

SPRING 2019

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LOTT CAREY HERALD

7th ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

31
DAYS OF
PRAYER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

Women's Rights Creating Global Headlines

A Quiet Revolution: More Women Seek Divorces in Conservative West Africa

Frustrated by their husbands' inability to earn a living, and in a society where basic views on relationships have changed, women are asserting more control over their marriages

Source: The New York Times

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/06/world/africa/niger-divorce-women.html>

A Class of Their Own

The new women in the U.S. Congress claim their space

Source: The Washington Post

Link: https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/politics/women-congress-2019/?utm_term=.7afe025ea1bf

All Efforts Needed to Stop Gender-based Violence

Samira Bawumia, wife of the Ghanaian Vice President, speaking out

Source: Ghana News Agency

Link: <https://www.newsghana.com.gh/all-efforts-needed-to-stop-gender-based-violence/>

To Tackle Domestic Violence, Ukraine looks to UNFPA's Mobile Assistance Teams

UNFPA—the United Nations Population Fund—is a sexual and reproductive health agency

Source: UNFPA

Link: <https://www.unfpa.org/news/tackle-domestic-violence-ukraine-looks-unfpa-mobile-assistance-teams>

Latin America Lagging on Women's Rights

Source: EURACTIV, London, United Kingdom

Link: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/latin-america-lagging-behind-on-womens-rights/>

Cover Photo: iStock

Shedding Light on Forced Child Pregnancy and Motherhood in Latin America

Source: Inter Press Service, Rome, Italy

Link: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/01/shedding-light-forced-child-pregnancy-motherhood-latin-america/>

Tunisian Women March for Same Inheritance Rights as Men

Source: Arab News, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Link: <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1263501/middle-east>

Russian Women Fight for Their Rights: You Should Too

Source: Medium, San Francisco, California

Link: <https://medium.com/russias-war-on-domestic-violence/russian-women-fight-for-their-rights-you-should-too-9edbd4f4c120>

Palestinian Designer Seeks to Empower Women

Yasmeen Mjalli, 22, grew up in America and sees her BabyFist fashion label clothes helping to create a community for Palestinian women facing unwelcome male attention in public

Source: The Times of Israel

Link: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-designer-seeks-to-empower-women/>

Situation of Women is Worse in Indian Prisons

Source: Afternoon Voice, Mumbai, India

Link: <https://www.afternoonvoice.com/situation-of-women-is-worse-in-indian-prisons-activists-ask-for-improvement.html>

7th Annual Kickoff Service 31 Days of Prayer

1 p.m. ET, Saturday
February 23, 2019

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Prayer Warriors Continue Global Fight for Fairness, Safety, and Freedom from Violence

‘... there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’—Galatians 3:28

By Carol W. Mohamed

Although the Scriptures teach equality, gender equality is not yet a reality. Fervent, intercessory prayer is still required.

Lott Carey’s Women in Service Everywhere (WISE) marks the 7th Anniversary of 31 Days of Prayer for Women’s Empowerment this year, a global effort that includes prayer, organizing, and action. The phrase “women’s empowerment” is not to be confused with female superiority. To the contrary, we are praying, believing, and advocating for women around the world to experience fairness, equality, and safety.

This special edition of the *Lott Carey Herald* is a devotional prayer guide that will focus on a country or a woman’s issue



Carol W. Mohamed

for 31 days. WISE holds this worldwide prayer effort in March, Women’s History Month. We ask you to join us daily on our 6 a.m. ET prayer call, March 1-31, 2019. (Dial-in: 712-770-4010; Access Code: 172051.) Use this prayer guide throughout the year for projects, ministries, devotions, and any occasions celebrating women’s empowerment.

Thank you, prayer warriors, as we again unite and follow the Lord’s command in Ephesians 6:11-12: “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age.”

Carol W. Mohamed is President of Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere (WISE).

Unite, Connect, Pray: Keys to Successfully Combat Gender Bias and Violence

‘Let’s celebrate Women’s History Month praying on one accord, believing God’s Word’

By Angelita Clifton, D.Min.

Since 2004, I have been blessed to participate in more missions immersions than I can count—in India, Italy, Ghana, Greece, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Gender inequity and related topics were common threads in every conversation in every country.

Since the beginning of time women have been oppressed, repressed, and suppressed because of issues fueled by gender inequity. Yet, over the past seven years, God’s Word continues to ring clear—“See, I am doing a new thing.”

Our Lord brings women together like the Daughters of Zelophehad in the Book of Numbers. Standing together, these young women protest at the right time, in the right place, and for the right reason.

Petitioning Moses, Eleazar, and the Tribal Chieftains, these young women question culture and custom by presenting their case to the community while challenging the status quo. Their request is simple: “Give us our inheritance.” Chapter 27 unfolds with Moses bringing their case before the Lord. And the Lord declares these young women are right. They will not be denied their inheritance because of their gender.



Angelita Clifton

My sisters, if you have never heard of Joseph’s great-great-great-granddaughters—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah, and Tirzah—I encourage you to learn about these dreamers from the tribe of Manasseh. Their story is God’s glory reminding us that together, we are stronger. Unified for the right reason, in the right place, and at the right time in history, God allows our dreams to come true.

Gender equity is shaped differently in various cultures, but the common call to take on the issues of our time requires everyone to connect to create change.

Over the next 31 days let us celebrate women globally during Women’s History Month. Pray on one accord, believing God is with us. Encourage one another to walk worthy of our Father’s inheritance, challenging anyone or anything that denies any woman her right to stand on the promises of God. Invite everyone you know to unite with us in purpose and prayer, believing God is doing a new thing.

Angelita Clifton, D.Min.
Lott Carey Herald Guest Editor
2nd Vice President, WISE

WOMANITY UNLOOSED

Now, I bloom in darkness.

