



PRAYERS FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Health, Education, Politics and Economics

Week of 31st Aug. To 6th Sept. 2020

Monday 31st Aug. 2020: Health Systems in Africa

Psalm 103: 2-3 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

COVID 19 has exposed the fragile health systems in African countries. Many governments have either been unable or unwilling to provide accurate figures on the pandemic. In many African countries health facilities have been stretched to the limit. Africa has two medical doctors per 10,000 persons while Italy has 41 medical doctors per 10,000 people. Wealthy individuals receive treatment in private hospitals while poor residents are left to rely on state hospitals that are already filled to capacity. This results in loss of productivity caused by ill health.

Let us pray that:

1. Governments in Africa would focus on building the human capacity at all levels and specialities in the medical field so as to provide adequate health care for their citizens.
2. That the running of health services would be professional and patients would be treated in a humane manner when they seek medical attention.
3. That those in charge of health facilities would be dedicated to building the right culture and work ethic and would themselves be an example of integrity.
4. Governments would finance the construction of adequate health facilities in terms of in and out patient facilities, laboratories, surgical theatres, maternity wards and other specialist facilities.
5. Governments would focus on treatment of mental health issues which are often ignored causing much suffering by patients and their families.
6. Governments would focus on the treatment and management of all types of disability, physical as well as mental.
7. That efforts being made now to manage the COVID 19 situation would be sustained after pandemic, so that national and local health facilities would be improved
8. Let us pray for shalom for the nations of Africa and God's light will shine forth.

Tuesday 1st Sept. 2020: Education systems

Proverbs 9:9: Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Historically, education systems inherited from the colonial period were aimed at training clerical and white-collar workforce in many African countries. As automation and technological advancement gather pace such training does increasingly render many in such a workforce redundant. The

growth and development of African countries very much depends on the relevance of the skills the labour force possesses.

Let us pray that:

1. Governments in Africa would closely monitor and acknowledge changing global trends start making greater investment in science and technology in education.
2. That the teaching of science and technology of African children would start at a young age to expose them to these skills and help them appreciate technology when they are still young.
3. That concerted effort would be made to build the skills of trainers in schools as well as technical institutions in science and technology to enhance their competence.
4. That Universities and other tertiary institutions would become centres of excellence in providing academic as well as practical training to the students to ensure readiness for the workplace.
5. Governments would provide adequate funding for research to encourage the pivotal growth in the body of local knowledge.
6. That God would protect the children and young people in this COVID 19 period when schools all over Africa have been closed from physical and sexual abuse, from being lured into drugs, alcohol and immoral behaviour, from teenage pregnancies, from rebellion against parents.
7. That when the pupils return back to school that God would help them to catch up with what they have lost, especially the many who have not been able to follow on their studies online or through TV

Wednesday 2nd Sept.: Politics and Governance

1Timothy 2:1-2: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Even though democratic governance has over the last 20 years been taking root in many African countries in different forms, many challenges remain. These include contested and stolen elections, change of term limits, delayed elections, rigging and domination and manipulation by the elite.

Let us pray that:

1. African leaders would practice integrity in the area of elections and allow the will of the people to prevail.
2. The Lord would end the capture of states by the elite and manipulation of politics for selfish ends.
3. Ethnic and religious conflicts – in particular South Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, Nigeria, DR Congo, Somalia, Libya would come to an end.
4. Communal conflict over water and grazing land and other resources would come to an end and that pastoralist communities would live in peace and harmony in Africa.

5. The end of suppression of independent media, dissent and alternative voices that represent the people.
6. The protection of democratic values, civil liberties and the rule of law in African countries
7. Pray that the Prince of Peace for whom leaders rule, will be welcome into Africa once again.

Thursday 3rd Sept. 2020 :Praying for East Africa

*Deuteronomy 8:18 **But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.***

The Eastern Africa is comprised of eleven countries, namely Burundi, **Kenya**, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda that are members of the EAC and Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia that make up the Horn of **Africa**. Economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed East Africa's growth projection for 2020 from 5% down to 1.2%. East Africa's economies have been slowly transitioning from agriculture to services. With the pandemic, the demand for services sector has been hardest hit.

