Women Empowered Through Prayer

A Global Call for Justice & Equality
A Special Issue for a Special Time

Global Prayer Partnership for Women’s Empowerment

Our Mission: During Women’s History Month in March our mission’s community will join together for 31-Days of Global Prayer Partnership addressing the plight of vulnerable and exploited women. By sharing our strength as intercessors and prayer partners, it is our hope to create a global family praying for the concerns of our sisters suffering around the world.

Our Goal: As we begin this amazing journey, we invite 1,000 partners to join us in prayer for Women’s Empowerment. By inviting family, friends, and church members, we believe your support will help us amplify the needs of women and surpass this goal!

Throughout the month of March, we will be privileged to share the hurts, the struggles, and the burdens of women we may never meet face-to-face, but I am convinced that as we pray together in the Spirit we will become a community of voices whose petitions will touch the heart of our God. As you read the prayers written by the 31-contributors from our national and international family during your time of mediation, it is our hope that you will be inspired and provoked to action on behalf of those who are most vulnerable in our world.

“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night.” Isaiah 62:6

Our Network: We are calling on our Lott Carey family to help us surpass our goal of 1,000 partners interceding for 31-Days Global Prayer. To register for this Global Movement visit: www.Lottcarey.org/women-in-service

Rev. Dawn M. Sanders
Director of Missional Programs
Lott Carey

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013

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Let Us Pray

An Intimate Form of Communication

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

I was in an airport waiting to board my plane when I saw a middle-aged mother and her son standing in line. They were chatting. Sometimes they would chuckle. Sometimes they would look at each other and listen attentively so they wouldn’t miss a word. Sometimes they would laugh and lean into each other. I got great joy from watching this mother and son interaction. It was clear that they had a great relationship and knew how to communicate with each other.

As I watched this mother and son talking and listening and enjoying each other, I thought about prayer. I began to think about how this mother and child might be a model of communication with our Heavenly Father. Prayer is, at its core, a form of intimate communication between God and us, His children.

We are grateful to Antoinette W. Winslow, President of Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere, for agreeing to expand the traditional Women’s Week of Prayer into a Lott Carey Month of Prayer. The Rev. Dawn M. Sanders, Director of Missional Programs, worked with 31 women to compile this prayer guide focused on challenges (many life-threatening) faced by women around the world.

These devotions celebrate Lott Carey’s missional partnerships in 27 countries by asking the Lord to make a difference in the spiritual, social, economic, and political landscapes of these nations so women and their families may live in peace. There are also four thematic prayer emphases for health and other issues that envelop the globe.

Use this guide for your personal, family, and congregational prayer times during Women’s History Month in March 2013 and beyond, and witness an old adage come to life—“Prayer changes things.”

Let us pray.

David Emmanuel Goatley

Prayer: Spiritual Discipline

Speak and Listen to Grow More Like Him

By Mrs. Antoinette W. Winslow

Many people start the New Year committed to a new attitude. Some think positive thoughts, practice healthier lifestyles, and engage in good deeds. Rather than thinking about these kinds of activities, however, Christians can use the New Year as a time to make recommitments to our ongoing spiritual growth. Three months into 2013, I hope that you are continuing your commitment to growing in Christ.

Maturing disciples of Jesus practice spiritual disciplines, including worship, generosity, and hospitality. An important spiritual discipline we all need to strengthen is prayer. I do not mean praying only when we are distressed or when we have desire for things to happen for our good. We need to be in regular communication with God. We need to speak and listen to grow more like Him.

Lott Carey’s Women in Service Everywhere has promoted a Week of Prayer for years. This year, we have expanded our prayer focus to a Month of Prayer. We are encouraging women disciples of Christ to call ourselves, our families, our friends, and our congregations to this special season of prayer during March, Women’s History Month. We trust that this guide will help you to expand our prayer concerns beyond our circles of families and friends and include women around the world who need your spiritual vigilance and meditation.

Mrs. Antoinette W. Winslow
President
Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere
Australia: Empower these women so their voices are heard
March 1

Bible Reading: Zechariah 7:8-10

Prayer: Eternal God, Our Heavenly Father: We give you thanks for the women of Australia. We pray especially for the Aboriginal women. We seek your help for these indigenous women in their desperate struggles for survival, cultural, physical and economic advancement. We pray that you will intervene and protect them from violence, sexual exploitation, gender inequity and racism. We ask, in the name of Jesus, that you heal the pain of innocent girls who were forcibly removed from their parents. We ask that you send advocates to defend their rights to health care, education, gainful employment, land ownership, and equal justice. We pray that you will empower these women so that their voices are heard regarding their needs, preferences and life choices. Kindle a harmonious relationship between the Aboriginal women and other women of this country. Give them a compassionate and mutual regard for one another. May your divine love permeate hearts, convict spirits, break oppressive strongholds and illuminate lives with faith and hope in you.

Today, we ask that you:

• Help young Aboriginal females subjected to kidnapping, rape, incest and other forms of sexual abuse.
• Open the hearts of government officials unsympathetic and outright hostile to Aboriginals.
• Provide access to land for food production and adequate education for their advancement as women.

This we pray in the matchless name of Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What can you do today for a woman in need that only God will see?

By Shirley W. Bullock
Martin Street Baptist Church
Raleigh, N.C.
'We pray today for women who endure economic hardship, abuse in all its forms, and systemic gender discrimination.'