My roots planted deep—but bound.

I will cry out to God in my despair.

He will strengthen me.

His Spirit will quicken my tendrils.

They will spiral out and twine themselves to grace and mercy.

I will not stay in the dirt that binds me.

His Word will bring forth new shoots.

Loosed from the poverty, pain, and inequity that bound me,

I will bloom in the sunshine of His love,

Anchored in the fertile ground of His kingdom.

I will flower in God's power.

*Geri Coleman Tucker
Alexandria, Virginia*



Contents

Day 1	Australia
Day 2	Bahamas
Day 3	Women in Poverty
Day 4	Brazil
Day 5	Canada
Day 6	Chile
Day 7	Croatia
Day 8	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Day 9	Dominica
Day 10	Women-led Households
Day 11	Ethiopia
Day 12	Ghana
Day 13	Guyana
Day 14	Haiti
Day 15	India
Day 16	Italy
Day 17	Women and Gender Violence
Day 18	Jamaica
Day 19	Kenya
Day 20	Liberia
Day 21	Malawi
Day 22	Mozambique
Day 23	Nigeria
Day 24	Women Find Their Voices
Day 25	Palestine
Day 26	Philippines
Day 27	South Africa
Day 28	South Sudan
Day 29	Sweden
Day 30	Zimbabwe
Day 31	Women and Gender Discrimination



Day 1 Australia: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Photo: Elizabeth Moore

O Lord God, the Almighty Spirit and Creator of all creation, we call upon your spirit, to guide and guard our stolen girls and women in a world where they are deemed worthless and less than before they were born by the evil, wicked principalities in high and dark places.

Send your illuminating Holy Spirit.
Lord, we rebuke that stifling spirit that wants to make death our life.

We beseech the Holy Spirit to cover and hover over us, girls and women from before birth until you, Lord God, call them to you.

Lord, let no weapon formed against our girls and women prosper

now and forevermore.

Hear the soul-piercing cries of mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers for the stolen daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and nieces.

Have mercy, Oh Lord, on those who have been stolen and are no more.

As Rachael cried from the depths of her soul for her children who were no more, we lament the First Nations girls and women who are stolen. We petition you, the all wise God, to stop the demonic violence, end the poverty, and abolish addictions that rise from a false heritage created by colonialism.

Lord God, change the seeds of violence from

sprouts of hatred and murder into mighty oaks of life, love, and hope.

Change the tears of trauma, grief, and pain that fall like rain into waterfalls of restoration, hope, and faith.

Lord, help us hear the voices of First Nations girls and women as we seek to bring them back and cherish the memory of their lives, loving them forever. In the matchless name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

*Ella Lynk Hayes
Associate Minister
Mount Olive Baptist Church
Hackensack, New Jersey*



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Day 2 Bahamas: Psalm 46:5-7



U.N. Photo: Sarah Fretwell

Almighty God, creator of the universe . . . how excellent is your name. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Dear God, we come before you on this day to pray for our sisters in the Bahamas.

Lord, white sandy beaches, clear blue skies, and crystal waters trumpet the beauty of the islands. The display is awesome and evidence of your majesty. We give you thanks and praise. Yet, amid the beauty, there are women struggling to make sense of their lives; women struggling to earn a living wage and hold their families together; and women who are experiencing violence in their homes and fail to see their own beauty.

Oh God, heal them from the scars that prevent them from thriving and becoming the women you want them to be. Lift bowed heads and open doors of opportunity. Place in their minds and hearts the

knowledge that they are fearfully and wonderfully created in your image.

We pray that the manifestation of your love becomes evident in their lives. Show these women how beautiful they are in you. Embrace them with your power so they can meet the challenges of a brand new day. We purpose Holy Ghost transformation in their lives and pray this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Marilyn Monroe Harris, D.Min.
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Teaneck
Teaneck, New Jersey
President, United Missionary Baptist Convention of New Jersey
Newark, New Jersey*

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Women in Poverty

Mother God, creator, source, and sustainer of the whole wide world: We offer you thanks and praise because of your great love and compassion for all your creation. From the greatest to the least of these, your care and concern know no limit and never cease.

We are grateful that in your great design of this world it is your will that all shall have more than enough to live life with health and joy. We know that there is more than enough for all to be well-supplied. We are reminded in your Word that the earth belongs to you, and you created us to be faithful stewards of all that you have made. Forgive us, O God, that in our stewardship of your resources we have become greedy and neglectful of others around the world and those who are near to us.

We pray now for those women around the globe who live in extreme poverty. We pray for those who labor daily at various jobs, tasks, and careers but who still lack the means to provide for their families. We are mindful that there are those who lack adequate resources, means, and wages to provide for themselves and their children. We realize that their poverty creates generational hardships impacting societies, communities, and cultures.

We pray for those who refuse to provide adequate wages that would improve the quality of life for the poor. We know that there is more than enough in the world that you created for everyone to have all they will ever need. So, we pray that those who are in position will have hearts of compassion and concern and that they will learn to distribute resources where the need is the greatest. We pray that we all will work together until poverty amid abundance is no more.

Hear our prayer, Mother God.

*Carolyn Ann Knight, D.Min.
Saint Philip AME Church
Atlanta, Georgia*

U.N. Photo: Andrew Brizzi



Day 4 Brazil: Proverbs 31:8-9



U.N. Photo: Joseane Daher

Dear God of Life, whose ears are always open to our cry, we come before you to give thanks and to intercede on behalf of others.

We give thanks for the women that you, Lord, have called in Brazil to act on several fronts for the common good.

We give special thanks for those who, in the cities, organize themselves in cooperatives of seamstresses, washerwomen, handicrafts women, and cooks and open spaces of work for the survival of so many families.

