




CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 50-DAY PRAYER & FASTING SEASON 2024: 19th AUGUST – 8th OCTOBER 2024

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY SPHERE

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INTRODUCTION

On 8th October 2012, the eve of our nation's first Golden Jubilee, the believers under the banner of Uganda Jubilee Network covenanted our nation to God for His purposes in the next 50 years. Since then, leading up to our National Day of Independence, 9th October 2024, we have annually marked a 50-day season of prayer (19th August – 7th October 2024) focusing on seeking God's face and His purposes for our land.

IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

The family was the first human institution God established. It is the building unit of society; what the cell is to the body, the family is to society. God's design is that the family begins with the union between a man and a woman (Genesis 1:27; 2:24). The same love and relationships that are experienced in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are to be manifested in the human family: husband, wife, and children.

The family plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's identity and providing emotional support. It is where children learn values, beliefs, and social norms, contributing significantly to their overall well-being. Families offer love, companionship, and a sense of belonging, creating a stable foundation for personal growth and development. Strong family relationships help individuals navigate challenges, build resilience, and foster a sense of security. Ultimately, the family is a primary source of strength and support; its importance cannot be overstated.



When families function properly, they offer a sense of belonging, identity, self-esteem, love, and emotional support. They provide unconditional love and acceptance, promoting a sense of security; these are crucial for an individual's well-being and happiness. The family is the first institution where children should learn social skills, values, morals, beliefs, and norms. The family provides care and nurturing; these are essential for the physical, emotional, and psychological development of family members. Families also serve as a support system during times of crisis, illness, or hardship. In the family, resources are shared and members learn the first principles of financial and other resource management. Functional families thus promote social cohesion and stability. The importance of the family cannot be overstated. It is the foundation upon which individuals and societies are built.

The devil is opposed to everything that God establishes and being the first human institution that God created, the family is a major target of satanic attacks to undermine, corrupt, and eventually destroy. The ultimate aim is to destroy human society; Satan's agenda is always to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). Statistics on criminality indicate that broken homes are a major influence on those who become lawless. Since the father's absence or abusive behaviour is the most damaging factor in a family unit, men are Satan's major target.

The focus of prayer for this year's prayer season is the preservation and strengthening of families. Ultimately God's plan for the earth will be fulfilled as the divine order in family life is restored. May your families be part of this unfolding plan.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS FOR FAMILY

- **Week 1** (19th - 25th August 2024)
 - Fathers, Husbands, Boys
- **Week 2** (26th August - 1st September 2024)
 - Mothers, Wives, Girls
- **Week 3** (2nd - 8th September 2024)
 - Extended Family
- **Week 4** (9th - 15th September 2024)
 - Church and the Family
- **Week 5** (16th - 22nd September 2024)
 - Educational Institutions and the Family.
- **Week 6** (23rd - 29th September 2024)
 - Celebration and Media and the Family
- **Week 7** (30th September - 6th October 2024)
 - Government and the Family

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2024 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To pray for the restoration and preservation of divine order in family life in our nation (Psalms 22:27-28)
2. To pray for the protection of the next generation.
3. To prayer that God will be greatly glorified in the families, clans and tribes of Uganda.
4. To renew our covenant with God concerning our nation
5. To seek God's enablement for us to fulfill our individual roles in seeing God's plan for our generation come to pass.

A prayer guide for the prayer season will be provided.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRAYER AND FASTING

- The recommended mode of fasting is taking one meal over 24 hours. Water and light fluids are acceptable during the fasting period. We encourage the drinking of plenty of water.
- While we encourage believers to participate in all the 50 days, we recognize that many believers are not accustomed to this length of fast so we suggest some variations for those who would like to take part in a shorter fast during the period. The fasting period is seven weeks. If one took a 24-hour fast on a different day of each of the seven weeks, they would cover all the themes in the prayer guide.
- Alternatively one could choose one week during the seven weeks to fast and pray over all the themes covered in the prayer guide.
- This period provides the opportunity for every believer to exercise him or herself in the discipline of fasting and stretch him or herself a little more than they are accustomed to.
- Personal, family, organizational, and local congregational matters regarding God's plans for the future should be covered in addition to the daily themes for prayer.

DATES TO NOTE

Prayer groups and congregations should organize the events listed below locally:

- Sunday, 18th August 2024 (Evening): dedication of the prayer and fasting season. This should include praying for those committing to the fasting season.
- Daily Prayer Meetings, Monday to Saturday; (Morning 6am - 7am and Evening 10pm - 11pm.)
- Weekly prayer vigils: Fridays nights are recommended times for the weekly prayer vigil. Prayer leaders must ensure they get the necessary permission and observe local regulations. Apart from praying through the themes of the week. Time should be spent praying through various family, church, local, and national needs.
- Weekly prayer theme launch; Every Sunday evening 6pm -7pm
- A 3-day Virtual Concluding Conference (5th, 6th & 7th October 2024).
- Monday, 7th October 2024 (evening): conclusion of the fasting season and special day of prayer for the next generation. Sharing of Holy Communion is recommended as we pray for the hastening of the day Jesus spoke of in Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, and Luke 22:18.
- Tuesday, 8th October 2024: Independence Eve Prayer Night vigil. Dedicating the year 2024/2025.
- 10th October 2024: Day of Atonement - Defending The Next Generation.