Women’s History Month Special Edition

31 Prayers for Justice & Equality

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PRAYER
Women's History Month Special Edition

Women’s Empowerment Through Prayer

31 Prayers for Justice & Equality
CONTENTS

4 Social Justice
5 Australia
6 Canada
7 China
8 Congo
9 Ethiopia
10 Ghana
11 Human Trafficking
12 Guinea
13 Haiti
14 India
15 Italy, Jamaica
16 Kenya
17 Gender-based Violence
18 Liberia
19 Malawi, Mozambique
20 Nigeria
21 Philippines
22 Sierra Leone
23 HIV/AIDS
24 Somalia, South Africa
25 Sudan
26 Turkey
27 Uganda
28 USA
29 Ebola
30 Zambia
31 Zimbabwe

EVERY DAY COUNTS FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

“Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.” (Lamentations 3:48)

Every 15 seconds, a woman is physically battered by her partner. Every 2 minutes, a woman is sexually assaulted. More than 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not outlawed.

Week Four (22–28 March)
Give: Donate a financial gift online of $31, $531, $53, or $531 online at LottCarey.org or mail a check to Lott Carey, P.O. Box 48339, Washington, DC 20002.

Week Five (29–31 March)
Partner: Promote partnerships for gender equality through “friendraising.” And share a resource that will help promote Lott Carey’s work in Women’s Empowerment.

Mark your calendar:
W.I.S.E. Global Prayer Kickoff Celebration—Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 1 p.m. Register your support today at www.lottcarey.org/women-in-service. Conference call number 213-416-1560 (access code: 3665403#)

Use our hashtags on social media – #WISEWOMENPRAY. Share your support.

Copy Editor
Mina B. Pernex
Contributing Editors
Kayla L. Reid
Rev. Dawn M. Sanders
Editorial Assistant
Christopher Tucker
Published by Lott Carey
P.O. Box 48339
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-543-3200

Current and back issues of the Lott Carey Herald are available online at LottCarey.org

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley
Publisher & Editor
Washington, DC 20002.
I KNOW HOW TO PRAY FOR YOU BETTER

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

By Mrs. Debra G. Garner

This is the third year that Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere (W.I.S.E.) is designating March as a Month of Prayer.

Colossians 4:2 instructs us to “...devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” This scripture reminds us that we should never neglect the opportunity to pray about everything that concerns us.

Prayer is vital. Our prayers should be frequent and constant.

We are also reminded to be watchful. When we pray, we should also watch and listen for opportunities to be an answer to the prayers we pray. There is power in prayer, and we should be ready for the action God is leading us to take when we pray.

This scripture also reminds us to be thankful. We must thank God for grace and mercy as well as for what we are asking in prayer. How can we pray with present requests without being thankful for previous blessings?

During this time of intentional prayer, we have the privilege and opportunity to take everything to God in prayer. Women from around the world will be in devoted, watchful and thankful prayer for 31 days. As we pray these prayers and meditate daily, I urge you to also listen for what the Lord is leading you to do to show the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Take some of your prayer time just to listen to the still, quiet voice of the Lord. Take time to hear what the Lord is saying in response to our prayers.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus continues, “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.”

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

Mrs. Debra G. Garner
President
Women In Service Everywhere (W.I.S.E.)
Lott Carey
Social Justice

Job 31:13-23

March 1

Help us to receive justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You

“A mighty and Eternal God, Mother and Father of all Creation, we thank You for the gift and miracle of being Your chosen vessels for bringing forth new life. In motherhood, we experience Your grace and mercy, Your sovereignty and authority. We rejoice in Your love, knowing that we are made in Your image.

In the name of Jesus, we lift up women throughout the world, who have to endure the pain and suffering of violence, of injustice and of war upon their lives. In the name of Jesus, we ask You to enter and convert those whose hearts are so hardened that they cannot see You in the humanity of women. Touch those who are sworn to protect and to be on the side of justice.

Almighty God, comfort and meet – at their deepest level of despair – the mothers whose children have been slaughtered by the hands of gun violence, a lynching tree, a machete or inexplicable circumstances. Today we pray for the lives of our sisters around the world who seek refuge from crimes committed against them – and yet find no vindication. We pray for every woman and girl enslaved by the customs of their culture, treated as property, and sold as slaves.

Creator of every good and perfect gift, we lift up our sisters in the spirit of Ubuntu and confess our belief that we are our sisters’ keepers; we are because they are, and we are because You are. Help us to receive justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Help us to forgive and stay strong in Your Word. Help us to reach across the pain and suffering of generations past and toward each others’ pain and suffering across nations, ethnicities and faiths. As women and mothers empowered by Your Spirit, may we be the light of justice, peace and hope for now and generations yet unborn. May we declare by Your authority that all lives matter.

We claim the victory in Your Holy Name. Amen.”

Rev. Dr. Iva E. Carruthers
General Secretary
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Chicago, Illinois
“Lord, we thank You for this day. We thank You for the privilege of being Your representatives in this world. Teach us to how to act justly, show mercy and live in humility so that You will be glorified in us.

Today, we pray for the Aboriginal women of Australia who have endured generational discrimination and injustice. You know the great hardships they experience because of racial discrimination in their country. Bring healing to the mothers whose children were stolen because of the complexion of their skin. Restore families and then give them strength as they find creative ways to support their families. Unite them to address the inequities in housing, education, employment and health care. Convict the hearts of those in power so they will deal fairly with the Aboriginal people who suffer from years of oppression.

