



**50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2024**

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY SPHERE

EPHESIANS 3:14,15

*For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named*

PRAYER GUIDE

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WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS 2024

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

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2024/25 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 pray 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 to fulfill our roles in God's plan for our generation.

MAIN PRAYER FOCUS OF THE WEEK:

To pray for the Celebration and Media Spheres as they relate to Family life.

**WEEK SIX: FOCUS ON THE CELEBRATION & MEDIA SPHERES AS THEY RELATE
TO THE FAMILY
23rd - 29th September 2024**

Jeremiah 33:10-11

*“Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, **there shall be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD:***

“Give thanks to the LORD of hosts,

for the LORD is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever!’

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.

The Celebration Sphere plays a crucial role in family life. It encompasses entertainment, sports, the arts, drama, movies, theatre, film, poetry, literature, music, dance, oratory, fashion, comedy, and any other way we that we enjoy and celebrate life. It fosters connection between family members, strengthens family traditions, and provides times of shared joy. Whether it's birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, marriages, or personal victories, family celebrations have deep emotional, psychological, and social significance. Sports contribute to physical, emotional, and social well-being. Families can participate in celebration activities together or support one another from the sidelines like often happens in sport. Through celebration, family bonds are strengthened, valuable life skills are learnt, and health is promoted.

Media's impact on family dynamics has evolved dramatically with the proliferation of television, social media, streaming services, and the internet. Media influences communication, values, behavior, and relationships. Media has a profound impact on family life, offering both opportunities and challenges. When used wisely, it can facilitate learning, communication, and bonding within the family. However, excessive or unmonitored media consumption can strain relationships, influence behavior in negative ways, and reduce meaningful interactions. The rise of digital devices has impacted how family members communicate with each other. In some cases, media can disrupt face-to-face interactions, leading to less meaningful communication, especially when family members are absorbed in their devices. Media can consume a significant portion of a family's time, often reducing the quality of in-person interactions. Excessive use of media devices can result in less time for activities like outdoor play, family meals, and conversations. Families need to create healthy boundaries for screen time, ensuring that media consumption doesn't interfere with family bonding, physical activity, or responsibilities like schoolwork and chores.

God is the Creator of pleasure and joy. He is the Creator of every good and enjoyable thing. In God's presence is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. God is the Creator of beauty. He created the gift of sight plus a colorful world; from three primary colors with up to 10 million different hues that a human eye can see. He created everything beautiful we see in the world. Whenever we see beauty, it should remind us of God the Creator. He created everything out of nothing. Creation in all its forms and expressions are God's work of Art. Psalm 8:3 describes the creation of the heavens as "the work of thy fingers". God's archenemy, the devil, on the other hand has never created anything but rather perverts everything God created. Subsequently the Celebration and Media spheres that are meant to bring joy to families are corrupted and distorted to a point where they are distasteful. Through the Celebration Sphere, the devil has been able to seduce, capture, corrupt and thwart the destiny of entire generations.

God is the creator of love and romance. One entire book of the Bible is dedicated to these subjects – Song of Solomon. Satan stepped in to pervert what is pure and beautiful. Seduction is a perversion of romance and lust is a perversion of love. The devil distorts and defiles all the good things God has created: love, romance, intimacy, the arts, music, sports, fashion, and makes them so offensive to the point that God's people shun them. At God's right hand are pleasures forevermore but the enemy prostitutes that pleasure by enticing men to become lovers of pleasure than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:4).

The Scriptures often use sports in good light, to illustrate a teaching and provide more insight into it. In the first verse quoted above, Paul contrasts exercising with the body with exercising with the spirit. Though the latter is better, the former is noted as being good. Due to the conveniences of modern life, we are exercising our bodies less and less. As a result, the rate of growth of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer are increasing and devastating family life.

God is the creator of rhythm, music, movement and dance. Music was present at the creation of the earth. God asked Job where he was when He laid the foundations of the earth as the angels sang as revealed by in Job 38:4-7. Prophet Ezekiel stated that the Archangel Lucifer had musical instruments created into his being (Ezekiel 29:11-19); this has led some to believe that he oversaw worship before he allowed pride and ambition to get the better of him. In Genesis 1:2 movement was associated with creation. The Spirit of God was "hovering" over the waters. Adam's reaction to seeing Eve for the first time was a poem.

Celebration and Media contribute to Family life in several ways. First in strengthening family bonds. Celebrations provide opportunities for family members to come together, share experiences, and create lasting memories. During celebrations, older and younger generations interact, bridging the gap between ages. This fosters mutual respect, understanding, and continuity of family traditions. Emotional bonds between family members are strengthened, fostering a sense of belonging. Engaging in sports as a family teaches teamwork. Whether playing together or organizing family outings around sports, members learn to cooperate, communicate, and support each other's roles, creating opportunities for family bonding. Family members can support one another during games, celebrate achievements, and share the excitement of victory or the lessons of defeat. Entertainment allows family members to participate in shared activities, whether watching a movie together, playing a game, or attending a concert. These shared experiences can help build stronger emotional connections and foster a sense of belonging. In a busy world, entertainment offers a chance for families to spend quality time together, creating positive memories that can last a lifetime.