We are especially grateful for the women who work in the Landless Workers' Movement—Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST). They defend the right to have access to land and to grow food in a fair and safe way, providing sustenance to many in need.

We give special thanks for black women who stand up against prejudice and discrimination so that their sons and daughters will take their rightful place in the country.

We give special thanks for the indigenous women struggling with exclusion and segregation but who manage to build solidarity as they fight for the right to land and survival of their cultures.

In this spirit of gratitude, we also come to your presence, Lord, to intercede.

We pray for the family of Marielle Franco, a city councillor of the Municipal Chamber of Rio de Janeiro and human rights activist, who was executed last March by the opposition for speaking out against police violence toward black youth. In the name of Marielle Franco, we ask your favor for all the women who work for the common good. We ask that they remain firm in their commitment and confident in the vocation that you, our Lord, has given them. Protect their lives from those who perpetrate evil and injustice.

God of justice and peace, may their strength and courage be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all of us on all continents. Amen.

*Magali do Nascimento Cunha, Ph.D.
Brazilian Society on Interdisciplinary Studies
on Communication/INTERCOM
Universidade de São Paulo
São Paulo, Brazil*



Day 5 *Canada: Psalm 18:16-19*



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Almighty God, you are our rock, our refuge, our hiding place. You never leave us in our distress. When we call to you, O Lord, you hear us and you rescue us. These are days full of trouble and strife. It seems that we are assailed on every side. Each day the world seems to sink deeper into the mire of hatred and violence, especially toward the most vulnerable in our society. Even as we celebrate the first woman of African descent to be on Canadian currency, we hear horrifying reports of home invasions, street assaults, and gender violence against our daughters, mothers, and sisters. These heinous crimes against women and girls bring ceaseless tears and righteous indignation.

We are angry, Lord. Help us.

Reach down and take hold of us. Draw us out of deep waters and set our feet on a high place. You alone are able to rescue us from our

enemies—from those who seek to harm us, to terrorize us, to kill us. The challenge is too much for us. We cannot overcome this evil without you. Unite our hearts and minds, melt the hearts of our legislators and political leaders, transform us into a compassionate people so that our actions match our words of peace and reconciliation. Shape us into a people in whom you take delight.

We thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love. Our hope is in you. Help us to have faith and, even in our trials, to trust you all the more.

In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Rhonda Y. Britton, D.Min.

Senior Pastor

New Horizons Baptist Church

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



Day 6 *Chile: Numbers 6:24-26*

Dear God of peace, hear our prayer:
We worship you with all our
soul, body, and mind because we
recognize that you are the only source
of peace in our personal lives and our world.

As the prince of peace, please grant us peace in our beautiful country. The angels proclaim that there will be peace on earth, but we are not seeing it.

Our hearts are heavy so we ask that you establish peace in the south of our country, especially between the Mapuche natives and other citizens. Every day we hear of violent attacks and vengeful acts on both sides.

Please guide our authorities to act with justice and not with a desire for revenge.

Please plant in our children the seeds of equality and love so that racist attitudes never take hold.

Help all mothers, daughters, and sisters be instruments of your peace.

Dear God, please let us see peace as a reality, not a faraway dream; we long for it in our lives and for our country. You created us and called us to live as brothers and sisters, so please give us the strength to be vessels of a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Keep the flame of hope alive in us. Help us realize that dialogue and patience will eventually bring reconciliation. Please, Lord, renew our hearts and minds, so we can truly be brothers and sisters and your shalom will be a reality in our everyday lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Raquel R. Contreras

Directora General

Mundo Hispano Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

Temuco, Chile

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Day 7 Croatia: Ephesians 6:10-18

Heavenly Father, I pray for the women of Croatia, that you may break the spirit of anti-intellectualism in our churches, which prevents so many capable women from being properly utilized in the church and in the community.

They seem satisfied and comfortable in their roles as traditional Christian women. The peace and quiet of this existence means they refuse to embrace change for themselves and the world.

Break the spirit of fear and negativity that keeps women believing they are inferior. Let them know they are valued and cherished. Let them recognize their talents and use their gifts. Grant them mentors who will walk with them for as long as necessary.

Break the spirit of confusion, indifference, and carelessness created by fear and insecurity. Women succumbing to such false spirits are easy prey of charlatans.

Father, fill our women with the Holy Spirit so they will be dedicated to you. Help them find their purpose and their joy. Help us all to discern the struggles women face. Help us all to inspire women as we spread the gospel.

Father, I pray that you provide assistance and encouragement to the women who faithfully work to improve the lives of their sisters. Often, they go unnoticed, feel invisible, and work in difficult settings without pay. Please, Father, hug these lonely warriors; give them a glimpse of your glory as they serve the world. Amen.

Ksenija Magda, Ph.D.

President

*Baptist World Alliance Women's Department
Falls Church, Virginia*



U.N. Photo: John Isaac



Day 8 *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Psalm 89:14-16*



U.N. Photo: Martine Perret

Heavenly Father,
You are excellent in power, in judgment, and in justice.
We lift our voices on behalf of women and girls who
have paid a devastating price for years of armed conflict.
We pray because women and girls have been and are being used as a
weapon of war by corrupt leaders and armed forces.

We pray for those who are perpetuating this cycle of sexual violence
and committing other horrific acts against women and girls. We pray
that the perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions and
brought to justice.

We pray that you would free every woman and every girl from all
forms of slavery.

We pray that you protect them and heal them. Let them feel your
presence so they know there is hope.

We acknowledge that justice and judgment are the habitation of
your throne. We believe that you will maintain the afflicted and the
rights of the poor.