Protect women who are experiencing violence in their homes. Help them to understand that they are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

Provide adequate services so that they can escape the terror of their situation and provide safety for their children. Overturn the systems of injustice that torment victims until they remain silent. You are God who champions the issues of the least, the lonely and the left out (Luke 4:18-19).

Lord, demonstrate Your power on their behalf against every gender-based crime. Restore their hope and increase their faith. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Min. Wynesia Jackson
Eastern Star Church
Indianapolis, Indiana
Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You asking for Your mercy upon the women of this world. Please bless every one, and pour out Your grace and favor upon them. Open the eyes of the oppressors that they may see the unconscionable damage they are causing to the women of this world. Please help us all to see the sisters of this world as children of God to be cherished, loved, and respected.

O Lord, deliver the women of Canada from every evil spirit that attacks our sisters. Lord, drench every woman and female child with Your love and protect them by the blood of Jesus from all harm. Place true Christians who know Your Word in their lives that they may know the power of prayer and be able to apply it to their lives. Lord, we know that no weapon formed against these women shall prosper. We thank You right now for Your loving kindness and for hearing our prayers.

Today we lift up the women of Canada experiencing every form of assault, alcohol abuse, substance abuse and oppression. Heal them from the spirit of depression, and unify their families so they experience the support they need to succeed. We speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and for those who live their lives gripped by the spirit of poverty.

Lord God Almighty, please help all of us to support our sisters. Whether it is through prayer; donations of money, time, support; or just to listen to someone who needs to talk. Place us in the paths of these women to help meet their needs. Empower women of authority in Canada to stand up for those who are oppressed and abused. Touch the leaders of Canada to prioritize the plights of these women and create solutions for their betterment. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen, Amen, and Amen.”

Ms. Faye M. Brown
Ruth Fellowship Ministries
Plainfield, New Jersey
Humble those who would bring harm to innocent babies

Lord Most High, God of our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in trouble, draw nearer to the women of China. Most High God, rescue the women from a Communist regime that would subject them to forced abortions and force them to leave their daughters for dead. Humble under Your feet, O Mighty God, those who would bring harm to innocent babies. O God of Hosts, help the Chinese society and its government leaders to value all life as precious, especially the lives of women and girls. Hear our cry, O God, and bring about a swift deliverance in Jesus’ name!

God of our Strength, be with the factory girls who work up to 13 hours a day operating the assembly lines that produce the clothes, shoes, hats, handbags and computer parts sought after by Westerners. Protect them from all evil, be their fortress. Help them to know that You are the Good Shepherd and You have not forgotten them.

O God of Compassion, assure the single women that unmarried does not mean that they are ‘leftover women.’ Help them to reject all who would perpetuate these traps of the mind. Help them know that Your Word says they are fearfully and wonderfully made and they are not forsaken.

O Sovereign God, convert minds and hearts from Confucianism, Taoism, and even atheism. Help the unsaved come to know You as the Lord of Lords. O Holy God, bring an end to the victimization of women. Crush the enemies of Your will. Be exalted in China and among all the nations, for You are the Lord Almighty. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, to whom we give all the glory and honor, forever and ever. Amen.”

Dianne Jinwright
Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina
Most Holy and All Wise God, You are the one who sits high and looks low. You are the one who created the Heavens and the Earth. You made all things good and perfect in Thy sight. We have come today to pray for the women and girls of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is a country with power and full of resources such as cobalt, copper, tantalum, petroleum, diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin and uranium. Yet, Lord, violence and wars against Your precious daughters persist.

Women have hidden in shame unable to leave their homes due to the stigma of rape. We ask, in the mighty name of Jesus, for Your divine mercy for the women and girls of the Congo. We pray for healing, strength, determination and the will to live. Father, we pray against the sexual assaults that terrorize the women and girls, their families and communities. We lift up these women to overcome the physical and psychological traumas of rape and abuse. Bring healing in Jesus’ Name.

We pray for an end to the lack of food, for an end to deaths from preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, for an end to terminated pregnancies of rape victims. ‘O Lord our God, I called to You for help, and You healed me.’ (Psalm 30:2) Bring healing today, Lord, for every form of disempowerment perpetrated against our sisters.

We come against the demonic oppression of the enemy in the name of Jesus Christ and declare every woman to be set free! Lord, Your Word declares, ‘after You have suffered a little while, You would restore us.’ (1 Peter 5:10) So today we plead for the safety and the restoration of every woman and girl in the Congo. We pray that their faith would be strengthened through our prayers and their preservation would be a witness to the nations of Your glory.

Lord, we lift You up in order that women and girls around the world may be lifted unto You. It is in the matchless name of our Lord the Savior and soon coming king, Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer. Amen.”

Deacon Cynthia C. Bentley
Providence Baptist Church
Baltimore, Maryland
Almighty God, You are our loving Heavenly Father. We praise You for Your unmatched power and thank You for Your ever-flowing blessings. Your Word promises that You hear our prayers (1 John 5:14), so we lift to You in faith the concerns of our hearts for the women of Ethiopia, believing that You have already secured their victory.

Almighty God, You are a Deliverer (Psalm 50:15), so we ask that You deliver Ethiopian women from dire life circumstances caused by poverty, violence, inaccessibility to education, and devastating cultural practices. Father, You are a Healer (Exodus 15:26; Psalm 147:3), so we pray that You heal every woman whose body has been broken by violence or infected by disease. Reawaken every soul dulled by despair. Restore each woman who has experienced gender-based violence, gang rape and partner violence.

We further ask that You heal the land of Ethiopia (2 Chronicles 7:14) so that girls will no longer be forced into marriage or subjected to dangerous rituals like genital mutilation. Raise up advocates for our sisters so that violence and abuse will no longer be tolerated and offenders will be brought to justice. Strengthen our partners who labor faithfully in Ethiopia to rescue those trapped in prostitution and infected by HIV and AIDS.