**Bible Reading:** Job 5:19-27

**Prayer:** Almighty and Gracious God, we acknowledge you as our Creator. It is in you, O Lord, that we live and move and have our being. You give us life and breath. You alone are sovereign and you have blessed this beautiful country with a rainbow of women, from our Aboriginal sisters, who have always been here, to the newest immigrants pressing their way to these shores. It is to you we come, with hearts of gratitude, bringing our petitions on behalf of the women of Canada. For generations our ancestors have recounted the stories of your faithfulness. We are thankful that we are your offspring and when we cry out to you, you hear us and come to our aid. We pray today for women who endure economic hardship, abuse in all its forms, and systemic gender discrimination. We cry out to you, Living Lord, on behalf of sex workers who have been murdered, sex slaves who are taken against their will, and the sexually abused whose bodies are mistreated at the whim of others more powerful. We claim your promise to protect them in trouble and to deliver them from destruction (Job 5:19-22). Let us never forget the women who died in the Montreal Massacre of 1989, women who have been murdered in our streets, and our sisters who are not safe in their own homes. We pray for the salvation, strength, and well being of mothers and daughters.

Today, we especially lift up:

- The continual struggle for women’s rights and advocacy.
- Violence against women, including domestic violence, and human trafficking.
- Women and their families impacted by educational and economic challenges.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. For it is in the matchless name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

**Personal Spiritual Challenge:** What woman will you encourage today with the love of Jesus?

By Rev. Rhonda Y. Britton, Senior Pastor
Cornwallis Street Baptist Church
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
‘We lift up to you Father all those that have been forced, recruited, and sold into slavery.’

Bible Reading: Isaiah 49:24-26

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for the opportunity to lift up those women and children trapped in the shackles of human trafficking. We cry out against the dehumanizing practice of human slavery and we pray that each and every captive that is being held will be set free. We pray for the restoration of the countless victims of human trafficking that endure sexual exploitation and abuse. We pray for the children working long hours in the factories and fields to produce the products that are sold across international borders for economic gain. We lift up to you Father all those that have been forced, recruited, and sold into slavery.

We ask Lord for deliverance for those in bondage, and those hearts and minds that allow slavery to exist. May those chains be broken forever. Give us courage and wisdom to stand in solidarity with them, so that together we can put an end to human trafficking.

Please Lord, let:

• Every person in human trafficking be set free from bondage (Jeremiah 34:8).
• Those that have been broken be restored and increase advocacy for victims.
• Perpetrators be brought to justice and awareness about the plight of victims be raised in local churches and communities (Deuteronomy 16:20).

Thank you Lord for the work Lott Carey does on behalf of the victims of human trafficking. Thank you for its continued leadership, witness and impact. Lord we thank you for every woman who will be rescued this year and restore to their families in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What can you do to protect a woman in need today?

By Min. LaKeeyna Cooper
Christian Faith Baptist Church
Garner, N.C.
‘Make visible the women let down by a society that discounts their value.’

Bible Reading: Isaiah 41:17-20

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of speech to intercede on behalf of our sisters in need. Oh Gracious God, just as you were with the women of China centuries ago, broken by the Golden Lotus, be with the women broken by the culture of gender inequality today. Make visible those who are twisted, carrying the cross of invisibility. Make visible, those suffering from disrespect and disregard. Make visible those who are left out of the economic structure. Make visible those “leftover ladies,” unwed because of tradition. Make visible the women let down by a society that discounts their value. Open the floodgates of living water to refresh barren spirits in the tomb of infanticide. Oh Gracious God, empower, enliven, and encourage these women. Transform the lives of those victimized by the ways of this society. Make your presence known; be with your daughters as they transcend from victim to victor, birthed in the image of God.

We lift up the following concerns on behalf of women in China:

- Gender inequality, forced family planning.
- Economic empowerment.
- Systemic gender imbalance and infanticide.

Thank You Lord, for restoring the rights of women. Thank You Lord, for Your faithfulness, rejuvenating women’s lives. Thank You Lord for Your presence, peace and providence in the earthly realm. In the matchless, mighty, majestic Name of Jesus, the W.I.S.E. say, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What can you help a woman in need fulfill?

By Rev. Angelita Clifton
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit, N.J.
Bible Reading: Lamentations 3:48-51

Prayer: Almighty God, Mother and Father of us all, on behalf of the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo, we cry out to you for your mercy. Today, with hearts of solidarity we ask for an end for what has occurred far too long. In the spirit of Jeremiah 9:17-18, which says: “Consider and call for the mourning women that they may come; and send for skillful wailing women, that they may come. Let them make haste and take up a wailing for us. That our eyes may run with tears, and our eyelids gush with water.” You, O Lord, who hear us even from the pit and who love us through the desert places, we cry out to you from this nightmare, declaring enough is enough. On behalf of those who must try to find normalcy in a war-torn land, and those who face brutality and terror with every sunrise, and those who face the gun, the machete, the assault weapon, we are hungry for peace, safety and protection. Lord, you did not intend for your daughters to live in constant fear and to endure the crude punishment of rape daily.

And so we cry out to you in ready gratitude and hope, on this day, seeking the following:

• The end of torture and bloodshed of women at the hand of cold-hearted rebels.
• Godly leaders in governments to protect the welfare of women and children.
• The end of cultural practices that perpetuate inferiority, high rates of maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS.
• The prosecution of rebel leaders so the death of innocent victims will not be in vain.

Lord God, we ask that you raise up the mothers of this great nation, so that all know the One has lifted them in whom we live and move and have our being. Give them power and places of honor for all the years they have suffered in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Today, I will sacrifice the following to bless a woman in need

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By Rev. Dr. Cynthia T. Turner
Dayspring Community Church
Lanham, Md.
Bible Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we ask you now to turn your eyes to the needs of the women of Ethiopia and to touch their lives with your grace. We ask that those who have been victimized be comforted, that those who are in a position to help will be emboldened and called to service, and that those who are guilty will see the error of their ways. Just as Jesus went about the cities and villages healing every sickness and disease (Matthew 9:35), we ask for healing in every city and village of Ethiopia. We ask, Lord, that you create a greater awareness of these women’s plights, so that the world can see with clear eyes the indignities and cruelty perpetrated upon them, and we ask this torment to end.

We lift up these concerns:

• Better access to health care, qualified doctors, and the reduction of maternal mortality.
• Better education for women and their children.
• Greater awareness of domestic violence against women.