Please hear us, we pray in the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

*Tywana D. Worsley
Associate Minister
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit, New Jersey*

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Day 9 *Dominica: Numbers 27:1-7*



U.N. Photo: Cia Pak

Dear Lord, thank you for showering your immense love onto the world. Each waking day we praise you for creating this beautiful universe so that your children can experience your divinity in all that surrounds us. Giver of life, we are grateful for the beautiful island of Dominica with its lush green forests, high mountain tops, and endless rivers. The island embodies the abundant healing powers of nature and serves as a manifestation of your love for us.

Lord, protect the people of Dominica, who are resilient despite suffering natural disasters. Protect them from outside interference that may bring harm. Please help the leaders and citizens continue to pass legislation that honors the lives of women and protects them from sexual assault, harassment, and domestic violence.

Reveal to all that investing in the future of young girls is investing in the future of the country. Help these youngsters value education,

self-sufficiency, self-care, self-love, and advocacy so that they will continue to break barriers created by patriarchy. Lord, lead the island into a future that guarantees equity and equality for all.

Thank you for giving the women of Dominica the courage to fight for protection and justice. Shine your light as a source of hope in the darkest places and circumstances. You give us everything and yet ask for nothing in return. We are forever indebted to your grace. We are eternally grateful. Amen.

*Liza Chowdhury, Ph.D.
Scholar, Activist, Yogi
Reimagining Justice
(social advocacy non-profit)
Passaic, New Jersey*

Women-led Households



iStock Photo

Gracious and Loving God, we pray for women-led households. Cover their homes, children, and finances. Preserve their well-being—spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, and physically. Preserve their spirit of joy and peace. Keep away spirits of confusion, rebellion, depression, and despair.

Lord, give your daughters a sense of time that allows them to always see the goal. In the midst of the necessary and mundane, give them vision. Amid the slew of appointments, field duties, homework assignments, and transporting, remind them that all are instruments of your grace and mercy.

Lord, we ask that you show our mothers how to deal with the stresses that come their way, from ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. We pray that we would be women of prayer, and that we would learn how to leave our burdens at the altar. We ask for faithful friends we can talk to so we may be renewed and restored.

Lord, we ask that our children's intelligence, and intellectual curiosity be nurtured. Send teachers who can identify and draw out their abilities. Surround them with wise elders who will call forth their gifts.

We continue to pray for the safety of our children in a dangerous world. We ask that you be with our children—from kindergarten to college—as they travel between school and home. Keep them safe in

the classrooms, on the playgrounds, and during after-school activities.

Protect those children who come home to an empty house and those who must care for their siblings. Please let them enjoy some fruits of childhood.

Keep our children safe from predators in the virtual and real world. We pray against seducers who lure lonely children from safety into the traps of strangers, and we pray that you restore those who were pulled away.

We ask that you unravel the political red tape that promotes abject poverty, incarceration, and disenfranchisement. We want our children and our families to be whole.

We pray for nutritional health, access to good and affordable food, and clean water. We pray for access to information that teaches us what is good for our bodies and minds. Deliver those who live in food deserts and those struggling with food insecurity.

Make all of us living testimonies of your resurrection, pervasiveness, and love. Amen.

*Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D.
Professor of Old Testament
Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, Virginia*



Day 11 Ethiopia: Philippians 4:6-7



Photo: Tonga Peterson

Lord Jesus, I pray that you bless every woman that reads this prayer with peace that passes all understanding. May your grace and mercy cover them as they go about their day. Let the meditations of their hearts and the words of their mouths be acceptable unto you each day.

Give them the strength to accomplish the tasks set before them with joy. Give them courage to stand firm in their faith to withstand the temptation of this world, and help them lead their families by example.

Lord, I pray that they walk with integrity and a heart full of love and mercy so they will forgive the wrongs done by family and friends.

Lord, I pray that you bless their health that they may get the strength they need to take care of their families. Bless their relationships with husbands and children.

Lord, I pray that you bless their finances so that they may meet daily living expenses and help those in need.

Lord, I pray for single mothers reading this prayer. Help them to successfully play the role of both parents. Fill the gaps so their burden won't get too heavy.

God, protect the comings and goings of the children. Help them bring glory to your kingdom, be a blessing to their parents, and become productive citizens.

In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Tarik Teferi

Apostolic Church

International Fellowship of North America (ACIFNA)

Silver Spring, Maryland



Day 12 Ghana: Jeremiah 23:16



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God, help Ghanaian women understand your word better. The Bible says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)

Pray that God will heal all women with health problems. Many women in Ghana are suffering from mental illness because of mistreatment by their husbands or in-laws. Poor women contract diseases during pregnancy because they cannot afford medical treatment.

Pray for sexual harassment and assault victims because domestic violence is a major problem in Ghana. When the cases are sent to court, the men are found innocent and the girls are perceived to be guilty, tagged as witches who lure men.

Pray for women and girls who have lost their way because of poverty. Some have become drug addicts and prostitutes.

Pray for girls and women who have been banned from their communities because of accusations of witchcraft. Banned females of all ages are placed into “witch camps,” a haven from threats made on their lives.

Pray for girls who are victimized under trokosi, a practice of ritual servitude in which they are taken to repay a debt or to atone for the alleged misdeeds of a family member. Amen.

*Anowa Boison Ochire
Coordinator, The Women Missionary Union of
Ghana Baptist Convention
The First Baptist Church
Tema, Ghana*

Resurrection Monday Services



1 p.m., April 22, 2019

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
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7 p.m., April 22, 2019

Check LottCarey.org for location

*Speaker: Rev. Gregory J. Jackson, President
of Lott Carey and Pastor of Mount Olive
Baptist Church, Hackensack, New Jersey*



Day 13 Guyana: 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Caring God, we thank you for the opportunities you provide Guyanese women so they can be beacons of light in their homes, on their jobs, and in their communities. But too many women and children are still hurting all over this beautiful land, and so we pray for these women, their children, and families.

