

PRAYER: THE INDISPENSABLE KEY FOR BEARING FRUIT



The life in the Kingdom of God is to bear abundant fruit (John: 15:5-7)

My firm steps into a journey of prayer.

I learnt from my founding pastor who passed on many years ago that prayer is the key that can change all things, creating a total transformation in communities - spiritually, physically and socially. Prayer can change our hearts, families, the nations of the world and make the work of ministry bear fruit that last and brings glory to the name of the Lord.

The Bible says “Confess your sin to each another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are and yet when he earnestly prayed that no rain would fall, none fell for three and half years. When he prayed again the sky sent down rain and the Earth began to yield its crops” (James 5:16-17 NLT).

Prayer is the indispensable key and can bring the answer that we need; when Elijah prayed after three and half years of dry land, rain fell into the entire land of Israel and the crops produced the harvest and the long years of the famine ended in just few months. Prayer brought back the order of God in the land of Israel, as it was written during the time of Noah *“that as the Earth remains there will be planting season and harvesting.”*(Genesis 8:22)

The above became more practical to me when the founding pastor of our church passed on to be with the Lord in the middle of his years. He left behind the work of ministry that he was doing and it was slowing down day by day. We lacked resources and a building for our local church and we were sent away from where we had fellowship for our church, for the property belonged to an institution of learning which made a decision for us to leave with haste.

When the pastor was alive, he had bought a piece of land with a vision to construct a church building, but he was greatly resisted and he failed to build the church on that land at that time. So, we became stranded when we were sent away from the previous place of fellowship and had to trust the Lord in prayer. We began

praying for the situation and the Lord answered, restoring the land to us. We built our church, which is established in that place today without anyone hindering the progress of its construction work.

It was like in the time of return of Israel captives from Babylon: the walls had fallen and the gates torn down and when Nehemiah heard the sad news about Jerusalem he wept before the Lord in prayer.

2 Hanani one of my brothers, came to visit with some other men who had just arrived from Judah, I asked them about the Jews who had returned from there and about how things are going on in Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who had returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down and the gates had been destroyed by fire.

4 When I heard this I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted and prayed to the God of heaven. (Neh. 1:2-4)

When he heard about the situation in Jerusalem, he prayed, fasted and wept and he found favor in the sight of the king as he was his cup bearer. The king allowed him to go back to Jerusalem to build the wall; he wrote a letter that all the resources needed for building to be provided by those who were in charge of the region. The building of the wall was completed in 52 days because the work was done with the help of God. (Neh. 6:15). This was a divine response and shows that prayer is the indispensable key to bear fruit for the work of ministry.

We prayed in that new place that was covered by darkness and African witch doctors left. We prayed more, and places for clubbing were broken down. A major road was opened there by the city authorities; today our church is thriving in that community, bearing fruit that has come as a result of persistence in prayer.

This kind of background gave me a firm foundation to believe in prayer, and in that time God laid it on my heart to pray for the Muslims in our city. I did prayer walks in my city streets for many months and also did prayer walk around the city for one month. A specific group of evangelists started reaching out to the Muslims.

This prayer opened my heart more and more to pray and God started lifting me from grace to grace. I moved further in prayer on to another level of intercession. I prayed and fasted for 30 days, praying for Europe and the Middle East, especially praying for their salvation. This inspired our leaders and Christians to pray for the unreached and today we pray for many nations in this region and around the world.

I attended Amsterdam 2000, the Billy Graham conference for evangelists, where God gave me a divine connection with Liz Adelta, a global prayer strategist, founder and Director for the Fellowship of Prayer

Strategists She is also involved with many other prayer networks for the unreached. I heard for the first time about “unreached people groups” (UPGs). My prayer momentum for the unreached increased and I continued more praying for the unreached with updated information that I got from Liz.

Deeper into prayer for the unreached, focussing on Sudan

In 2009 Liz sent Etrisia Lilly from South Africa, who was by then prayer coordinator for the Sudan Prayer Network. She came to us in Uganda and we started praying for the nation of Sudan. In our church, we started going from village to village and from one local church to another, praying for this great nation which had conflict in that time including the war in Darfur. We prayed for the unreached: Muslims especially in the north of Sudan as well as the unreached Nuba living in the regions of the Nuba mountains in the south. We did this by organizing prayer conferences and seminars as well as forming prayer teams. We networked in institutions of learning among the Christian Union and Scripture Union groups, where young people’s hearts were stirred to pray for the lost (unreached).

In 2012, to our surprise, the nation of South Sudan was born, as we spearheaded prayer alongside other Christians with hearts for praying for Sudan. Today missionaries and Christian organizations like Samaritan’s Purse are working in South Sudan and Sudan with a focus on spreading the love of Christ. Right now one of our college students is taking a short course for missionary training in South Sudan and will continue with the preaching of the Gospel in that nation.

Finally, the nation of South Sudan is now part of East Africa. It is fertile ground and acts as a hub and gateway of reaching out with the Gospel to the Middle East. Surely prayer is the indispensable key that makes the work of ministry bear fruit.

Inherit the Nations

In 2015, God used Liz Adelta to contact me with the God-given opportunity of adopting a missionary through Inherit the Nations. This was the initiative that was birthed through the efforts of Jonathan Friz, the founder of 10 Days - a global ministry seeking to glorify God as Jesus prepares His church for His soon return.