Thank you for bringing a greater sense of peace to these women and this entire country. Be Seme Ab Wo Wold Wo Menfes Kidus Ahadu Amlack Amen (In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen).

Personal Spiritual Challenge: How will you use your gifts to bless a woman in need today?

By Segi Desta
Dallas, Texas
Addis Abba, Ethiopia
‘Lord, provide the women of Ghana financial security. Deliver them from deceitful schemes to entrap them in a life of prostitution. Show them the way to healthy lifestyles.’

**Bible Reading:** Luke 6:20-21

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, We give great thanks to you for the many blessings and opportunities that so many women of the United States have been afforded. We use this occasion to think of others, of our sisters around the world who have yet to reap all of the blessings you have in store for them. For our sisters in Ghana, particularly, we ask for economic empowerment, which ensures women and their families have enough food to eat, schools to attend, clothes to wear, clean water to drink, and shelter from the elements. Lord, we realize that the simple act of marriage does not always bring the joy and security one expects and hopes for, so we ask that you find a way to help Ghanaian women find security in their unions, in their professions and in their family life. Help them in their quest for legal protections related to interstate succession in common law marriages, protect and guard them from threats after divorce or separation, and we ask for speedy enactment and enforcement of laws to protect their property and other physical possessions they have worked arduously to attain.

Lord, provide the women of Ghana financial security. Deliver them from deceitful schemes to entrap them in a life of prostitution. Show them the way to healthy lifestyles. Wrap your arms of protection around the women of Ghana facing sexual, emotional and mental abuse, and cultural discrimination. Direct our Ghanaian sisters to education, employment and the use of new technologies that will propel them to success in leadership and entrepreneurship. Have mercy upon the women of Ghana, Lord; hear their prayer, answer their faintest cries. Let them experience every freedom and joy in your creation. We pray for mercy and grace . . . in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Personal Spiritual Challenge:** (Complete the sentence.)

Today I will honor God by _________________________________.

By The Honorable Pamela E. Bridgewater
US Ambassador to Jamaica
New Zion Baptist Church
Louisville, Ky.
‘We pray for their children and families who struggle each day to survive against economic conditions beyond their control.’

Bible Reading: Psalm 82

Prayer: Almighty and Loving God, Father of all nations, we give thanks for the women of Grenada. We pray for their many needs. We ask, dear Lord, that you raise Christian women to serve those suffering from unemployment, disasters and abuse. We pray for their strength, courage and boldness to be your instruments as well as advocates to build awareness for women’s rights, health education, economic empowerment, spiritual awaking and revival. You are the defender of the poor and the fatherless. You will grant justice to all women of Grenada and deliver them out of the hands of the wicked (Psalm 82:3-4).

We pray for their children and families who struggle each day to survive against economic conditions beyond their control. Give these women strength to meet each day and courage to hope for a different future. We pray for their health and for health services to be available as needed. We pray for more housing. We hold up in prayer their leaders that the Spirit of the Lord will rest on them to make bold choices for the good of all people. We pray for Grenada Baptist Association and their ministries and for the people of Grenada.

Today we pray for:

• Eradication of poverty and hunger.
• Female victims and survivors of gender-based crimes.
• Healing for women dealing with hypertension, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.
• Empowerment so women can become advocates, leaders, and policy-makers.

We ask You to restore them, shine on these women of Grenada that they may be saved. The nation belongs to you. Thank you Lord for your goodness and mercy for the women of Grenada, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen!

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Whose burden will you share today?

By Barbara Crump
St. Paul Baptist Church
Richmond, Va.
‘O Holy One, we ask that your favor and protection always be with the women of Guyana.’

Bible Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

Prayer: Gracious God, we come today thanking you for your grace and peace which surpasses all understanding. We ask in the name of Jesus that you will remember the women of Guyana. We thank you for showering your blessings of wisdom upon us. O Holy One, we ask that your favor and protection always be with the women of Guyana. Lord, protect them against violence, and bring to naught every plan of the devil. We pray that you will break generational curses and heal your daughters. Precious Lord, raise voices to cry out against the daily injustice perpetrated against your handmaidens. We pray for women who are suffering from deadly diseases such as cancer and AIDS. We implore you to visit their sick beds and grant them your healing touch. Remove all social stigmas attached to this disease and grant them access medicine and loving care. We pray for incarcerated women and ask that you minister to them. Hear our cries for justice and break oppressive customs that hinder the progress of the women of this nation. Convict the hearts of leaders who fail to defend your daughters’ rights. Bring healing to this nation.

Today, we ask special blessings be showered upon . . .

- Those who are physically, mentally and emotionally abused by spouses, and other aggressors.
- Single parents experiencing hardships as they try to properly rear their children.
- Those who are hospitalized with injuries, physical disabilities, and malignant conditions and need the support of others to survive.

Let your mercy and prosperity descend on the women of Guyana. Precious Lord, we thank you for hearing and answering our prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What woman can you thank today for making a difference in your life?

By Geneva Naddie
Guyana Missionary Baptist Church—Lott Carey
Guyana, South America
‘Heal women and girls victimized by violence; have mercy on the souls of those who have been burned alive, stoned, drowned, and gunned down.’

Bible Reading: Isaiah 51:19-23

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, in the name, power and blood of Jesus, we claim victory over the women and little girls who are victims of violence throughout this world. We thank you for being in our midst. Jesus we ask for your protection against every evil attack. Almighty Judge, we ask that you will empower people to fight for them, bring the perpetrators to justice and enact stricter laws against such evil.

Today, we ask Lord that you:

- Heal women and girls victimized by violence, have mercy on the souls of those who have been burned alive, stoned, drowned, and gunned down.
- Strengthen those women and their families who are in Christ so they may continue to work for your kingdom.
- We ask for the redemption of the victims and perpetrators who do not know you in the pardon of their sins.

Abba Father we ask that you would open the eyes of the world to see the crimes against women and girls and fight to protect them. Help them find refuge and be comforted in you. We praise your Holy Name. Hallelujah, Amen!