O Lord, You are a Provider (Genesis 22:14), so we pray that You will provide for the women of Ethiopia the resources, opportunities, and support they need to live victoriously. Fill them with Your Holy Spirit that they may experience Your power in every area of their lives and boldly utilize their voices, minds, and abilities to build healthy, strong and fruitful families and communities.

We thank and praise You for what You are doing in Ethiopia. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Darchelle M. Garner
The People’s Community Baptist Church
Silver Spring, Maryland
Almighty God and Creator of all humankind, we boldly approach Your throne of grace to worship You and give thanks. We thank You, O Lord, for women everywhere who toil daily to pour into the lives of girls and boys who grow up to shape our communities and build our nations around the world. We especially thank You for the opportunity to intercede on behalf of our sisters in Ghana who need Your protection and deliverance as they cry out for justice. Comfort them, Lord, and assure them that You are in their midst by raising up warriors who will defend them and not rest until all forms of economic, cultural and social discrimination against them has ended.

We pray for change in attitudes that will end the culture of discrimination and gender-based violence that affects the right to life, health, security, mobility, political participation, education and gainful employment. We pray that those changes in attitudes begin now so that social institutions and the women and girls of Ghana have the opportunity to achieve the fullest extent of equality. We pray for change.

We pray with the First Lady of Ghana and other organizations that advocate for the women and girls who continue to be the most vulnerable population in Ghana – particularly as violence against them remains one of the biggest barriers to achieving gender equality. And now, Father, we ask that You open the eyes of the world that others may also see the crimes that are committed against the women and girls of Ghana. Empower those who have the heart to help and bring about their deliverance (Isaiah 49:25). Forgive our transgressions in neglecting their cries for help and grant our sisters comfort, protection and peace.

We thank You God for Your eternal hope through Your son, Jesus the Christ, for it is in His precious name that we give thanks and offer this prayer. Amen.”

Deborah Miller Wilson
St. Paul Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina
Human Trafficking

Isaiah 42:1-7

March 8

We pray that our sisters would find their salvation in You

most loving Father, most gracious Mother, we come as Your daughters and sons interceding for millions of our sisters ensnared by the throes of human trafficking.

We pray for deliverance – deliverance from the shackles of poverty and oppression that seize on prostitution as a ticket for desperately needed financial security. We pray for deliverance from the emotional shackles of fear and shame that render so many young women vulnerable to exploitation. We pray for deliverance from the spiritual shackles of greed and corruption that rob them of their humanity. God, we pray that our sisters would find their salvation in You. We pray that they will lay hold of Your promises of a life of abundance in You and claim Your plans to give them hope and a future.

God, we pray for the traffickers—that they would be identified, arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and along the way come to a place of Godly repentance as they seek forgiveness and enter into a relationship with You.

We pray likewise for the sex buyers who drive the demand for women who are trafficked. We pray that You would also convict them in their spirits—by any means necessary—to seek counseling and deliverance from the forces that drive their demand in order that they and their families might experience the full power of redemption in Christ.

Finally, God, we pray for governments and systems of justice and each of us as we continue to raise awareness about this injustice and are stirred to take action. May we not grow weary in well doing, but persevere in the confidence inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah. ‘... if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always.’ Amen.”

Rev. Dr. Gloria White-Hammond
Pastor
Bethel AME Church
Boston, Massachusetts
Father God, we pray for the Guinean women and girls. We do not know what to do. The deadly Ebola virus has taken captive their country. Help, Lord!

An outbreak of Ebola has never been so bad in Africa before. There are no vaccines for prevention, nor cures. Bodies of dead women and loved ones are carried away daily. Children are orphaned; women are widowed, rejected and stigmatized. Where this is no room in the Ebola treatment centers, entire villages are quarantined. Medical workers are dying or abandoning clinics in fear, while patients who contract malaria or typhoid go untreated. Help, Lord!

Guinean women are afraid. They see food shortages and the high cost of rice, but they have little income. Companies have closed. Schools, from elementary to university, are closed. Children are idle and falling behind in their studies. Teen pregnancies are rising, and there is job insecurity throughout the country.

We pray that communities will support the orphans, vulnerable girls, widows, and those healed from Ebola without rejection. We pray for food security, economic access to sufficient food, and economic stability in West Africa. We pray for the women and girls who are victims of Ebola and their families in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali and Nigeria. We pray that vaccines will be produced for present and future use. We pray that the current epidemic will be controlled and that there will be no more new cases.

We come with confidence, Lord, in You – just as the woman who suffered years of bleeding – knowing if we touch the hem of Your robe in a prayer of faith, the Guinean women and girls will receive healing. We know You hear us. We have confidence in You.

Almighty God, we ask Your will for the Guinean women. Lord, just a Word from You heals families. Jehovah Rapha, healing, is Your name. Speak, El Shaddai, for You are sufficient, God Almighty. Speak, Jehovah Jireh, the provider, that all the Guinean women may know the source. Speak, Lord Jesus Christ, for You are Immanuel, God with us.

Healing from Ebola, sufficient food, and economic stability is not enough. Your presence is needed for the assurance of salvation the Gospel offers. For what does it benefit the Guinean women and girls if they gain the whole world (food, health, education) and lose their souls? Amen.”

Rev. Gwendolyn Traore
Pinn Memorial Baptist Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc.
Father, when we find ourselves at the end of our rope only to discover there is no knot on the end, help us to cling to Your promises. When we discover that all hope is gone, help us to take one last look at You. Help us commit ourselves entirely into your hands.