Spread your divine protection over all the women of this country. Shield them from the daily physical, verbal, and mental abuse of husbands. Help them realize that even in difficult situations you are only a prayer away. Reveal yourself and comfort their hearts and souls. Provide the resources they need daily. Empower them to lead and love with a vision that changes households and lives. Speak to their companions; lay your holy hands on them so they will stop their abuse.

Open doors for them, Jehovah, to find unique ways to be self-sufficient. Give them humility, and a humble and contrite heart. Help them to be like Mary, Esther, and Ruth. Let their focus be on you. Give them the spirit so they can discern right from wrong; empower them with a boldness to speak out against wrong.

Dear God, hear and answer our prayer.

Attend to mothers who are grieving the loss of daughters and to children who face life without mothers because of violent deaths. Bind families together, Lord, and their bonds will not be broken. We praise your name and give you all the glory. Thank you for your divine intervention. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Donette Franco

Deacon

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Georgetown, Guyana

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Day 14 Haiti: Isaiah 54:17



Photo: Gabriel B. Tate

Father God, we thank you for your goodness and faithfulness in our lives, and ask that your hand be upon Haiti. Your love for the people of this nation is unchanging; and you hear our prayers.

We ask that your peace and protection continue to cover this nation and the community of Carries in the face of fear, unrest, and uncertainty. Draw nearer to us in times of desperation and bring your supernatural healing to every family, community, and government entity. You are capable of redeeming all people and restoring all things. We ask that you continue that work in Haiti.

God, we especially pray your protection and healing over the women of this country, young and old. Speak your truth to their hearts so

they will not be fooled by the enemy. Free the oppressed and exploited women of this land. Continue to educate and empower them so they will envision a future full of opportunity.

Move on the hearts of men so they can see the great value inherent in women. Compel these men to love, protect, and honor their wives, sisters, mothers, and all women. Make your name great in all our lives we pray. Amen.

Kim O'Dwyer, Director
Mission of Grace
Carries, Haiti



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Day 15 *India: Proverbs 31:8-9*



U.N. Photo: P. Sudhakaran

Dear Lord, we pray for your special grace on the women of India who are struggling to find a place for themselves outside the home. While their professional roles provide a sense of economic security and independence, societal expectations and conflicts result in stress and guilt about neglecting the home and family.

The workplace is still a difficult arena for the urban woman professional. Most Indian men have yet to accept women as equals—as colleagues or as supervisors. Work is still seen as a temporary circumstance for many women whose husbands need their supplemental income. No matter how high their status in the workplace, women are still expected to return to the home at a certain time to cook, clean, and manage family affairs. Women often must opt out of jobs

that involve long hours and travel, which means they miss out on promotions. Many suffer unfair work conditions, unequal pay, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Professional Indian women suffer from a variety of mental health problems, including depression, psychosomatic illnesses, and self-harm. We pray that these hardworking women in India find a proper work-home balance. “Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” (Proverbs 31:31 NIV). In Jesus Christ’s Holy Name. Amen.

*Esther Mani, Principal
Somerville School-Vasundhara Enclave
Delhi, India*

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Day 16 *Italy: Psalm 28:7*

Our Lord and Savior,
Creator of life in fullness,
we come to you this day
Thinking of the great choir of voices
That praise you from all over the earth—
From trees and mountains,
From islands and rivers,
From the vastness of the seas,
From the silent loneliness of the deserts,
From the splendor of stars,
From the rich variety of the animal life.
From the immense and the smallest,
Beyond the boundaries of our imagination,
We give you praise!

Thank you for sharing your beauty with us,
Thank you for creating in our heart the thought of the
Eternal
Even though our lives are short and fragile.

We ask for your forgiveness
For harming your creation—
The air is polluted,
The oceans are used as dumps,
The lands are contaminated,
And the climate is changing,
Provoking great distress to many
forced to flee their homes
And look for new places of refuge.

We particularly pray for women and their children
Forced to leave their homes with no destination.
We pray that you help them and preserve their lives.
Send your angels to protect their walk,
Liberate them from violent men
And let them find refuge and rest
Together with their children.

But Lord,
We want to be involved in this prayer.
We want to welcome and encourage,
We want to pray and act. In truth.

Help us, Lord.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

*Anna Maffei, Pastor
Chiesa Battista di Milano
Milan, Italy*

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Women and Gender-based Violence

Sovereign and Most Holy God,
You are the source and sustainer of all life, our creator and redeemer.

In troubling times and with troubled hearts, your daughters look to you as the mender of broken spirits, broken minds, and broken bodies. You and you alone, O God, remain the breaker of every yoke and every chain . . . the keeper of our souls.

Merciful God, on behalf of women and girls around the world, our hearts cry out for our sisters who are both victims and survivors of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic exploitation because of their gender.

God, we pray that you intervene and deliver those who, by force or coercion, remain vulnerable to predatory practices that enslave them.

Lord, we pray for the dismantling of systems and cycles of abuse that deprive them of their human rights and dignity. We pray against those who manipulate and misuse their positions of power and privilege to malign, marginalize, deny, and destroy our sisters. You said they are created in your image and are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We ask, O God, that your justice roars above the silence of women and girls terrified and traumatized by their situations. O Holy One, make your peace and comfort felt amid their pain and suffering. Let your love enfold and strengthen them, and be an ever-present reminder of a faithful God, who sees, hears, and cares for them.

Our hope is in you, O Lord. Help us to put our hands to the plow; to work for justice in this vineyard of sorrow. God, help us to eliminate gender inequality and the violence it generates.

Revive us again, O God. Revive us again. In the name of our Christ we pray. Amen.