Second, in creating and sustaining traditions. Celebrations often include traditions passed down from generation to generation. Families can also create new traditions during celebrations, which can help shape their identity and give them something to look forward to each year or occasion. These traditions serve as a way to connect with the family's history and heritage. Regular involvement in sports can create lasting family traditions. Whether it's playing kwepena in the backyard, attending a particular sporting event every year, or gathering to watch a favorite team, these traditions contribute to a family's unique identity. In many families, a passion for a particular sport is passed down from generation to generation, keeping family members connected to their roots and history.

Third, in providing relaxation and stress relief. Families often face stress and challenges, but celebrations provide a break where members can focus on positivity and gratitude, promoting relaxation and reducing tension. Celebrations offer a break from the routine and can inject joy and fun into daily life. These moments of happiness are essential for emotional well-being. After work or school, entertainment can offer a way for families to unwind and relax together. Whether it's through comedy shows, video games, or music, entertainment serves as a stress reliever and

promotes mental well-being. Entertainment can create joy and laughter in the household, fostering a relaxed and happy environment for family members to feel comfortable in. Physical activity is a proven stress reliever, and families that engage in sports together experience the emotional benefits of exercise, such as reduced anxiety and improved mood. Family sports outings or activities encourage positive mental health through physical engagement, social interaction, and emotional support from loved ones.

Fourth, by encouraging creativity and fun. Organizing celebrations allows family members to express creativity through decorating, cooking, or planning activities. This brings excitement and variety into family life. Fun activities, games, and laughter during celebrations promote bonding and improve mental and emotional health by creating shared joyful experiences.

Fifth, by fostering gratitude and appreciation celebrations helping in building resilience in coping with challenges . Celebrating accomplishments, birthdays, or anniversaries allows family members to show appreciation for each other's presence, contributions, and support. During celebrations, families often reflect on the positive aspects of their lives, fostering a sense of gratitude for the people, experiences, and blessings they have. Even in challenging moments, like illness or loss, celebrating small victories or anniversaries can foster resilience. It reminds family members that life still has joy and hope, even in the face of adversity. Celebrations help shift the family's focus from problems to possibilities, strengthening their capacity to cope with challenges.

Sixth, by instilling values and teaching lessons. Celebrations, especially spiritual or cultural ones, often carry deep moral and ethical lessons. Participating in these events helps reinforce family values, faith, and cultural identity. Recognizing achievements, like graduations or career milestones, helps to emphasize the importance of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. It teaches younger family members to appreciate accomplishments and strive for personal growth.

Seventh, by building a sense of belonging and security. Celebrations give family members the chance to reconnect in a supportive and joyful environment, reminding them that they are part of a loving, secure community. By celebrating milestones and achievements together, family members feel emotionally supported and valued, which can boost self-esteem and provide comfort in times of need.

Finally, celebrations are a way to mark important milestones, such as birthdays, rites of passage, weddings, graduations, or retirement. These occasions help the family acknowledge the passage of time and the growth of its members. Celebrating life's transitions, like moving to a new home or a new job, helps the family adapt to changes and view them as positive developments.

Conclusion

Celebration and Media are a fundamental part of family life. They build stronger relationships, foster emotional support, and provide a sense of continuity through traditions. By bringing family members together to mark important moments, celebrations not only offer joy and fun but also promote resilience, instill values, and strengthen the family's identity. Media has a profound impact on family life, offering both opportunities and challenges. When used wisely, it can facilitate learning, communication, and bonding within the family. However, excessive or unmonitored media consumption can strain relationships, influence behavior in negative ways, and reduce meaningful interactions.

This is a week to pray for the Celebration and Media Spheres as they relate to the family. While the Media is where information is interpreted through the lens of good or evil, The Celebration Sphere is where values and virtues are either distorted or celebrated.

Thanksgiving:

Thank God for:

- The gift of sight and hearing.
- The gift of your body and the ability to move, walk, run).
- Those using the audio-visual media to communicate truth in every sphere of society.

- Creating rhythm, music, movement and dance that give us enjoyment of life and fill our lives with many memories. Many of our life memories are stored up with songs. The playing of an old song can bring back memories that had long been forgotten.
- Thank God for the artists and musicians in the country who are using their gifting not only for godly worship, but also for teaching and discipling families in biblical values.