Lord, may the struggle endured by women and girls in Haiti because of their gender be broken. Let those who seek to manipulate events to subjugate our women be stopped. If You don’t help, we will not be helped. If you do not deliver us, we will not be delivered.

I pray for women and girls in Haiti to be wholly yielded to Your will and purpose. The women are like a piece of wood on a river whose speed and direction cannot controlled. Yet we know that you have this river in Your hands. Remember Your daughters when they are drifting and no one is there. Remember Your daughters when they have been turned away from hope. Help them trust that You will do right by them.

Give them the assurance that when You are their only hope, that is sufficient. Only Your will and glory matter. Bring them out of the dust and humiliation suffered in the past. Heal their minds from the torment of abuse and the death of loved ones who were lost in the earthquake. Remember the orphans, the rejected, and the widows. To that end we dedicate ourselves. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Jeannette Ador
Grace International Ministries
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
“While on the cross, my Lord, You said, ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’ As a young girl, I too echoed these words. My pain could nowhere be near what you suffered for us, for me, a sinner. Yet, I grew up with this pain, the guilt of being a bad girl. I was told by my mother, ‘You are a beautiful child. It is unfortunate. I shall try and keep you safe.’ But I was not safe, often abused by men young and old. I lived with the guilt of being beautiful and that was bad.

Things changed. I grew old enough to take care of myself. I married, had children of my own, but the damage had been done. I was and still am an over-protective mother, a suspicious wife, a person who blames herself for every wrong thing that happens to me or mine.

How many young girls in my country say these words to themselves and to You each day and each dark and lonely night?

For here we cannot even talk openly to anyone of the pain and terror some, such as us, undergo. We are just one of those anonymous women whose names are not revealed, who are faceless. This anonymity and facelessness make us feel even more guilt and shame. We live with this ugliness that eventually destroys us. We bury this deep within ourselves and hide our insecurities and guilt from everyone, because that is what our society teaches us. It’s dirty, it’s not to be talked about. You’ll get over it. But my Lord, my Lord, it doesn’t ever go away.

My prayer to You today, My Lord and Saviour, is to make our young women raise their voices against oppression and abuse. Give them Your support and the strength to fight against those who make every attempt to destroy them. Let every troubled Indian woman take refuge in the words of the Scriptures. Let us say to ourselves: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. (Psalm 34:17-18)

Especially we pray for our sisters who are crushed in mind, body and spirit. Grant them the courage to mend their lives, pick up the threads of their broken lives and careers, so that they are able to move forward.

Lord, we realize that only You can give such courage and strength. O Lord, let them taste and see that the Lord is good, and give them the happiness of those who trust in You. In Jesus Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.”

Mrs. D. A. Tressler
Chairperson and Director
Somerville School
New Delhi, India
Italy: Matthew 9:22
March 12

Let their cries puncture deaf ears

“My dear Lord, I thank You for the women I know – mothers, sisters and friends who taught me how to take care of others. I thank You because in spite of the violence they suffer every day, women are still able to see and help those in need. I pray that You will instill courage in the lives of the women who are victims of abuses so that they can rise up against injustice. Let their cries puncture deaf ears and reach the sleeping souls of all the people who see the violence happening in front of their faces but prefer to remain in silence.

Today, my Lord, I pray for the women of my country who suffer because of the humiliation they receive in their workplaces or at home. I pray for those who are obliged to sell themselves, for those who have married violent men who hurt them in the body and in the mind, for all the women who are alone or feel lost and abandoned.

Oh Lord, give them the bravery to rise up and stop bearing those hurts. Give us strength to support them. In Your endless grace, encourage us as we help to heal their wounds and prevent more victims from this violence. Let us be Your loving hands that caress victims of violence and pain. I dream of a world where women can walk free and safe in the streets without fear of men. Please, Lord, make this dream come true; and bless our lives every day. Amen.”

Alessia Melillo
Secretary at the Education Service
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
Member, Roma Centocelle Baptist Church

Jamaica: Zephaniah 3:17-20
March 13

By His power every woman can be set free

“Abba Father, we come humbly asking You to hear our prayer as we claim victory for women and girls that face tremendous violence. We know that You are a sovereign God, and You are able to do unimaginable things. Lord, today we lift up every woman and girl in Jamaica who is in crisis and needs Your deliverance. We ask that You would deliver them from prostitution as the means to feed their families. We ask that the abuse of their bodies no longer be the only way to earn income in an economy where women suffer from a lack of dignified work and opportunities.

We ask that You empower every Christian in the community to stand in the gap for our sisters, so they know that their Redeemer is Christ and by His power every captive woman can be set free. We ask that You provide resources for women seeking an education to provide for their family, so that illiteracy would not diminish their sense of worth.

God, we know You take great delight in Your people and rejoice over them. So today we ask that You restore to them everything that has been taken away. Comfort those who seek refuge (Psalm 91:1-2). Build up the esteem of women and girls who have grown weary. Help them to seek You in the midst of their despair, in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.”

Takeahia Minter
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Centreville, Virginia
Our Heavenly Father, God our Provider, we come before You and thank You for always being there for us. God, through Your Son Jesus Christ, You promised never to forsake us.

We pray for the very many vulnerable women in Kenya who face acute suffering on a daily basis because of traditions, such as wife inheritance, female genital mutilation, and domestic violence. We pray that the resilient women of Kenya remain strong in Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer after their husband’s death or desertion. We pray that their faith remains unshaken and that they continue working for Christ our Lord.