*Terry Ann Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Institutional Assessment
Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
New Brunswick Theological Seminary
New Brunswick, New Jersey*



Day 18 *Jamaica: Philippians 1:6*



U.N. Photo: Milton Grant

Dear God, we come giving you thanks for the gift of life and your manifold blessings. We acknowledge you as healer, provider, sustainer, protector, and a forgiving God.

You have blessed us with the ability to think, hearts to respond, and emotions to express our feelings. We have come to petition for the women and girls in Jamaica. God, we know that you are aware of the economic constraints under which we live as citizens. Many women are single parents and find it difficult at times to cope with the challenges. As a result, some resort to dishonest and unethical means of survival. The stress and strain in some respects contribute to the physical, verbal, and emotional abuse of children by parents. Enable them with wisdom to make the right decisions. Help them trust in you as the source of all life.

Many girls are lured into human trafficking and prostitution under

the guise of gaining a better life and education. The trauma that they experience is horrendous; and too many are scarred for life. We pray for girls who are sexually abused by family members and forced to remain silent because family members will accuse them of lying. Their self-esteem and self-worth are being diminished and they die slowly on the inside.

Lord, effect change. Intervene. Fill the hearts of women and girls with your love and care. Help churches and government work together to uplift those in need. God, in your mercy, hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

*Dafflyn Campbell
Member
Port Maria Baptist Church
St. Mary's, Jamaica*



Day 19 Kenya: Esther 4:11,14,16; 5:2

Lord, you formed our inward parts. You knitted us together in our mothers' wombs. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Teach us to find our purpose in you, our country, and our continent. As written in Acts 17:28, in you "we live and move and have our being."

Our names may not be well known, but we are willing servants. Like Lois and Eunice, give us that sincere, genuine faith and enable us to pass it on to future generations. Like Esther, you have made us for such a time as this. Like Deborah, may we be courageous as we work for you, our God.

We will still walk by faith, not by sight. We won't be impatient. We won't be dismayed. We know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. We are encouraged. We will not fear what we may suffer. We will be faithful unto death, strengthened by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*Rev. Dawn Gikandi
Parish Minister
Presbyterian Church of East Africa
Nairobi, Kenya*

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Day 20 *Liberia: Lamentations 3:22-23*



U.N. Photo: Shima Roy

Dear Lord, we acknowledge your greatness and thank you for your grace and tender mercies. You are our dwelling place in all generations. You look beyond our faults and love us so much, as if we have not sinned.

We cry out to you for mercy, amid rape and horrific sexual abuse against women and girls in Liberia. It is our prayer that the Liberian government will fight this destruction of innocents—from sex slaves to those mired in poverty; that it will act against those who violate the rights of women and girls.

Lord, your daughters are being dishonored and abused by evil men for selfish motives. Help the victims to be free from emotional wounds, guilt, abandonment, and stigmatization.

We pray that through your grace, they will believe in you and regain their rights to live according to your will and purpose. You promised to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteous-

ness if we confess our sins. We pray that victims of sexual abuse will confess their sins of hatred, anger, and low self-esteem as they learn to trust you for a renewed life in Christ.

Lord, you did not abandon the adulterous woman, nor did you condemn her. We pray for that forgiveness. You gave new life to the woman at the well. We pray for that restoration and transformation for all who are sexually molested.

May your Spirit enable all to reach their full potential in living. Hear our prayer, dear Lord, for it is an honest plea. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Charlotte P. Kaicora
Director of Women and Children
Providence Baptist Church
Providence Island, Monrovia, Liberia*



Day 21 Malawi: Isaiah 43:18-19



U.N. Photo: Evan Schneider

Dear God, we come to you on behalf of the women and girls of Malawi. In a country where gender equality and women's empowerment are of great concern, we pray for our sisters and ask that you continue to manifest change on their behalf.

We pray for the courageous women who work tirelessly to prevent child marriages and advocate for the education of young girls. We ask that you give all females dreams of hopeful futures, and that you embolden government and civilian leaders to advocate for justice and gender equity.

We pray that gender discrimination will be eradicated and many more opportunities for employment, civil leadership, and business ownership be options for women trying to rise above poverty and oppression.

Lord, we ask you to change the hearts of those who commit acts of violence as well as those who are indifferent to violence against

women. We pray for complete transformation, so that girls can grow up and thrive without fear and suffering. Thank you for terminating and annulling child marriages. May those who can impact this situation continue to protect young girls. Help the country to prosper in other ways so that child marriages are not seen as a financial or social options for families in need.

God, we know that you can make possible what seems impossible to humankind. So, we ask you to give women of all ages hope, help, and health. Protect and keep them in your care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Jacqueline Madison-McCreary, D.Min.
Coordinator, Lott Carey Thriving in Ministry Program
Pastor, First Baptist Church of New Market
Piscataway, New Jersey*



Day 22 Mozambique: Genesis 16:13



U.N. Photo: Pernaca Sudhakaran

God who sees me, God who sees all, hear the cries for help leaping from the lips of women and girls living in Mozambique. Listen to their distress calls echoing across land and sea. See the many SOS signals of their social, political, and economic demise.

El Roi, you see the power of gender gaps that force women and girls to labor on land they do not own, marry too soon, give birth too early, and work too strenuously.

El Shama, you hear our plea. You can do anything but fail. You have brought us too far to leave us. The Bible says, “no weapon formed against us shall prosper.”

El Shaddai, as wise women we petition you to enlighten, enliven, and empower our sisters in Mozambique. We stand together against discriminatory laws keeping women bent, bound, and broken.

El Elyon, as wise women we beseech you to give our sisters strength

to change the laws of the land, to change the hearts and minds of wayward sons, and to destroy man-made traditions that block progress.

Elohim, hear our plea and answer our prayers. Anchor our sisters in your Word and set them free. Continue to anoint your daughters with authority to stand against injustice.