Ask God's forgiveness for:

- The promotion of evil and the agenda of the Kingdom of Darkness through the audio-visual media - lies, nudity, pornography, violence etc.
- The laziness that is creeping in on the country due to a sedentary lifestyle that is resulting in the increase in non-communicable diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- The failure of the Church to lead the way in promoting godly culture through the Media and celebration spheres.

Pray that:

- The Body of Christ will come to a greater understanding of the Celebration sphere and utilize it to the maximum in strengthening families.
- The place of sports and recreation in healthy living will be promoted for families.
- More and more people who reflect the biblical worldview will enter the space of the audio-visual media as anchors, writers, producers, technicians and owners of media houses.
- Truth will triumph over lies as sons and daughters of God's Kingdom advance and dominate the spaces in the audio-visual media.
- More children of God's Kingdom will arise to express the creativity of God the Father through the audio-visual media.
- Policies that will promote the positive use of the audio-visual media will be enacted.
- Policies that restrain the use of the audio-visual media to propagate lies, slander, and pornography will be enacted and robustly enforced.
- The government ministries and agencies that oversee media: Media Council of Uganda, the Uganda Communications Commission, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology together with the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity will all effectively carry out their respective mandates. Pray for the effective leadership and management of these organizations.

PROCLAMATION FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRATION

A Declaration of What We are Praying for And What We See as God Answers Prayer

God is raising leaders in the celebration sphere that will exercise their leadership in righteous and justice.

They will be positioned at all the peaks of the Celebration Mountain: music, dance, oratory, drama, theatre, film, comedy, fashion, art and sports.

They will be teachable and delivered from the spirit of seduction and pride that dwells on this mountain.

They will be grounded in biblical values and God will work through them to redeem and restore a true understanding and appreciation for celebration.

They will be positive role models for the youth.

There will be a host of coaches, actors, choreographers, songwriters, script writers, producers, conductors, costume designers, make-up artists etc. to support them.

The religious spirit that has kept sons and daughters of the Kingdom of God locked out of this sphere, will be judged and removed so that there will be enlightened understanding from a biblical perspective.

The Celebration Sphere will be redeemed to the point where it will be known that fullness of joy is found in the presence of God, and walking with Him comes with pleasures that are holy and pure. Songs, dance, drama and other art forms proclaiming God's value system and truths in the family, business, government, education, and every aspect of human life will fill the airwaves.

New songs and art forms in the indigenous languages will abound in all languages and infiltrate all the cultures in the country.

Understanding will increase among Christian artists of their unique role in discipling the nation and building God's Kingdom.

*There will be major displays of creativity expressed through unpolluted fashion and art
Policies formulated will create conditions that will make it conducive for the private sector to effectively participate in the development of fashion and art.*

The family culture will be positively impacted as the arts are used to instruct and disciple the nation in biblical values.

As a result, God will be greatly glorified in music, dance, oratory, drama, theatre, film, and comedy, fashion and art in Uganda.

AMEN

PROCLAMATION FOR THE MEDIA

A Declaration of What We Are Praying for And What We See As God Answers Prayer

God is raising leaders for Uganda in the Media spheres that that will lead in righteousness, justice and truth.

They will be positioned on all the peaks of the Media Mountain: print, radio, television, and social media.

Sons and daughters of God's Kingdom will ascend the different peaks of the Media Mountain as anchors, writers, producers, technicians and owners of media houses.

Truth will triumph over lies in as they occupy and dominate these mountain peaks

The Government ministries and agencies that oversee media: Media Council of Uganda, the Uganda Communications Commission, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology together with the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity will all effectively carry out their respective mandates in a coordinated way.

Those called to the Media Sphere will arise and take their rightful place, and the Body of Christ will come to a full understanding of what it means to disciple families through this sphere.

Millions will come to know God and come to the knowledge of the truth through the media in the years ahead.

Policies will be enacted and robustly enforced to promote the positive use of the media and restrain lies, fake news, slander, pornography, violence, anger, fear, terror, and negativity

Programs and curricula that train mass communicators will be reviewed and reformed to produce individuals with a constructive and positive approach in using the media for national good.

Media will be used as a platform to provide a voice for the voiceless: vulnerable children, people with disabilities and those with disadvantaged social backgrounds.

God will be greatly glorified through all media outlets in Uganda.

AMEN

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

MARK 6:31,32

And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

JOB 38:4-7

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

PSALM 16:11

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

EXODUS 15:20-21

“Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea’

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, 4

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven....
...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...*

JEREMIAH 31:11-14

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

***They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,***

*over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.*

***Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.***

I will turn their mourning into joy;

*I will comfort them and give them **gladness for sorrow.***

*I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and **my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,**
declares the Lord.”*

Psalms 150:1-6

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!*

*Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals; **praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 95:1-7

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; **let us make a joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

PSALM 98:4-9

***Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!
Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy
of praise, think about these things.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with
gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

**Prayer leaders should draw prayer points from the weekly envisioning meetings given every
Sunday**