We pray for our women who are unable to afford an education, housing, medical intervention and the quest for justice in a land bruised by corruption, poverty, historical injustices and nepotism. We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose salvation is our mainstay, will provide.

We pray that our arid and semi-arid lands receive adequate rain to support the populations that live on them. We pray that the famines, droughts, and hardships that our women are exposed to will one day be a thing of the past.

Lastly we pray that violence against women end and our Lord blesses our women so that they trust and hope for a better tomorrow. We pray that our women be accepted into leadership positions so that they can reach a section of the population that has suffered at the hands of the law, mismanagement, corruption and lack of access to essential services.

We pray and believe, God our Father, that You will listen to us and manifest that You are the father of the orphans and the husband to the widows as you say in Your Word. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Rabecca Mukonyo Hesborn
Africa Brotherhood Church
Isunguluni, Kenya
Heavenly Father, today we are praying for all women who are suffering from gender-based violence and domestic violence within our country and around the world. In the midst of their distressing circumstances, give them courage to seek help to safely escape the torment of their abusers. Give Your power to the powerless. May Your perfect love drive out fear and anxiety. Strengthen them to face their future with faith in You. We stand with them in prayer and in seeking justice, on earth as it is in heaven, for those criminally responsible for their pain.

Today we pray for emotional, physical and spiritual healing for all women victimized by gender-based violence of any kind, including those who have been abducted, raped, trafficked into forced prostitution, starved, beaten, stabbed, drowned, stoned, burned alive or gunned down.

We pray for emotional, physical and spiritual healing for all domestic violence victims, survivors and their children affected by emotional, verbal or physical abuse. We commit to raising greater awareness about the prevalence of gender-based violence and domestic violence through our network of ministries.

We seek justice for all victims and survivors. We pray that all perpetrators of abuse are reported, arrested, and prosecuted to serve maximum penalties for their crimes. Almighty God, we intercede for the souls of the abusers. May their hearts be turned from their wicked ways to repent of their sins and to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. May they walk a redemptive path and encourage other abusers to do the same. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.”

Rev. Dr. Unnia L. Pettus
Independent Church of God
Washington, D.C.
We believe, in the name of Jesus, that Liberia is healed

“Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus, we confess Your Word concerning healing. As we do this, we believe and say that Your Word will not return to You void, but will accomplish what it says it will. Therefore, we believe, in the name of Jesus, that Liberia is healed, according to 1 Peter 2:24. It is written in Your word that Jesus Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. Therefore, with great boldness and confidence we say on the authority of the written Word that the land of Liberia is redeemed from the curse of sickness.

Father, we reverence and worship You. We have the assurance of Your word that the angel of the Lord encamps around about the women and children of Liberia, as they carry out their roles as mothers, caregivers and homemakers in these trying times, and delivers them from every evil work. May no evil befall them, no plague or calamity come near their dwelling. (Psalm 91:10-11)

Father, we pray for strength for our sisters. Give them the grace to cast all of their cares and burdens upon You for You, Lord, are the provider of all of our needs. We pray that You make provisions for those who lack. Restore the women who have been raped or lost daughters at the hands of rapists. Bring every perpetrator to justice.

Father, let the women of Liberia come to know our Lord Jesus and live for Him. Let their witness be bold and pierce the darkness with Your light. Bring healing to those who struggle in their marriages which threatens the break-up of families. Restore our country. We thank You, Lord, for answering our prayers. In the name of Jesus, Amen.”

Thelma Dahn-Debrah
Pure Fire Miracles Ministries
Brewerville, Liberia
Malawi: Jeremiah 17:14-17

March 17

Raise up an army for women’s rights

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing us to come before You with concerns for the women of Malawi. Lord, we acknowledge You as our creator and the creator of our sisters in Malawi. And because You created them, You own their bodies, their minds and their souls. So we ask that the Creator would take back what the enemy has stolen – their bodies, their peace of mind, their equal rights, their health and their voice. O God, You promised to be their refuge in the day of disaster, and today our sisters in Malawi need You (Jeremiah 17:17). Lord, You are a very present help in a time of trouble (Psalm 46). Break through for the women of Malawi.

We pray that every chain of oppression be broken so the next generation of women will live free and equal. Protect them from gender-based violence. Hide them from anyone who would abduct their girls, force them into childhood marriages, and steal them from their families as victims of sex-trafficking. Raise up an army that will fight for women’s rights in Malawi. Give them the economic security they need to feed their families, shelter their children, and protect their daughters from predators.

God, we pray for the oppressors and the lawmakers that stand in the way of freedom for Malawi women. We pray for anyone wanting to bring harm to the women through sexual abuse, rape, gender-based violence or infectious disease. Give them Your peace that surpasses all understanding, even in the midst of injustice and inhumane treatment. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.”

Rosette T. Graham
2nd Vice President, Women In Service Everywhere
Lott Carey
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Mozambique: 2 Timothy 4:18

March 18

Give us the spirit of forgiveness . . .

“Lord Jehovah, we the women of Mozambique need You. We call on You the Most High God to intervene for those women who suffer domestic violence at the hands of the strong. We pray that our husbands will treat us as human beings. We pray for our homes to have peace and mutual understanding. We pray for our economic freedom and power. We ask God to give us abundant grace and strength to endure the pain caused by violence. We ask God to give us the spirit of forgiveness.

Help every hurting woman in our nation call upon Your name for mercy. Give every woman a voice for her rights and power over every force that seeks to destroy us. Rescue the women who have been stolen away from their homes. Return every daughter safe to her homeland. Protect the women who are forced by the law to marry their rapist. Uphold the human rights of every survivor. Give every woman and girl her dignity to live free from every abuse. We cry out to You in Jesus’ name. Heal our country, deliver our daughters, restore our sisters, and protect the mothers of Mozambique! Amen.”

