. Cultivate a spirit of humility and surrender.

### Physical and Emotional Care

1. Stay hydrated and rest when needed.
2. Be aware of your physical limitations.
3. Don't neglect medication or essential needs.
4. Embrace the physical discomforts as a means of spiritual growth.
5. Seek support from friends, family, or a spiritual mentor.

## Remember!

**Fasting and prayer are tools for spiritual growth, not a way to earn God's favor. Approach with humility, sincerity, and an open heart. May your fasting and prayer experience bring you closer to God and transform your life.**





**Day 1 22nd July 2024**

**Professor Rosemary Mbogo Kenya**

Women, just like men, have been created in the image of God so that together they could “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Gen 1:28). As seen from the scripture, part of the mandate given to both male and female was rulership over all creation, including whatever moves on the ground. Therefore, before the Fall, Eve had been given the capacity to rule over the serpent at creation. After the Fall, Jesus Christ came so that the effects of sin would be overcome as He has reconciled all things, in heaven and on earth, back to God (Col 1:19-20). As new creations, women can exercise the gift of rulership/leadership as God intended.

**Biblical Examples**

In the Old Testament, God’s work of leadership through women is evident. Deborah was a leader in Israel and a judge (Jud 4-5). As a prophetess, she judged the Israelites and led them to fight against the oppression of the Canaanites and after a victorious ending, she sang a song to the Lord. The song gives us insight into her thoughts before and after, and allows us to see she was a woman of faith in a God who is victorious:

*7 Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.8 God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates, but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.9 My heart is with Israel’s princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord! (Jud 5)*

God used Deborah to do a new thing – by not using those who were experienced in war and who gave excuses for participation. God raised a new army which won the battle. Eventually, Sisera fell into the hands of a woman who killed him.



Hannah was not content that she did not have a child, regardless of her husband's support and comfort. She was so passionate that her prayer for a child was thought to be as a result of drunkenness, by Eli the priest. She promised God to give back the child He blessed her with for service at the temple. Her insights about the doings of the Lord and her faith to overcome barrenness and even bear more than one child can be seen in the lyrics:

*5 Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry ceased to be hungry. Even the infertile woman gives birth to seven, But she who has many children languishes.6 The Lord puts to death and makes alive; He brings down to [e]Sheol and brings up.7 The Lord makes poor and rich; He humbles, He also exalts.8 He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the garbage heap, To seat them with nobles, And He gives them a seat of honor as an inheritance; For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He set the world on them. (1 Sam 2)*

Hannah was blessed with a child, Samuel, and honored her word by taking him to the temple after weaning him. God blessed her with more children (1 Sam 1:21-28).

In the New Testament, Mary the mother of Jesus is a great leader who, in her youth (probably teen years), accepted the miracle conception of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Her song reveals she was a God-fearing woman who understood the mighty works of God and was able to surrender to the impossible:

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.*

*50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.*

God blessed/blesses the whole world through Jesus Christ who came to redeem the world back to God. Mary's obedience continues to bless the entire world.





## Application

Whether we are called to leadership in the national arena like Deborah or in the family sphere like Hannah or at a personal level like Mary, we need to be:

1. **People who know God personally**
2. **People who seek Him passionately**
3. **People who serve Him consistently**
4. **People who obey Him faithfully**

These attributes will lead to results that produce personal, communal, universal, and generational impact. Hence, as believing men and women work together for the Kingdom, the Great Commission/Mandate will be accomplished as many souls are transformed from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Glory be to our God forever and ever, Amen.

## Prayer Points:

- Pray that as Deborah had been called to be a spokesman for God that God would call woman to walk in the anointing of wisdom and revelations to bring solutions
- Pray like Hannah, that despite the challenges, feelings of rejection and abandonment she did not stop praying, and God answered her prayers
- Pray that we will be obedient like Mary to accomplish God's purpose in our lives





Day 2, 23rd July 2024, Genie Collington, Ex Foxfire Canada

## Women In Leadership - Deborah's Arise, Judges 5:7a

**"...until, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel. ..."**  
**Judges 5:7a [NIV]**

In today's society when the word leaders or leadership is mentioned we tend to immediately envision men. This is not uncommon as historically only men were seen as leaders, especially within the church. I for one am thankful that this narrative is changing, slowly as it may be, we see women taking on leadership roles within ministries, families, corporations, and many other facets of life.

Women are reluctant to assume leadership roles as we believe society's narrative that Leadership roles are reserved for men. It has been said that women do not make great leaders because we lead with our emotions and not our minds. We are indecisive, too cautious, and have the inability to say no. That we make allowances and excuses and that we aren't risk takers etc... Although there may be some truths to this, however, these are the exception and not the rule.