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What injustice against women can you bring awareness or advocate for within your community?

By Missionary Zebby Wheelock
Solid Rock Church
Tanzania (serves in Haiti)
Haiti: We ask that you raise women in the power of your Spirit
March 11

Prayer: Merciful Father, We bring before you the women of Haiti trusting and believing your perfect will for their lives. Haiti has been shaken but we stand on your promise that “no weapon formed against them shall prosper” (Isaiah 54:17). We ask you Lord to provide for every woman still suffering from the devastation of the earthquake, those who lost loved ones, and those who have been displaced and are still living in tents. Our eyes affect our hearts because of the destruction of the women of this nation (Lamentations 3:51). We cry out to you on their behalf and ask that you will secure their future and rebuild their land in Jesus’ name. We ask that you would neutralize the strongholds of Satan that have been entrenched in Haiti. No matter how forceful and threatening the darkness becomes, we ask that you raise women in the power of your Spirit to bring light to the nation.

Father, we pray that President Michel Martelly and the leaders of Haiti govern with godly wisdom and sacrificial love for their people. Father, please give us eyes of compassion for the women and orphans who are hungry and who are without shelter living on the streets.

We pray for:

• The educational advancement of women and girls.
• Access to health care, protection from the spread of Cholera, and HIV/AIDS.
• Permanent homes, economic stability, and physical protection from abuse.

Father, you are a refuge in a time of storm so we call on you today to heal, to deliver, and to breakthrough for the women of Haiti. Ke non Bondye beni (May the name of the Lord be Praised). In the precious and most powerful name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: How can you partner with others to help those in need?

By Kathi Reid
Lott Carey/African American Baptist Collaboration
Washington, D.C.
HIS POWER. YOUR CALLING.

Lott Carey Spring Missions Conference
Women in Service Everywhere
Men on Missions
Pastoral Excellence Program

18 – 20 April 2013
Rodman Street
Baptist Church
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Register Online:
Go to LottCarey.org, then click Annual Gatherings tab.
Prayer: Gracious Father, as always we seek your help in the time of crisis. We ask you Lord to guard and protect women around the world who today mourn with us in India for the death of a brave young woman: A woman who fought to protect her honor; a woman who tried to save herself from the misguided young men who stripped her garments, raped her and threw her on the roadside, without regard to her dignity or humanity. A woman who, as she was on life-support in a hospital, kept pleading that she might live to care for a family that had educated her in the hope that she would further educate her two young brothers.

As the country prayed for her survival, You, in Your Great Wisdom took her into your blessed arms. We do not question as we have implicit faith in You. This heinous act has led to a spate of copycat rapes around the country. Reports come in every day and leave us shattered. Sometimes, it is difficult to understand why men do such terrible things: things that make women afraid to step out in the dark, afraid to say what they need to say and afraid to do what they must do. In the midst of fear, however, there is that knowledge, that firm belief, that you are a Lord who hears the cries of the afflicted and the oppressed. Help women to face dangers bravely, Lord Jesus, and let them never forget that You will always be with them in their hour of need. Arise, LORD. Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.

By Dorothy Ann Tressler, Director
Somerville School–Lott Carey Baptist Mission
New Delhi, India
‘We pray today for these victims of violence and their children, and we extend our petition to include all women throughout the world who suffer injustice.’

Bible Reading: Psalm 12

Prayer: O God, Creator and Saviour: Every three days in Italy a man murders a woman who, in most cases, is his former partner. One hundred and twenty women of various ages and social status died in this horrible way in 2012. There may be many more that only you know about, God. Every day, thousands of women are victims of violence, both psychological and physical, and the results are devastating because it means their homes are not a place of peace and security but a prison of loneliness and suffering.

We pray today for these victims of violence and their children, and we extend our petition to include all women throughout the world who suffer injustice. We know, O God, that you, in Jesus Christ, experienced hatred and extreme violence. Even now you suffer when your children weep and mourn. Please help your children throughout the world overcome. Give them strength and courage to work for a just society, where women and men build relationships based on dialogue, mutual respect, appreciation, care, listening, and love. We pray that Christian men will promote this revolutionary way of thinking because your Word has already commanded us to live with dignity.

Give us your Spirit so that we may bring spiritual fruits to your glory as outlined in Galatians 5:22—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What gift can you offer someone in need today?

By Rev. Anna Maffei
The Baptist Church
Florence, Italy
Psalm 140:12-13

Prayer: Gracious God, We thank you for where you have placed the women of Jamaica in the world—surrounded by the awesome majesty of your creation, the warmth and beautiful sunshine, mountains, hills, the rivers, and the vast Caribbean Sea. We thank you for their strength and resilience, courage, resourcefulness, generosity and beauty, made possible by your creative genius and the gift of your Spirit of love and empowerment. Yet Lord, we acknowledge the vagaries and complexities of life, and realize that in the midst of joy there is sorrow and pain, in the midst of worship and celebration there is doubt and fear.

So we pray for those women in Jamaica who deal with:

- Daily trauma and the trauma of sexual and gender violence.
- Disempowerment and poverty caused by violence.

Compassionate God we remember those who struggle daily to squeeze ‘blood from a stone’ as they struggle to make a living in the midst of poverty. Grant them hope in the midst of a culture of materialism and greed, powerlessness and injustice. Please be the source of their liberation and salvation. Make every Jamaican woman confident in the promise of your present and eternal Kingdom. May they boldly speak truth to power, be prophetic voices in a culture of silence, and be agents of your love and righteousness in the face of violence and godlessness. Hear our prayers good Lord, and fill your people with justice and peace. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What cause can you support today that will benefit women?