Elidia Alberto Pingo
First Baptist Church of Beira
Central Region, Mozambique
“Gracious and Merciful God, You are our refuge and our fortress. It is in You that we put our trust. We come before You to lift up our sisters, the women and girls in Nigeria. You alone know fully the burdens that they bear. You know the evil that is encamped around them and the dangers that they face. We ask, Lord, that You would encamp Your angels around them as they go about their daily activities. Restore the families that have been raped and murdered in the north. Prosecute every terrorist who has stolen young girls from their boarding school and those who used our precious sisters as suicide bombers. Heal every mother living this daily nightmare of the loss of their daughters.

Where there is danger Lord, we ask that You would protect them. Where there is uncertainty, we pray, O Lord, that You would give them assurance that You are their dwelling place. We bind the hand of the enemy, in the name of Jesus, and we pray that You would show Yourself mighty in every situation that torments women and girls in Nigeria. We pray that every stronghold would be broken, that every evil scheme would be defeated (Psalm 41:2).

Lord, grant strength to these women and girls who are living in the midst of some of the greatest atrocities their nation, and, indeed the world, has ever seen. Give them wisdom and insight about how to be peacemakers and change agents in a nation that is crying out to be delivered from deplorable acts of violence and evil. Let godly courage take hold of them so that they can speak Your truth and not be afraid of the terror that has taken up residence in their land. Fortify their souls, O God, that they might be able to endure the hardships that have been thrust upon them by those who mean them harm (Job 5:19). In spite of all that they are going through, bless them beyond measure and let Your abiding love sustain them both day and night (Psalm 121:3-6). In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.”

Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Alexandria, Virginia
In the name of our Almighty God, my praises and thanksgiving for His saving power in my life and the lives of many Filipino women who have been delivered from the evil hands of terrorists.

Serving the Lord in the area where the bulwarks of terrorists are rampant, my husband who is a pastor, was not spared. Before my very eyes he was abducted by these heartless people. Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayers (Psalm 66:30). After two days, my husband managed to escape and found his way back home safely. Father, we plead that You give wisdom to all the people in authority to fight against these people embracing humanistic and godless ideology.

We lift our prayers on behalf of the suffering women all over the world. We seek strength and comfort for the women whose husbands were missing, killed and abducted by these evil oppressors.

We pray for redemption and protection from becoming victims of these terrorist activities. We pray that women will remain strong in their faith and cling to God as their stronghold. And we pray for the women who have suffered from the typhoons and have been displaced and today go without shelter.

Almighty God, everything is naked in thine eyes. Raise these women who are brought low by painful experiences in life, such as disasters, violence and injustices. We thank You for Your hopeful promise that You shall redeem their souls from deceit and violence, and precious shall their blood be in Your sight. Ang imong Balaan nga Ngalan among ipataas sa wala'y kahangturan. Amen." (Translation: Your holy name we magnify forever and ever. Amen.)

Mrs. Arlene Daniel
Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Maasim, Sarangani Province
Mindanao, Philippines
God our Father, we praise Your name for You alone are Sovereign. You control the heavens and the earth and spoke our surroundings into existence. Today we pray for our sisters in Sierra Leone. We pray for a quick end to the Ebola crisis. We pray for comfort for all those who have lost loved ones. We especially pray for the children who are now without mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. We pray for that nation’s healing.

Lord, we pray that women and girls will have greater access to education. Increase female literacy rates that will open doors for their empowerment. We pray that our sisters will be able to gain economic independence to better support their families. We pray for a change in the political climate that results in greater representation of women in the seat of government and in positions of power.

Today we pray for an end to societal discrimination and violence against women. Your word declares You will not forget the needy, nor allow the hope of the afflicted to perish (Psalm 9:18). Lord, touch those who have suffered female genital mutilation, child abuse, human trafficking, and forced child labor. We lift this petition up to You, Father, for the prayers of the righteous avail much (James 5:16). We thank You for hearing our prayer. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Cynthia Dumizo
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina
"Dear Creator God, blessings and honor, glory and power to You who sits high and looks low. We come to You in the name of Jesus, who is the Tree of Life to all who are in need of hope and healing.

At this time we are lifting up women around the world who are living under the shadow of HIV/AIDS, and the disparities that surround them. We thank You for the hands and hearts that You have anointed with the Balm of Gilead, those whom You have prepared to touch the pain and shame of those who are infected and affected by this deadly disease.

Today we pray for those suffering from the lack of resources, compassion and economic security. We pray for those who face gender bias, stigma and discrimination. We pray for our sisters who are victims of disparities in treatment, suffer violence, and live daily without a cure from HIV/AIDS.

Creator God, we pray that You will raise up the Deborahs who will connect hearts in the spirit and become the voices of prayer for the voiceless women who are unable to cry out because of the injustices associated with HIV/AIDS. We celebrate that You are the Great Physician, The Lord in Zion, and by the stripes of Your Son Jesus on Calvary, our sisters shall be healed from this disease. So now we await the manifestation. In Jesus’ name. Amen."

Rev. Willnette “Cookie” James
Founder
Tree of Life International, Inc.
Williamsburg, Virginia
Somalia: Jeremiah 30:8-10
March 23

We cry out for protection

“Lord, we pray for the women in Somalia, who are victims of rape. In 2 Samuel 13:14, Amnon raped Tamar. Rape was wicked then, rape is wicked now. Lord, just like you dealt with Amnon, we know that you are going to deal with the perpetrators in Somalia. In Genesis 34:2, Shechem raped Dinah. When Dinah’s brothers heard that their sister had been raped, they were furious. Lord, we are furious about what is happening to our sisters in Somalia. Today we speak up on their behalf (Judges 19:30). Lord, we cry out for their protection from every evil attack. Raise up people to fight for them and bring justice.