Allow me to introduce to you one of the great female leaders in the Bible, Deborah whose story impacted my life. Deborah was a woman with a high degree of spiritual insight and character and was one of the few judges who was not corrupted by influence, power, and success. She did not conform to societal norms and she functioned in roles that were not befitting of women during her era. She was a woman of great wisdom, revelation, and discernment. She had a prophetic gift, including knowing the times and seasons of the Lord. Deborah communed with God. She was in a relationship with her Heavenly Father who spoke audibly to her and guided her path. A promise He has made us as stated in Psalm 32:8.

Deborah truly exemplified Philippians 2:3 leadership characteristics as an admirable example for us in that she saw the needs of her people and envisioned herself in their solution. I thank God for the women in leadership depicted in the Bible, like Deborah. It is because of their prayers and willingness to go against societal norms, demonstrating their total reliance on God that I can accomplish all things I have and I know there is greater work to be done- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." Philippians 4: 13 KJV



Deborah was a formidable force to be reckoned with and she brought much inspiration to the men within her community, one of whom was Barak. I applaud Barak, for recognizing the gifts that Deborah possessed and was not threatened by them. He knew that their combined efforts of utilizing their God-given strengths and gifts would ensure victory for their nation. I pray that many men and women will learn from the relationship of Barak and Deborah and that together we achieve more.

I recall during my time serving in AE's Foxfire Ministry, 15 years ago, our Director, Valdino Naidoo would share that he foresees women assuming more leadership roles in varying sectors of society, especially within the Church. "It is the Era of the HER, the time of the SHE," he would often declare and today we are seeing the evidence of that prophetic declaration in existence. There has not been a time in history, such as now when women are more prevalent in leadership roles in ministry, and in the corporate and political arenas. I implore you, Women of God, that it is time to intervene, intercede, and speak out! Your voice is needed; People are perishing. We are in a war for our children, our nation, and our world. You are an important element in initiating the manifestation of the revival of the Holy Spirit on the earth! Deborah's Arise!

As women, we are called to be change makers, and like Deborah - we need to Rise and help raise more Deborah's. As you embark on uncovering the Deborah within you and desire to be a Woman in Leadership, I encourage you to:

- 1. Cultivate an atmosphere of consistent prayer and worship, because that's whom the Lord seeks - true worshippers - John 4:23-24; Hebrews 13:15**
- 2. Develop a relationship with God - Jeremiah 29:13**
- 3. Surrender your will and let His will be done in your life - Jeremiah 29:11**
- 4. Seek Him first in all things - Matthew 6:33**
- 5. Set your mind on things above and that which will glorify God- Colossians 3:1**
- 6. Be steadfast in your faith - 1 Corinthians 15:18**
- 7. Remain confident in God - Colossians 4:2-18**
- 8. Walk in wisdom, knowledge & understanding - Proverbs 2:6-8**
- 9. Trust him implicitly - Proverbs 3:5-6**





## Prayer Points:

- Lord, Jesus help me to see myself, as a Deborah for my generation, to whom you have given the solutions to the problems of today.
- Help me to live a life of communing with and developing an ever-growing relationship with you.
- May, I strive to be present in your presence by listening and obeying your instructions. Lord, I surrender my will, goals, dreams, and desires to your will for my life as written in Jeremiah 29:11





**Day 3, 24th July 2024, Biggie Paul**  
**International Prayer Co-ordinator AE**

## **Mary Magdalene, Lessons for Woman Leadership Today...**

Mary Magdalene's tale is a compelling reminder of the significant role women played in leadership in the Early Christian Church. Her legacy continues to inspire and empower women in ministry and leadership today. She is regarded as a lady apostle and a key leader in several Christian traditions today. She was one of Jesus' most devoted followers, and her story is remarkable.

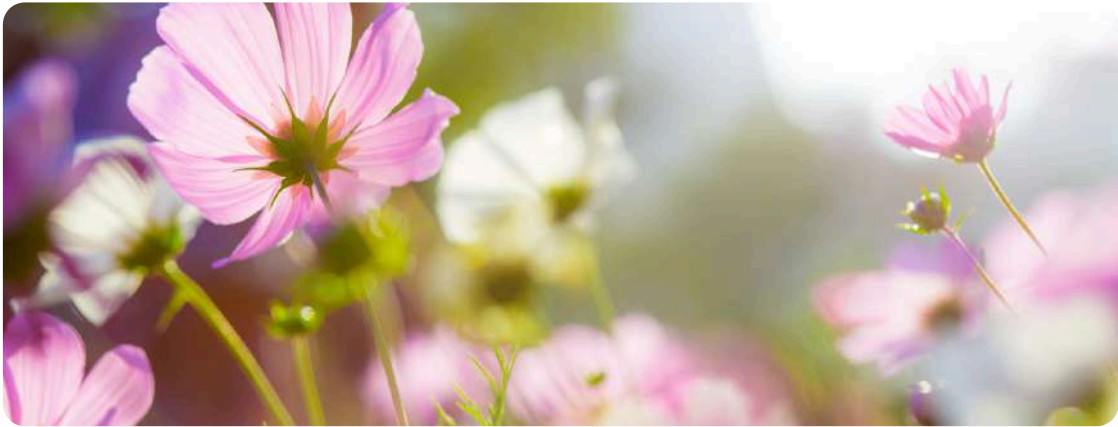
Here are a few significant facts regarding Mary Magdalene. She was a devout disciple of Jesus, accompanying him throughout his mission. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and burial. She was the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection, and he commissioned her to inform the other disciples of his return. She also played an important part in spreading the word of Jesus' resurrection to the other disciples. She is frequently referred to be the "apostle to the apostles" because of her involvement in informing the other disciples of Jesus' resurrection.