By Rev. Merlyn Hyde-Riley
Jamaica Baptist Union & Trinity Evangelical Ministries
Kingston, Jamaica
Kenya: Raise men and women who will fight for the welfare, rights and interests of all women in this country

March 15

Bible Reading: Isaiah 58:6-12

Prayer: Thank you Heavenly Father for the women of Kenya. We honor you for uplifting these women to levels of dignity. We pray for every woman of Kenya, and lift them into your Holy hands in Jesus’ name. Gracious Father, we pray for justice on every woman afflicted by adversity, and for those who go without food on a daily basis. We ask you to shield them from tribulations of society. Father in Jesus name, please raise men and women who will fight for the welfare, rights and interests of all women in this country. Father, endow these women with wisdom, strength, and elegance to be resilient in everything they do. Help them learn like Mary to sit at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:42).

Today we lift up the following concerns on behalf of the women of Kenya:

• Women subjected to widowhood due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
• Girls subjected to forced marriages and to the horrors of genital mutilation.
• The need for more women in leadership and empowered economically to lift their households from poverty.

Thank you Father for watching over and keeping the women of Kenya to become virtuous and the word to influence the entire nation (Proverbs 31:21-26; Proverbs 11:16). We thank you Lord for their salvation, peace, and prosperity. We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What woman will you encourage today to see God’s purpose for their lives?

By Florence Cheruiyot
Lott Carey Baptist Ministries of Kenya and Sudan
Kisumu, Kenya

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
Bible Reading: Psalm 113

Prayer: Most Merciful Father, ruler and architect of the universe: The women of Liberia thank you for your care and love over the last decade. We thank you for life, peace and the joy you have brought after the devastating wars in Liberia plunged our country into chaos and made our women victims of violence.

The election of 2005 made history, as Liberia became the first African country to elect a woman as head of state. Please continue to lead President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Give her the strength to recognize the plight of women. God has put Liberia on the map again, showing Africa and the world women are capable of leading their nations. Thank you Lord for African women as well as Liberian women as they are now singing the song “this is our time” while African men are now realizing that times have changed and that women can be leaders.

Lord, the women of Liberia need your help on these issues:

• The lack of political will to implement laws to protect women/girls and the acceptance of harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation.
• Domestic violence (especially beatings and wife burnings).
• Arranged child marriages, incest, rape, dowry or bride price—major factors in the high rate of illiteracy, violence and vulnerability of women.

Heavenly Father, empower my sisters, say “no” to political domination, exclusion, discrimination and violence against women. Equip us to stand for peace, justice, equality and unity. Thank you Jesus for your love for Liberian women. Strengthen us to stand up and fight for women’s rights. Our bodies may be broken but do not allow our spirits and minds to be broken. Lord protect us from all danger. Keep us safe. Protect us as we come and go, now and forever more. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Considering the plight of Liberian women, how can you use your influence to bless a woman in crisis today?

By Rosa Allen
Lott Carey Mission School
Brewerville, Liberia

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
‘Almighty God restore the health and heal the physical and emotional wounds of your daughters.’

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 30:12-22

Prayer: Almighty God, we thank you for being our Creator and Lord. We thank you for protecting your daughters scattered throughout the land. Thank you for every provision in times of civil war and famine. When our wounds seemed incurable and our injuries beyond healing, you were there with outstretched hands. Our Great and Almighty God restore the health and heal the physical and emotional wounds of your daughters. Thank you for being their provider in all circumstances and for bringing them through years of devastation.

We lift up the following concerns for women impacted by famine and civil war:

• We pray for continued justice, peace, good health and hope.
• Economic resources and shelter for displaced women and children.
• Protection against rape and genocide in refugee camps.
• Clean drinking water, food, and access to vital healthcare.

Thank you for restoring the years to the women who have been impacted by the war and famine. You are indeed faithful to your transforming word in providing for your people. Lord God, we give you praise and honor for allowing us to partner with you in making an impact throughout the world. In the name of our Loving Lord, we pray. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: How can I begin to support a displaced woman today?

By Dr. Betty Holley
Salem Missionary Baptist Church
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Prayer: O Lord, we honor and praise your name because you are our faithful and sovereign God and you do such wonderful and marvelous things. We thank you for the women of Malawi. We know that you have a plan and purpose for their lives that you are moving to accomplish. We thank you Lord for being a steady refuge from the relentless storms of deprivation and disease. You are an enduring shelter from the tempests of injustice, the shadow of death and the scorching heat of oppressive living conditions that have beat upon the souls of Malawi for many generations. Mighty and awesome Savior we recognize that it is in your power to build and tear down. In the name of Jesus we ask you to continue to tear down destructive politics, subjugation and poverty. Remove all obstructions to healing so that the women and girls of Malawi can achieve their noble destinies and declare your glory. Please continue to empower women and place them in strategic positions in both public and private sectors so that they can help build up their suffering societies into healthy communities. Provide partnerships and resources that will speak, defend and advance their lives.

Today, we offer this special prayer for:

• The leadership of Her Excellency, Joyce Banda, Malawi’s first female president.
• Better living conditions for those in poverty surviving in overcrowded areas.
• Improved health of women infected by HIV/AIDS, and the orphans and families affected.

We thank you Lord for your abounding love for the women of Malawi. Thank you for answering their cries for redemption and for being an ever-present help that wipes away their tears, brings joy, restores hope and grants peace in every area of their lives, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Who can you encourage today by sharing how Christ helped you overcome a difficult moment in your life?

By Min. TaNikka Sheppard
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
Columbus, Ohio
Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
‘We ask you Lord to give women... all the support they need to stand firm in faith and build the nation of Mozambique.’

Bible Reading: I Samuel 2:1-10

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the women of Mozambique. Thank you for blessing the women with a country rich in natural resources. We ask you Lord Jesus to give wisdom to the women of Mozambique so they will use these natural resources to bless their families, churches and the nation. We pray that you bring healing to those women whose hearts are broken due to domestic violence, divorce and lack of self-esteem. Lord Jesus convict the hearts of every leader who fails to defend their rights and bring healing to the nation. We ask you Lord to give women educational opportunities, employment opportunities and all the support they need to stand firm in faith and build the nation of Mozambique. Continue to protect them from war and famine.