El Olam, we look to the hills knowing our help comes from you. Help our sisters do exceedingly and abundantly more than they could ever expect or imagine. In the mighty, marvelous, majestic name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

Angelita Clifton, D.Min.

2nd Vice President,

Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere (WISE)



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Day 23 *Nigeria: Romans 12:1-2*



Photo: Tonga Peterson

Most High God, we worship and bless your holy name. You are alpha and omega, creator of heaven and earth. I thank you for your love and concern for women all over the world, especially the Lott Carey Baptist Mission women in Nigeria.

Thank you for your blessings throughout 2018, which was crowned by a visit from Women in Service Everywhere (WISE) from the United States. Members came to encourage women to serve God beyond limitations and challenges.

Our prayer is that you empower women with perseverance, despite discrimination and cultural biases. Endow them with an indefatigable

spirit that will always spot the light at the end of the tunnel. Help our women resist hatching evil discord and sabotage.

You are a God that does the impossible. We trust you will turn everything around to the good in our churches, homes, and communities. We worship you for we believe in the glory ahead. All these things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Praise the Lord.

*Thelma Ekukivam, Ph.D.
Institute of Education
University of Uyo
Uyo, Nigeria*

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the U.N. Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women speaking at International Women's Day March for Gender Equality and Women's Rights in New York, 2015.



U.N. Photo: Devra Berkowitz

Day 24 *Proverbs 31:25-26*

Women Find Their Voices

A Prayer for Empowerment . . .
God of infinite power and might, God who can do exceedingly, infinitely, immeasurably more than we can ask, think, or imagine. God in whom we move, live, and have our being. We give thanks for the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be your witnesses. You have poured out your spirit upon us so that we might share your gifts of love, joy, peace, and compassion throughout the world.

We pray for women and girls around the world—women who are exploited and devalued. We pray for all who are suffering, caught in commercial sex work and human trafficking, affected by harmful cultural practices. We pray for access to adequate education, water, food, shelter, and clothing. We pray for economic empowerment and deliverance from famine and drought. Remove every obstruction and empower women to pursue their destiny. Bless them with economic opportunities that will enhance the quality of their lives. Open doors

of opportunity and bless them with life-giving relationships that will empower others.

Enable us to be an extension of your work and witness. Give us an extra measure of strength and grace to work for a more just society and world. Strengthen our hands and help us advocate for a more just, peaceful, and humane world. Give women and girls everywhere the means to live the abundant lives you intended. Use us as your instruments of redemption, relief, and recovery. In the powerful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*Gina M. Stewart, D. Min.
First Vice President, Lott Carey
Senior Pastor
Christ Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee*



Day 25 Palestine: Ecclesiastes 5:8



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Amid the unjust conditions that continue to prevail in the land termed “holy,” Palestinian women and girls bear the brunt of challenges, suffer resiliently, and appeal to God to help them remain steadfast in their faith without losing their humanity.

Like other women in other parts of the world, we too wonder: How long, O Lord? In the land where the message of peace was proclaimed, there is no peace but a growing cycle of violence. Believers of all faiths dare to dream that God’s love for the beautiful creation that mankind has destroyed will victoriously be restored and we women will rightfully be liberated, sharing the gift of love and equality.

We cry out: We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted but not forsaken; and struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). We refuse to give up hope no matter what political oppression is employed—dispossession, humiliation, denial of rights, incarceration, or killing of children to crush our memory and spirit. We will not be forced into hatred. We will not be stripped of our dignity. We will not repay evil with evil, even though those who oppress us consider us a lesser people.

Merciful God, you gave Palestine and Israel a special status, a meeting place of the divine and the human. You challenge the people to create a promised land for all inhabitants. Embrace us, soothe our pain, and alleviate our suffering.

Empower us to stand for the truth that liberates all and teach us to rise up and see each other with loving eyes and forgiving hearts. Help the women of this land to seek justice as we do your will and glorify your name. Amen.

Nora Carmi

*Retired Community Builder & International Peacemaker
East Jerusalem, Palestine (occupied by Israel)*



Day 26 Philippines: Psalm 55:22

Dear God,
We thank you for your Word that comforts and gives hope. We believe that you are the great God performing miracles through the power of prayer.

Our beloved country needs your guidance to give wisdom to our government leaders to provide suitable jobs for women. We pray for justice and freedom that women here will experience the same opportunities as men when it comes to decision-making and other privileges.

It is a sad truth that forced labor, domestic violence, and trafficking are still happening today. And too many women working for their families are being abused by their husbands. Help those who exploit mothers and daughters realize that women play a special role in God’s creation—to give birth and help rear children. Help all women realize their worth and raise God-fearing youngsters.

We pray for love, favor, and blessing on the Philippines. Help us spread the gospel to the tribal people so that women in the mountains will be educated about their children and the Bible. There are many remote places that we need to reach so we can teach our women their rights.

Lord, we trust that you will hear our prayer as we plead for our women to become strong in their understanding and faith. Deliver them from domestic violence, forced labor, and trafficking. These things we ask in the most precious name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jun Loquias

Pastor

Charity Baptist Church

Region XI Davao, Philippines



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Day 27 *South Africa: Matthew 11:28*



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What a friend we have in Jesus, who is full of compassion and mercy. Dear Lord, only you share the trials, hardships, challenges, and conflicts we face daily as we struggle to live with dignity, safety, provision, and hope.

We struggle for decent housing, so our children can see, eat, and study with light provided by electricity, not candles that pose a fire danger to the entire community. We struggle against drugs that have infiltrated our society and are accessible to children, even during school hours when they should be focused on their studies.

We pray that bribery and corruption at all levels of government be addressed and justice enforced to ensure fairness and rights for all. We pray for leaders who refuse to compromise the truth for favor or po-

sition. Give them courage to battle the Baals of this world, knowing that the true God has the power to sustain and deliver.