Mary Magdalene's story is a powerful inspiration for many reasons:

1. **Redemption and Second Chances:** Her past life as a woman possessed by seven demons, and her subsequent deliverance by Jesus, shows that no one is beyond redemption. Your past does not define your future, you can be restored and redeemed.
2. **Courage and Loyalty:** She stood by Jesus during his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, demonstrating unwavering loyalty and courage. Be willing to take risks and be vulnerable
3. **First Witness and Apostle:** As the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection, she was commissioned to spread the news to the other disciples, making her a pioneer in the early Christian church.
4. **Breaking Gender Barriers:** Her role as an apostle challenges traditional gender roles and shows that women can also be leaders and messengers of the Gospel.
5. **Empowerment and Inclusion:** Her story inspires women to embrace their own spiritual authority and leadership, and encourages the church to recognize and value the contributions of women.

Mary Magdalene's legacy continues to inspire and empower women in ministry and leadership, her story is a testament to the power of redemption, courage, and loyalty.





## Prayer Points:

- Pray for Woman leadership in AE.
- Pray that God would remind women of their worth and value in society.
- Pray that God would raise a woman who would lead with confidence and dignity.
- Pray that God would raise woman ministers of the gospel for missions and evangelism.
- Pray for woman to have the courage to embrace their calling and leadership positions in the Church and society
- Pray for the witness of woman leaders in the church, missions, evangelism, and society.





**Day 4, 25th July 2024, Irene Mugambi**  
**PA to International CEO Dr Stephen Mbogo**

### **Lessons from Woman in Leadership...**

The believers' manual, the Bible, has countless public and not-so-public examples of women in leadership right across the Old and New Testaments. In our journeys as women, we have likely identified with more than one and learned truths and lessons from their lives – as these were actual persons – have gone before us.

In this season, I seek to share lessons, and leadership principles that are both caught and taught, from the life of a handmaiden of the Lord – her early life is little known and her story continues being told – She was Mary – one of the several Marys' around Jesus like Mary of Bethany whom he promised her story would be told everywhere the gospel is preached (Matt 26:13), or Mary Magdalene whom Jesus appeared to first (But it is a different Mary. Mary, a young woman who led, what seemed to be an ordinary life until her public encounter with God – which propelled her to the public eye or stage, as it were. Her Before, During and After Jesus.

One can safely assume based on her responses to the unexpected and unprecedented announcement to her, through an angel, that Mary, the to-be mother of Jesus, had developed a spirit of temperance, and cultivated a spirit of wisdom and insight (ability to have an understanding of situations, in decision-making and one's responses to the same). Showed resolve, courage, and a single-minded focus when faced with adversity; being able to stand on her own as it were, while still staying connected and strengthening others in their journey of purpose, in this case, her cousin Elizabeth, the mother-to-be of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-45) Mary was trustworthy, could keep confidences – pondering things in her heart – reflective while not being secretive.

Above all, she displayed a heart of submission and trust toward God first, in her response from the start, and during the time of her being expectant (in today's context – an unwed mother, or fallen sister, even unplanned birth).