We then adopted missionaries working in Ethiopia among the Oromo Haraghe (*Robert and Susan). The Oromo Haraghe ethnic group is deeply involved in and believe in their traditions of ancestral worship. In one specific location they performed rituals under a huge tree. Robert and Susan did spiritual mapping to find detailed information on what happens during the rituals under this tree, then we did spiritual warfare and bound the spiritual darkness that covered the communities of the Oromo Haraghe as a result of the rituals that were performed in a specific season.

We continued praying for them once a week in prayer: fasting, evening prayer in our local churches on Sundays, and early morning prayer with Bible College students throughout the week. Then, the ground for the sowing of the Gospel seeds was softened. We did this prayer for 2 years. During this time, they requested to visit with us in Uganda; we accepted and sent them an invitation.

Robert and Susan came to visit us from Ethiopia. They needed us to know more about how God is using them and to encourage us to continue to pray for them with updated information. We organized prayer fasting for the people group (Oromo Haraghe) in two different locations: Elim Four Square Gospel Alliance, which is located within the suburbs of Soroti City and at Faith Evangelical Ministries.

Christians and Church leaders came from different local churches, and we prayed for the salvation of the Oromo Haraghe; we declared and prophesied over them and the result was phenomenal (bearing of fruit that glorifies Jesus Christ forever)

- ✓ The Lord confirming His word with signs, wonders and miracles wrought in the name of Jesus Christ among the Oromo Haraghe.
- ✓ Blind eyes opened.
- ✓ Up to 22 generational believers that are continuing to grow and spread in those communities.
- ✓ 57 disciples thoroughly equipped for the work of ministry and continuing to serve among the Oromo Haraghe planting house churches.
- ✓ Two dead people raised back to life and this miracle spread across the Oromo Haraghe communities; numbers of them believed in the Good News of the kingdom of God.
- ✓ Hosted several DMM trainings for movement leaders in the East and in the horn of Africa.
- ✓ Had 156 water baptism, which is quite rare among them.
- ✓ Helped in furthering the funding for translation work of the Bible in their heart language.

The North Caucasus of Russia

In the year 2017, Jenny Oliphant, the Global Coordinator of *Ethne Prayer Movement, extended a special opportunity to me. In those day I was having an extended time of prayer and fasting, seeking the Lord's face and praying for the unreached people groups that I had focussed on for that specific season.

The Caucasus tribe live in the South of Russia, in areas between Black Sea and Caspian Sea. The Caucasus Mountains, where the Caucasia Region is located, were historically considered to be a barrier between Eastern Europe and Western Asia. This seems to be true as this region of the Caucasus was unevangelized (unreached). About 45+ tribal groups of unreached are found in this region; the majority of them are Muslims.

I believe that the body of Christ in different places were praying and still are praying for this region, but when Jenny Oliphant paired us with an American missionary in this region, we went for it with speed and passion of heart and the focus in our minds was “the Gospel of the kingdom be preached to the Ends of the Earth.” Being a principal of a Bible college, I spoke to the staff and students about the burden to pray for this region, and I had a very positive response. We have a unique practice of prayer in our college called “prayer chain” and we began intensive prayer for this region.

Chain prayer can be done throughout the night, throughout the week, month, or year, or whenever. Also, chain prayer can be done in normal prayer or prayer fasting. It can be done with one person or two, or as a group. It can be done in specific timing (10 minutes, 30 minutes, 40 minutes, 1 hour or 2 hours, a day, etc.) When the first person or group is done according to the allocated time, then the second follows and then the next ... it goes on and on.

With this method, there will be prayer going to the throne room of the Almighty God 24/7 and so we prayed. We prayed every kind of prayer for this region (Ephesians 6:18); it was certain that the number of the reached with the Gospel in this region amongst the tribes/groups started rising and the unreached started reducing: from 45+ unreached groups to 43 and then 41 and to 39, 37 and then to 34, 31 to 29 and then to 27 and 23 to 19 and 17. The Gospel was preached to them, there came to be known believers among them, and some passages of the Bible translated in their languages. What a joy to pray for the lost (unreached) and also to know that prayer is an indispensable key for the work of ministry to bear fruit!

Increased momentum in prayer for the unreached.

We are deeply engaged in prayer for the unreached with ministries that have a heart for the unreached:

- ✓ *Ethne Prayer Movement
- ✓ Inherit the Nations
- ✓ 24:14 Coalition
- ✓ 10 Days
- ✓ International Prayer Council.
- ✓ Extraordinary Prayer Task Force
- ✓ Fellowship of Prayer Strategists
- ✓ Somalia Watch
- ✓ Global Family 24/7

Prayer is the key for bringing in the harvest of the unreached people groups into the Kingdom of God. So, let's have pure hearts to pray for the joy set before us and reach the unreached in prayer.

Dr. Moses Olele
Principal Vision Bible College.
National Facilitator, Ethne Prayer Network, 24:14 Coalition
Serving with 10 Days Africa

*names have been changed for security reasons

*Ethne Prayer Movement - <https://ethneprayer.org/>

Every Home for Christ - <https://everyhome.org/>

Global Disciple Ministries - <https://globaldisciples.org/>