Lord, our specific concerns include:

- A lack of resources for women in cities and rural regions.
- Skills training and HIV/AIDS education.
- A peaceful environment for women in their homes.

We thank you Lord for salvation, peace, and spiritual prosperity in the mighty name of Jesus, and we conclude our prayer with a declaration of praise in Portuguese—Bendito seja Deus poderoso—“Praise be to God Almighty.” Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What will you give up today that can bless someone in need?

By Celina Vicente Muriane Quembo
Baptist Convention of Mozambique
Beira, Mozambique
‘Lord, we come to you in the name of Jesus interceding for the women of Niger. We pray, O God, that you will help them as they struggle to meet their basic needs.’

Bible Reading: James 1:26-27

Prayer: Our Father and our God, creator of Heaven and Earth, Holy is your name. Thank you for your loving kindness, and for your tender mercies you have bestowed upon us and forgiving our sins. Lord, we thank you for faithfully watching over the people of your world. We give you praise and bless your Holy name.

Lord, we come to you in the name of Jesus interceding for the women of Niger. We pray, O God, that you will help them as they struggle to meet their basic needs. We pray that you will help us not be distracted by the godless things of the world so that we can be more sensitive to the needs of your people around the world. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. We thank you for those who have heard your word and find delight and affirmation in the actions you have called them to do. Strengthen them as they reach out to the homeless and vulnerable of this world.

We lift up the following concerns on behalf of the women of Niger:

• A lack of prenatal care, which results in maternal mortality.
• Women and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation.
• The need for improved access to food and clean water for the poorest communities.

Lord, bless your people in Niger. Surround them with your love, hope and peace. Grant your mercy and loving kindness upon those who seek you. Lord, you can do all things and we give you all thanks, honor, praise and glory for all that you have done and claim victory for all that we ask, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What woman in your life will you encourage today?

By Debra Garner
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Midland, N.C.
Bible Reading: Psalm 68:1-14

Prayer: We the women of Nigeria join with thousands of other women around the world to pray and make declarations concerning women’s empowerment. According to your word if we ask anything in the name of Jesus according to your will, it shall be done (John 14:13-14). Through the Holy Spirit, we have been given authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19). Based on these facts, we pray for the women of Nigeria. You defend the widows dear God, protect the fatherless, and set prisoners free (Psalm 68:5-6). Open up the minds of women to realize that they have potential within to be catapulted into sustainability and self-sufficiency. Out of your goodness refresh those who are weary and provide for every need of the women of Nigeria. Grant the women the ability to unite to develop businesses and bless their income and efforts to succeed.

We pray:

• That health care for women would be a priority for all governments.
• That stronger legislation be enacted to protect women from dangerous and inhumane traditional practices
• That God will drive out our enemies, demons responsible for Boko Haran terrorism and those responsible for the killing and destruction in northern Nigeria.

May every woman abound in valuable and precious riches through godly wisdom.

Finally God, help the women of Nigeria be great assets and treasures to their families and country, and not viewed as liabilities. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What woman will you pray for today?

By Mrs. Eno Kenneth Ebong
Lott Carey Baptist Mission Nigeria
Uyo, Nigeria

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
**Prayer:** Most Holy, All Wise and Loving God Our Father, we are appreciative that in your goodness, you have provided us this chance to consider the needs and concerns of all the people of Russia and particularly our Russian Sisters in Christ. Too often we have overlooked them in our times of meditation. Thank you for opening our eyes and giving us another chance to set our selfish considerations aside and be more pleasing to You. Thank you, Lord for the women of Russia. We celebrate their deliverance from the years of being forced to worship in fear. Heavenly Father, our sisters need your intervention. With the blessings of more freedom have come the curses of willfulness. Addiction and divorce are on the rise. Families are being torn asunder, leaving many women alone, with limited resources. Father, in the name of Jesus we ask that You give these women the mind to keep You first in all things (Matthew 6:33). We thank you for a new spirit within their husbands and fathers; give them caring hearts that will treat women with dignity and respect as they walk together in your statute and keep your judgment (Ezekiel 11:19-20). Thank you for being the true and living God who cares about the desires of these women.

Today we lift up the following concerns on behalf of the women of Russia:

- Lack of pay equity for women, depression, and substance abuse.
- Spiritual, social, and financial support for single mothers.
- The insensitive culture and attitude that prevents many married workingwomen from receiving any household assistance from their husbands.

Thank you Lord for watching over and blessing the women of Russia. Thank you Lord that they will soon know You as Savior and the lifter of their heads. Thank you for delivering and sustaining them in the mighty name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen!

**Personal Spiritual Challenge:** What sacrifice will you make to benefit someone in need today?

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By Carol W. Mohamed  
Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church  
Pittsburgh, Pa.
‘Thank you Lord for your steadfast love for the women of Somalia. Thank you Lord for being their salvation and deliverer.’

Bible Reading: Psalm 33:17-22

Prayer: Jehovah-Rophe, we pray in solidarity with our sisters of Somalia. We pray for our young sisters who, like Tamar, live in fear of their bodies being violently violated (2 Samuel 13:14). We pray for midwives like Shipra and Puah (Exodus 1:7) who fear God more than humanity thus providing care for mothers and newborns in Somalia. We ask that you keep our sisters alive in the midst of war, drought, famine and utter devastation so that their hope in you is realized in the form of resources and opportunities that will deliver them from destruction (Psalm 33:19). Elevate sisters like the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:5-7) who spoke against inequality. Like those who followed Jesus (Luke 8:2-3) using their own resources to support life-giving ministries. Raise brothers like Boaz who speak up and ensure protection for the women of the community (Ruth 2:8-9). Give us leaders who will call upon you to be Jehovah Shalom bringing the kind of peace where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24). Please let our sisters of Somalia flourish.