We pray for healing for the women and girls of Somalia who have been raped and sexually abused. We pray for those that have contracted sexually transmitted infections as a result. We pray for the survivors of rape who fear stigma and retaliation. Give them peace. We pray for the women and girls that are being slapped and beaten. Bring them to safety, and rescue them from danger. We pray that the women will not be discouraged from seeking justice. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

Debbie Barr-Wright
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Hackensack, New Jersey

--

South Africa: Psalm 54:1-4
March 24

Restore their dignity and self-worth

“O ur dear Heavenly Father, in the precious name and the wonder-working power of the blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we claim victory over the women and little girls, who suffer every form of violence throughout this world. We thank You that “because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Almighty God, You reign with power and might. Let Your mighty hand be upon every victim, and protect them from any evil atrocities perpetrated against them. Bring healing for the women and girls who have been victimized by gender-based and politically motivated violence. We pray for those who have been kidnapped and kept as sex slaves, trafficked to other countries around the globe to be sold for cheap labour, fatally stabbed, strangled and gunned down in the name of profit or love.

Lord, we ask that You offer comfort and strength to all women who are infected and affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Let them find refuge under Your wings and the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). Bring healing and restoration for rape and sexual abuse victims.

Lord, we pray that You rise up as the mighty warrior and fight for the cause of all women. Restore back to the victims of rape and sexual abuse their dignity, identity, self-worth, confidence and self-esteem. We thank You, for embracing them with loving arms and for being their pillar of strength. We give You honour and glory and adoration, in the name of Jesus. Amen!”

Dudu Mabaso
Kagiso Baptist Church
Pretoria, South Africa
Eternal God, our Heavenly Father we come believing Your word in Mark 11:24 which reads *that whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Father, we stretch our hands to You for the women and girls in Sudan. We pray that the leadership in Sudan will be sensitive to the human rights of all people, especially to the rights of the women of their country. Convict them to change laws that are outdated and harmful to women. Laws that are repressive and misused by those in authority.

We pray that the violence inflicted upon women and girls by rival clans would cease, especially in the poorest regions of the country, like Karamoja. That the National Intelligence forces would stop their unwarranted beatings, rapes, and lashings of women. We pray that women and young girls would not have to live with the shame and humiliation of such violations. Lord, we pray that the outcry of Your people would be heard, and that the laws that oppress Your daughters will be reformed. We pray for justice for every victim.

Let Your word go forth in Sudan so that the strongholds of Satan will be broken. Let Your Word take root in that nation. Father God, we praise Your holy name and ask that Your grace and mercy be with the women of Sudan. We thank You for hearing and answering our prayer. You are our God, our provider, our deliverer, our sustainer and our healer. We pray believing that Your will prevails in the lives of the destitute and the broken. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Min. Diann M. Beard
Tidewater Baptist Women Missionary & E. C.
Olive Branch Baptist Church
Portsmouth, Virginia
Deer Heavenly Father, we give all honor, praise and glory to You because You are worthy. We pray that You will extend Your mighty hand of mercy upon the women in Turkey, and that the abuses they suffer will be eliminated.

We ask that the Istanbul Convention dedicated to preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence will have a positive impact upon the people. We pray that the women no longer feel their only way out of their circumstances is suicide. We pray that the women will learn of You and Your love and will give their lives to You.

Convict every heart that condones violence against women, such as honor killings and rape. Protect the women and children who are abused for profit and forced to sell their bodies. Rescue those who are sold into sex trafficking through the Internet, and those stolen from their families under the false promise of a better life. Overturn the laws that force girls as young as 14 into child marriage and force rape victims to marry their rapist. Remove every government official that stands in the way of the constitutional rights of women and girls in Turkey, in Jesus’ name!

Father God, we thank You for Your blessings, seen and unseen. We know that without You, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Bring a spiritual revival to our prayer lives as we lift up the needs of our sisters. Pour out Your power upon Your daughters in Turkey and deliver them from their despair. Thank You for Your love, protection, grace and mercy. Help us never to forget the pain of our sisters. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Jacqueline Williamson
Trinity Baptist Church
Columbus, Ohio
Almighty God, our Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, we bow down to You in humble submission, to thank You for all of life. Thank You, Father God, for every part of the journey upon which our feet must tread and Your love, goodness and mercy that accompanies each step we take.

We pray restoration and recovery for the women of Uganda, who are shamefully affected by the ravages of poverty, gender-based injustices, and sexual violence that conflict with their economic, physical, psychological, and spiritual sense of well-being. We pray for open doors of healing by the hands of government, seeking to foster protection and provision. We have the blessed assurance, O God, that You have all power to heal every wounded spirit and to make whole every broken heart.

Today we lift up those who labor in the fields under extremely poor conditions, lacking adequate means to support their families. We pray for those who lack sufficient housing, those who lack adequate medical care, especially maternal medical care to support the high incidence of pregnancy and childbirth that frequently ends in death.