We are thankful, Lord, for the growing awareness about violence against women and children. And we praise you for the support of churches and agencies that are trying to stop it. We are grateful to see victims of human trafficking being returned to their homes through the efforts of law enforcement and other agencies. Lord, we believe that our petitions will not go unanswered. Thank you. In your name we pray. Amen.

*Yvonne Best Motaung, D.Min.
Co-Pastor, Kagiso Baptist Church
Kagiso, South Africa*



Day 28 *South Sudan: Psalm 103:1-2*



U.N. Photo: Martine Perret

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: As women across the globe learn and grow in their womanhood, we ask you for guidance and protection for them. As the mothers, aunts, daughters, and sisters of humankind, bestow upon us a confidence in the myriad gifts that you have granted to us. Show us the women within the Cloud of Witnesses, so that we may know that our assignments are not in vain. Give us the power to grow into our leadership with strength and grace.

Remind us of Priscilla who, alongside her husband Aquila, boldly preached the Word of God. Through her presence as a female voice about God's promises to us, she laid the groundwork for women clergy to assume just as strong a voice in God's Kingdom as any man. Give us the strength to lead with your vision and voice foremost in our minds, our actions, and our words.

Remind us of the Daughters of Zelophehad. As a unit, these daughters of Moses stood up for themselves during a time when their gender prohibited them from land inheritance. Through their knowledge of law and history, they led a systemic change that changed the law to include otherwise invisible women in land inheritance. Give

us the strength to use our leadership gifts and power to support and bring up other women into leadership.

Remind us of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary showed extraordinary obedience in answering the ultimate call of motherhood amid social norms that stigmatized her as an unwed mother. Despite ostracism, she humbly served through the birthing of God's only son. Give us the strength to see you in all women, regardless of their age or circumstance.

Finally, remind us that our gifts and destinies may vary, but that God provides us all with what we need. Bless us all with the strength to push past all doubts and social limitations. Equip us with the boldness, courage, and faithfulness to lead. In your name we humbly pray. Amen.

Abi Riak

Operations Director, Center for Reconciliation

Duke Divinity School

Durham, North Carolina



Day 29 *Sweden: Jeremiah 29:11-14*



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O God of Life, lead us to understanding, tolerance, love, and harmony. Women on this earth are made in the image of God to bring love, hope, and compassion. Forgive us when our witness fails to build bridges of peace, love, and understanding among all people. Let there be growing spaces of understanding, tolerance, love, and harmony among the different ethnic and religious communities.

Loving God, as we look to the future, increase our faith, trust, confidence, and understanding. We pray that we will be more courageous than cautious; that we will not remain silent when people are suffering; that as your prophets we will speak up against injustices and embrace each other in love and in trust.

We thank you for the gift of life. Give us grace through your life-giving spirit to embrace our responsibility for the preservation of your creation. We praise you for the beauty around us and for the infinite variety of your creation—the Alps, valleys, lakes, rivers, and seas. The bounty of your creation adds richness, joy, and providence to our daily lives.

We praise you, God, for continuing to make things new.

*Marianne Ejdersten, Ph.D.
Director of Communication
World Council of Churches
Le Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland*



Spring Missions Conference



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Day 30 Zimbabwe: Acts 2:1-4



Photo: Tonga Peterson

Lord God, I am not sure how to pray for women and girls in Zimbabwe, but I know you have promised to hear our prayers. Almighty God, our hearts cry out over the following:

- Some families in Zimbabwe still practice the old system of “kuzvarira,” forced child marriage. Families take young girls ages 11 or 12 out of school and trade them to rich old men for food and other economic gains.
- Women face a higher risk of contracting HIV and AIDS from men who are infected when they are raped or unable to leave abusive relationships. Married women are also at great risk of contracting the disease because they cannot negotiate for safe sex. Even young girls who are encouraged to abstain from sex quite often are infected on their wedding nights.
- Women are being killed in marriages, a sad reality.

- Women are deprived of their human rights. In some parts of Zimbabwe, women cannot participate in the church and society. They are marginalized and viewed as the property of fathers and husbands.

We pray for the emancipation of women. Women should receive equal treatment, as they did in Acts 2:4: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Loveness Mutizwa
Associate Minister
Monomotapa Baptist Church
Zimbabwe Theological Seminary
Gweru, Zimbabwe*

Day 31 *Isaiah 40:31*

Women and Discrimination



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Most loving Creator,
you who made us in your image,
who holds and adores us;
let us feel your presence daily.

Sometimes our days are filled with undue responsibility, disrespect, pain, and suffering. Because we live in a world of systemic white supremacy and patriarchal misogyny, women and girls frequently experience daily violence. Too many parents and partners suffer old hurts that they consciously and unconsciously use against us. Sometimes we make bad decisions due to fear. Sometimes others make decisions that shape our lives over which we have no control. Amid an anxious world, please comfort us. Redeem our brokenness; restore us to wholeness.

Help us name, grieve, lament, release, and forgive all past hurts. Empower us to name those who have abused us, and get help to process the violence we exhibit against ourselves. After we work through our suffering and loss, restore us so we can forgive and release our perpetrators and move toward health and wholeness.

Help us be open to healthy relationships; to become the true selves

you created us to be.

Guide, strengthen, and protect us so that we are safe wherever we are. Help us to dream dreams and partner with those who can help us be our best selves.

As we wait on and trust you for our redemption, help us daily live every moment in prayer.

In hard times, let us know that you never tire. You are always with us, so we soar.

We run this race, never weary.

Young, old, or in-between, we may stumble or fall, but we get fresh strength daily.

We can spread our wings and soar like eagles. As we run, we will pace ourselves and not get tired. We love you, ourselves, our neighbors. We live. We soar.

*Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Ph.D.
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