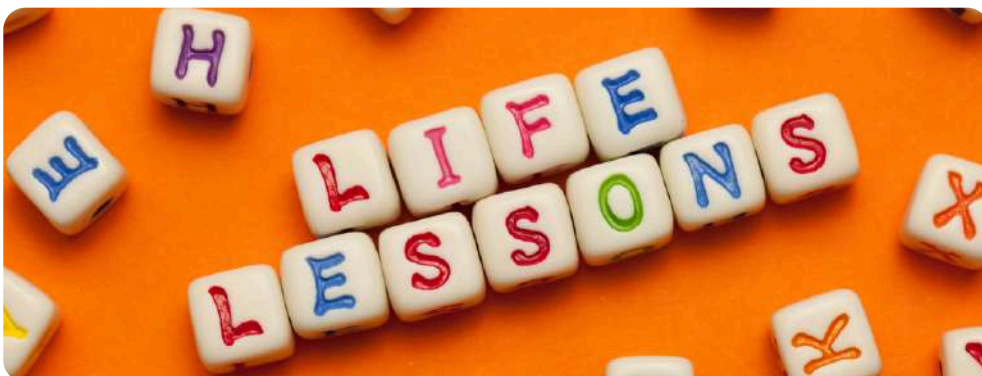


As a follower of Jesus ministry, Mary navigated the relationship of mother and regular son, and discerned opportunities to do his calling – and announced his first public appearance -at the wedding in Cana – when she stepped out in faith to address the Master and engage for a solution for her friends. She displayed a visionary, results-oriented yet non-intrusive approach to life and her interactions. In the face of a seeming refusal by Jesus ‘, my time has not yet come’, Mary was undeterred in her mission – – spearheaded organizing (the servants) for an expected outcome; Leaders move by faith – being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see(Heb.11:1). They also see what others may not see or immediately embrace, holding no ill- feelings in the face of obstacles – rather, lead purposefully.

There is more we could say about her life and how she raised her sons and other children as a single parent, followed Jesus right to the cross, her joys, grief, and continued leadership of self and others. Ultimately, Jesus's final words before his last words addressed to the Father, were to Mary, expressing his care for her – Woman, here is your son and transferring responsibility to the disciple he loved – Here is your mother. Full circle – Her story begins and ends with recognition of her motherhood – her area of calling. Leaders seek, embrace, and live out their unique call and accept the same for others, as Mary did for Jesus.

## Prayer Points:

- Pray that woman would arise and activate the power of the Spirit – the gifts of faith, healing, and miracles
- Pray that women would accomplish God’s purpose in their lives
- Pray that women will submit to God’s will and not their own will







**Day 5, 26th July 2024, Carol Cassidy**  
**Wife of Founder Dr Michael Cassidy**

## **Women in Leadership...**

In our modern-day society, women carry more influence than at any other time in history. They have entered leadership arenas where they influence minds in the workplace, academia, the church, industry, politics, and their families. We read in 1 Timothy 5 about Lois, Timothy's mother, and grandmother, Eunice, who passed on the knowledge of Jesus and His saving grace to the child, then the man.

For Christian women, advancing in leadership, prayer is needed for wisdom, guidance, and a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures. They need to exercise leadership with humility, grace, and truth while exhibiting the strength of character and spiritual maturity to exemplify and stand up for biblical values.

In the Scriptures, we see female leaders, like Esther, in a political role, where she saved her Jewish people, or Deborah, a prayer warrior, etc. More recently, Mother Theresa, an inspirational leader who cared for the lonely and dying with great love, said, "Not all of us can do great things. But, we can do small things with great love."

Corrie Ten Boom was sent to a Nazi prison for helping to save Jews, where she suffered greatly, but was able to forgive and became a great Christian leader through her example and inspiration. In South Africa, former Public Prosecutor, Mrs. Thuli Madonsela, a Christian said, "We must do what is right." She was the first to expose State Capture and corruption in public leaders, placing her in a highly respected leadership position.

In our homes, the women can emulate the Proverbs 31 woman who demonstrates servant leadership. She cares for her family in every way and even manages investment and finance. She is strong, dignified, noble, and trustworthy. She helps feed the poor and has no fear of the future. All through history and Scripture, God has called and used women to fulfill His plans and purposes, who are living in obedience to Christ, and who are bringing transformation and change in their spheres of influence.





## Prayer Points:

- Pray Galatians 3 v 28 "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male, or female. For you are all Christians – you are one in Christ Jesus. Pray for every Christian to realize the equality of all before the Lord Jesus. Men should not harbour superiority over women and women should not compete with men
- Men should be humble to accept the Leadership of woman
- May woman see their leadership role in their homes and guard themselves from the forces of the world that are pulling her away from these responsibilities
- May the church adapt to these changes and embrace the Leadership of woman





**Prayer is the Oxygen by which the Church exists, through it we show our dependence on God for Him to move the mountains and obstacles in the way of preaching the Gospel.**

**“...men ought to pray not faint...”  
Luke 18:1**

**PRAY ALWAYS, PRAY FERVENTLY, PRAY WITH URGENCY,  
PRAY WITH PASSION, PRAY BELIEVING  
GOD IS ALWAYS LISTENING  
GOD IS ALWAYS READY TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS**

**Thank you for praying!**

**Next Prayer and Fasting Season**

**14th October – 18th October 2024**

**Corporate Prayer Day**

**17th October 2024**





Evangelising the Cities of Africa in  
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