O Lord, please hear our prayer and open our ears, our eyes, our hearts and our hands to help our sisters in Uganda. Let them proclaim in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:37). We thank You for restoring the lives of women who live daily without hope. Today we declare victory for the women of Uganda through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Rev. Janet P. Caldwell
First Baptist Church
North Brentwood, Maryland
Our Father who art in heaven, Holy is Your name. Thank You for Your love, kindness, and compassion. Thank You for making a difference in our lives. Thank You for Jesus, who lived, suffered, and died that we might have the right to eternal life. Thank You for raising Him up with all power in His hands so that we might have abundant life. Forgive us of our sins and create in us a clean heart so that we may serve You and Your people.

Today, we come humbly before You on behalf of the women of the United States. Wonderful Counselor, please comfort women who weep for their children who have been killed due to injustice. Mighty God please strengthen women who care for the elderly and their sick loved ones. Prince of Peace, please bless women who are in crisis from stressful situations at home or at work.

We pray that the power of economic and educational inequality, which creates poverty among women, be broken. We pray against every form of gender-related violence, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Thank You, Lord, for people who have stepped out in faith and are standing on Your Word to help women everywhere. Bless them with new hope that their labor is not in vain and their efforts are transforming lives.

Everlasting Father, walk with us, talk with us, calm our fears and remind us that we belong to You. We cry out today for the women living in one of the richest nations, the United States, who go without the basic necessities, such as food, safety and shelter.

Look down on us, O God, and see the needs of our sisters (Lamentations 3:50-51), and deliver them out of despair. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Debra G. Garner
President
Women in Service Everywhere
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina
Jesus, Our Great Physician, the people of West Africa are still being affected and infected by the Ebola virus. Your people in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Malawi are in crisis and are suffering greatly.

Today we pray for the women and girls who are the most vulnerable. They are the health care providers; the caretakers for their family, friends and neighbors; and the ones who wash the bodies of the dead. These women and girls are on the front lines and at a higher risk of catching the virus. They live daily with the potential loss of their own lives. And given their loving and nurturing nature, these women feel deeply the loss of their husbands, children, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, friends, and their community. Bring healing, Lord. The pain of their loss is great!

O God, our sisters need Your healing. We pray for the eradication of the Ebola virus and the elimination of fear among those in affected areas. Comfort the women who live with the loss of loved ones, and bring healing to their broken hearts (Isaiah 61:2-3). Heal the trauma endured by our sisters in West Africa.

Today we pray for You to increase the sensitivity of others to the plight of our sisters, especially those living in rural areas who go without financial support, food, and proper medical attention. Send helpers who have a willingness to continually come alongside to partner with them in life and in the struggle.

Thank You, O God, for hearing and answering our prayers. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
Pastor
Ray of Hope Christian Church
Decatur, Georgia
Father God, as we begin our day, we turn our thoughts to the country of Zambia and ask for Your help. We plead the blood of Jesus over the women and girls of Zambia and the challenges facing them each day. We pray that the evils will be eradicated and that traditional practices that are harmful to them will cease.

God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). In this time of need, we pray for a hedge around these women and young girls to protect them from the malicious violence that is forced upon them. Cover them with Your mighty hand and shower down Your love and mercy. Keep them safe from all those who lack compassion and understanding as to the plight of their existence. We claim the victory of God’s protection over the lives of these women and girls. No weapon formed against them shall prosper, and every tongue which rises up against them in judgment shall be condemned. We pray for all who seek to bring about change and who advocate to empower the helpless.

Deliver every woman who continues to be marginalized by laws at all levels of decision-making and legal rights. We pray for women and girls who are subjected to gender-based violence and who experience public harassment and abuse. We bring to the front women and girls who continue to suffer from poor nutritional status and diseases related to malnutrition and are more vulnerable to poverty, HIV and AIDS.

God, we pray that You will reveal the injustices of all who continue to walk in darkness. Reveal the love of Christ to those who persecute and abuse the women and girls of Zambia. We intercede and ask God to defend, deliver, cover, preserve and watch over these women and young girls. It is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen!

Rev. Jacquelyn Barksdale Jones
Trinity Baptist Church
Danville, Virginia
A mighty God, how great and wonderful is thy name. We bow before You as women of Zimbabwe seeking Your protection, guidance and comfort in this country where gender is the criterion for judgment. Empower us to stand for our rights as human beings created in Your own image (Genesis 1:26-28). Help us discover what You want us to be, and not what the patriarchal system in Africa demands us to be.

We ask for protection of women around the world who are victims of any form of violence. Lord, help girl children who are victims of rape. Judge the rapist and all perpetrators of rape. Almighty, in the name of Christ we ask You to help us as women to fight for justice and the cause of women: to bring justice against laws, traditions and customs – such as forced marriage and widow inheritance – that dehumanize women.

We ask for help to fight maternal mortality and poverty. A lot of women in Zimbabwe still do not give birth at health facilities. They cannot afford the user fee charged by the hospitals and clinics. We pray that the government will provide free health care facilities to women who are least able to support themselves.

We pray that churches stop resisting the idea of people getting treatment at health care centers. There are churches in my area that despise vaccination, family planning and delivering babies at health care centers. This negatively affects women’s health.

Because of poverty, we are victims of many diseases such as malaria, cervical and breast cancer, Ebola and HIV and AIDS. Diseases like diarrhea and typhoid are due to poor sanitation and poor supply of clean water. Improve our economy for the sake of our children.

Help us find refuge and comfort in You. Thank You for protecting us throughout the days of our lives. Continue to guide us in the paths of righteousness for Your name’s sake. Amen.”

Henerieta Mgovo
Pastor, Monomatapa Baptist Church
Harare, Zimbabwe
W.I.S.E. GLOBAL PRAYER FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

JOIN US!

KICKOFF CELEBRATION
CONFERENCE CALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015 – 1 P.M.

To Register: www.lottcarey.org/women-in-service