Today we lift up these concerns:

• Educational and vocational training, counseling services and emergency shelters.
• More women and men willing to speak out against the cultural norms of rape and female genital mutilation.
• Access to health care and prenatal services.
• Women and their children amid war, drought, famine, disease and utter devastation.

Thank you Lord for your steadfast love for the women of Somalia. Thank you Lord for being their salvation and their deliverer. This we pray in the matchless name of Jesus, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Where can you serve today that will benefit women in need?

By Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols
Freedom’s Chapel Christian Church
Memphis, Tenn.
‘You see and know their hurts and their pain. You know the needs of every woman in every nation. Father you are the Bread of Life, our Sword and our Keeper . . .’

Bible Reading: Psalm 103

Prayer: Eternal God who makes all things new, we know that we have sinned and come short of your glory. Guide us in all your ways, guard and keep us under your protection. We come humbly in the name of Jesus on behalf of our sisters around the world who are affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. We lift them up to you O God. You see and know their hurts and their pain. You know the needs of every woman in every nation. Father you are the Bread of Life, our Sword and our Keeper . . . Heal, empower, and equip them to stand in faith that you will never leave or forsake them. Restore the hope of every woman newly diagnosed and give strength to those in hospice care. Touch the women who are in communities and villages where there’s no access to treatment. Send missionary-doctors and nurses with life-saving medication to help extend their lives. Dear Lord your word declares we can come boldly before your throne in our time of need. So we ask you Lord to break the stronghold of this disease in every nation. Strengthen the women and every caregiver around the world battling this disease. Rebuke the adversary for their sake and give them a testimony—that by Your stripes they are healed (Isaiah 53:4).

Lord, our sisters need:
• Increased access to anti-viral medications.
• Increased resources to support themselves and their children.

We pray that you strengthen the more than 17 million women around the world who are infected by husbands, partners, and through sex crimes.

Jehovah Rapha our Healer, our Refuge, our Strongtower we commit the needs of our sisters to you. This is our prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: How can you become more engaged with helping those impacted by HIV/AIDS?

By Missionary Rubell Young
St. James Baptist Church
Capitol Heights, Md.

Lott Carey Herald/March 2013
Bible Reading: Psalm 140:1-8

Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I humbly come before you on behalf of my sisters in South Africa. Lord I pray that you will deliver them from alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic violence and prostitution. Some of these women are forced into prostitution because of lack of money and support. Lord please see their tears and hear the cries of their heart. Your word says that they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and people who belong to God. Father we speak over their lives today that they are women of valor. Lord you have chosen them for a time such as this and we thank you for lifting their heads. Help them to rise above their circumstances and see the plans you have for their lives. Help them understand who they are in you and that your plans for their future will not be aborted by their circumstance.

Today we lift up:

• Women’s empowerment and equality.
• Facilities for women and children who are being abused.
• That fathers take on responsibilities for their families.
• Access to health care, and treatment for HIV/AIDS.

We pray for anointed leaders in government and for those who work tirelessly on behalf of women. We thank you Lord that you are a Good Shepherd and you will direct the lives of the women of South Africa to accomplish what has never been done before in our land. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: Who can you send a card of encouragement to today?

By Rev. Erica Nomdoe

Home of Hope—Enon Baptist Church Western Cape
Cape Town, South Africa
‘We pray for them as Jesus prayed for Peter, that their faith endure during these times of great struggle.’

Bible Reading: Psalm 62:1-2

Prayer: Dear God, We give honor to your name, O Most High. We give You thanks for the brave women of Sudan who fight for justice and equality on a daily basis. We pray for the women who are suffering because of social displacement, sexual violence and other forms of cruelty. We pray for them as Jesus prayed for Peter, that their faith endure during these times of great struggle (Luke 22:32). Give them the courage to face each day with hope and expectation that freedom, deliverance and peace will come to the nation and to all the women of Sudan. Protect women and children in their homes and in their cities. Psalms 62:1-2 says that You are the God of our salvation; You are our rock and our defense. As the people of God trusted in You, You delivered them. We pray for deliverance of the Sudanese women as they trust in You. Continue to lift strong advocates to change unjust and discriminatory laws against women. Change the hearts of those who legislate, embrace and enforce these injustices, and bring forth hope and humane legislation.

Today, our special prayer is for:

- Women and children displaced by war.
- Victims of rape, sexual abuse and other acts of violence against women.
- Women who are executed by stoning.
- Child marriages and female genital mutilation.

Hear the voices of the women who cry out for freedom and whose souls silently wait for liberation and equality, and deliver them. Thank you for being a God who hears and answers prayers. In Jesus’ powerful name we pray, Amen!

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What act of kindness can you do today to bless someone in need?

By Rev. Jacqueline Madison-McCreary
Spring Creek Baptist Church
Moseley, Va.
Turkey: You did not create women to become their outlet of anger  
March 27

‘We pray, dear Father, that you stop the murder of women who speak out against injustice.’

Bible Reading: Luke 6:17-23

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we come before your presence with humble hearts and bowed heads to thank you for this day. We ask you to continue to bless the country of Turkey, its government, the execution of its policies and each man, woman and child. We know dear Father because of your word everything is predestined and you know everything and you are everywhere. As your word in Luke 6:17-23 describes your healing powers Father, enable the government officials to execute a fair policy throughout the country so that women’s rights will be recognized and the women will be able to function and operate within this reality. We pray, dear Father, that you stop the murder of women who speak out against injustice. Dear Father, touch the hearts of husbands and other men and let them know that you did not create women to become their outlet of anger or injustice. Convict their hearts so that they will turn away from domestic violence.

Merciful Father, the economic situation of Turkey limits the working rights of women. Please maximize their educational training so they may financially help their families. We know, dear Father, once you prick their hearts, equal rights will be executed throughout the land.

Continue to bless this country. Touch every church, every home, every man, every woman and every child, and empower the government to govern fairly. We thank you in advance and pray these things in Jesus Name. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What can you do to strengthen or support a woman in need today?

By Mary R. Wilson
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
Springfield, Md.
Uganda: Even in the midst of their struggles we ask that you give them faith

March 28

‘We seek you now on behalf of our sisters in Uganda who are suffering many atrocities as they try to live and care for their families.’

Bible Reading: Psalm 10:12-18

Prayer: Most gracious and compassionate God whose mercy towards us is everlasting and whose truth endures through all generations . . . we are thankful for your Living Word that has called and reconciled us to you by faith, and that guides and assures us of your presence, plans and purpose for our lives. We seek you now on behalf of our sisters in Uganda who are suffering many atrocities as they try to live and care for their families. They are faced with poverty, domestic violence, lack of maternal and child health, discrimination for being a woman, low social status, continual victimization by sexual violence with no laws to protect them and punish the perpetrator. We pray our mission endeavors in Uganda will assist in empowering women with resources and access to health care for them and their children. We pray for governing officials who will be honest and just to legislate and enforce right laws that will protect women and children. We pray that you will heal brokenness and restore the joy of every woman that has been wounded. Even in the midst of their struggles we ask that you give them faith, courage and hope in the Risen Savior and the assurance that you are with them and understand their pain (Matthew 25:40). We pray health, healing and restoration into their lives in the name of Jesus.

We believe the prayers of the righteous availeth much, and we ask that you fulfill the need for improved maternal and child health; and that you will quell domestic violence, rape and incest.

Hear our prayer, Dear Lord, incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: How can you use your gifts and talents to benefit women in need today?

By Dr. Yvonne Motaung, Principal
Baptist Convention of South Africa College
Soweto, South Africa
Bible Reading: Psalm 46

Prayer: Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God, and Our Father: Thank you for loving us so much that you sacrificed your Son to reconcile the world. We pray, Heavenly Father, that the women of Zambia will know you love them, that you are their refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). Increase their faith to hold fast to your promises, even in the face of what seems to be insurmountable difficulties.

Their needs are many, their resources are few and our prayer, dear God, is that you provide the women of Zambia:

• Food and clean drinking water.
• Knowledge of the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
• Protection from natural disaster.
• Education and training that will prepare them achieve economic and social stability.

We know that you are a compassionate God that is touched by the suffering of Zambian women and you hear their cries. Grant them the assurance that you are in their midst and will cause wars to cease, lift their burden and heal their land. Enable the women of Zambia to be still and know that you are their refuge.

We, your women in service, thank you for the privilege of being used in your ministry to women in Zambia. Endow us with vision, wisdom, and opportunity to tell the women of Zambia of your love. Give them hope for a better tomorrow in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: What problem can you help resolve today on behalf of a woman in need?

By Gladys Wynn
Abyssinia Baptist Church
Norfolk, Va.
‘Oh, Mwari, give the women of Zimbabwe the wisdom to trust in you for protection, provision and progress for themselves, families and people of Zimbabwe.’

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 146:1-10

**Prayer:** In the Shona language, you are Mwari—God, the one who is. We praise you for the women of Zimbabwe. You love the women of Zimbabwe so much that your sustaining and multiplying power bears witness to your faithfulness. You created them in your own image. You gave a special purpose for each to fulfill. You gave them power to shape their own destiny and the greater well being of the people of Zimbabwe and the world at large. You also gave them access to resources.

Oh, Mwari, give the women of Zimbabwe the wisdom to trust in you for protection, provision and progress for themselves, families and people of Zimbabwe. Please favor them to enjoy the blessing of trust in you.

Women of Zimbabwe have survived HIV/AIDS, cancer and malaria; discrimination of gender bias; abuse and denial of equal opportunities. They need education, equal opportunities in wealth distribution and creation, empowerment, affirmation, self-confidence and more health facilities because the number of women dying during childbirth continues to rise.

Thank you, Mwari, for providing for the education of girls, for the Girl Child Network of Zimbabwe, which lobbies and advocates for female children. Thank you for loving fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons who will take a stand. Uplift brave women in Zimbabwe who will chart new paths on behalf of our mothers, sisters, wives and daughters, who are so loving and caring. May their loving example continue to inspire. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Personal Spiritual Challenge:** How can you rearrange your schedule today to help a woman in need?

By Hermina Mugabe

*Zimbabwe Theological Seminary*

Gweru, Zimbabwe
Bible Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

Prayer: O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth. Please forgive us for our doubt, neglect, unbelief and our various sins. We thank you Merciful Father for your unconditional love, protection, and provisions, and for every good and perfect gift that comes from you. Most importantly, we thank you for Jesus Christ, our Lord. Almighty God, your love for women has been keenly demonstrated by having your Son come to earth through a woman. We pray on behalf of the women of the United States of America who are currently coping with an increase in gender-based violence, breast cancer, and gun violence. Women who live in one of the richest countries in the world and daily go without.

Lord, we ask that you will destroy the demonic spirits that are infiltrating our society to abuse our women and girls. Suppress abnormal cell growth in our bodies that causes cancer. Stop the escalation of gun violence on our streets, places of entertainment and in our schools.

Today we pray for an end to:

• The pervasive spread of HIV/AIDS among young and adult women.
• The exploitation of women and girls enslaved through human trafficking.
• Homelessness, incarceration and unemployment among women striving to build better lives.

Lord today is Resurrection Sunday, so we ask that you deliver every woman in the United States of America who has been victimized in her home, her school, or by the legal system. We ask that you heal the brokenhearted and set every captive woman free. Give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3). Vindicate your daughters, dear Lord, and let your glory rise from every traumatizing situation. It is in the all-powerful name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Personal Spiritual Challenge: As you celebrate the victory we have in Christ this Resurrection Sunday, how have you been inspired to make an impact for women suffering around the world?

By Antoinette W. Winslow
Salem Baptist Church
Brooklyn, N.Y.
116TH ANNUAL SESSION
Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention
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