Let us take note of the situation as we pray:

1. East African Economic structure is transforming with services sector becoming more dominant. Let us pray that the services sector in these countries would recover from the effects of the pandemic such as slower trade, high indebtedness, high inflation, budget deficits and thrive.
2. Let us pray that the erratic relations between Kenya and Tanzania would heal for the benefit of both countries.
3. **Burundi**: The country relies largely on agriculture and is resource poor. Almost 2/3

2/3 of the population live below the poverty line and unemployment is very high at 65%. Let us pray that God would give the new president wisdom to lead the country into political stability and economic growth and stability.
4. **Rwanda**: Let us thank God for Rwanda - GDP growth was estimated at 8.7% in last year, which is higher than the regional average. Growth was mainly in services (7.6%) and industry (18.1%), particularly construction (30%). Investment drove growth, led by public investment in basic services and infrastructure. Rwanda is the fastest growing economy in Africa and is reaping from its zero tolerance on corruption that enables the country's leadership to focus on the economy.
 - a. Let us pray that country would continue to grow and that other African leaders would emulate President Kagame in this respect.
 - b. Pray that President Kagame will find it in himself to groom the next leadership of this nation, so there would be a smooth transition.
 - c. Let us pray that democratic leadership would be strengthened in the country
 - d. Let us pray that the growth trajectory will be maintained and together with a spiritual awakening.
 - e. Pray that healing of past wounds will continue and all Rwandese in foreign countries will be welcomed back to continue to rebuild the nation.

Friday 4th Sept. Praying for East Africacontinued

1. **Somalia:** As a result of the civil war triggered in 1991 its state institutions were destroyed are only finding their footing now. Somalia's economy is growing at 2.9% but the economy faces many challenges including a large current account deficit; volatile export markets, remittances which are a key source of foreign exchange are threatened, high external debt, a dollarized economy, high levels of poverty and high youth unemployment.
 - a. Let us pray for the end of Alshabaab and beginning of lasting peace in Somalia so that the economy can grow and the people can settle and live normal lives.
 - b. May the Lord protect the people of this nation and may they come to know Him.

2. **South Sudan:** GDP growth was an estimated 5.8% in 2019, a large increase from 0.5% in 2018. The 2019 rebound was driven mainly by reopening some oil fields and resuming production, and by the peace agreement signed in September 2018. The oil sector remains the key driver of the economy, followed by services and agriculture. The country is in debt distress and lacks economic diversification, has high public debt, weak institutions, and political uncertainty.
 - a. Let us pray that the country's leaders would remain committed to the peace agreement and that there would be an end to local conflicts that lead to the deaths of many.
 - b. Pray for stability to come to this nation that has never known peace even after getting it's independence from the Sudan.

3. **Kenya** has become the first country to be awarded the safer tourism seal
 - a. Let us pray that tourists would now feel safe to visit our tourist attractions and bring the country much needed foreign exchange as well as help to revive the hospitality industry which has been on its knees with hotels closed and many people laid off.
 - b. Pray that God would judge corruption in this great nation and bring it to an end.
 - c. Pray that the believers in this nation will know their role and purpose and will birth the revival.

4. **Pray that the Lion of the tribe of Judah would roar over these East African Countries and its people would come to him in large numbers.**

Saturday 5th Sept.2020: Praying for West Africa

Proverbs 28:19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

The West African Region comprises 17 countries including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Helena, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, West Africa region was poised to expand by 4.0% in 2020.

However, the economy is now projected to contract by -2.0% in 2020. The region suffers from high poverty levels and inequality. However, West Africa's burgeoning youth population offers a strategic workforce, which can be harnessed for employment and economic growth.

1. As Western Africa countries face the impact of COVID 19, let us pray that inflationary pressures would remain low, revenues would rise, public debt would be manageable, protection from external shocks and negative trade balances.

2. **Ghana:** Ghana is an economic power house in West Africa with a GDP projected to hit a 7.6% growth in 2019, from 6.3% in 2018. This trend was led largely by a strong growth in mining, petroleum, agriculture and sustained expansion in forestry and logging. Ghana has remarkably managed to reduce its absolute poverty by half and the poverty level stands at 12.5%.
 - a. Let us thank God for this country's growth and poverty reduction efforts.
 - b. Let us pray that other African countries would emulate the pro-poor policies and efforts made by Ghana
 - c. Ghana's leadership is leading in welcoming the African Americans back home to reconnect with their roots. Pray for smooth integration and many blessings will come to the people of Ghana and Africa.

3. **Burkina Faso:** This is a low-income country with limited natural resources. Its economy is largely based on agriculture, which employs close to 80% of the working population, although gold exports have increased in recent years. GDP growth is estimated at 6% for 2019 (6.8% in 2018), driven primarily by manufacturing and technology and services, as well as by sustained growth in private and public consumption. The country faces many development challenges, particularly in terms of health and education (almost 75% of the labour force have no schooling) and poverty is rampant. Furthermore, insecurity linked to frequent terrorist attacks since 2016 has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.
 - a. Let us pray for Burkina Faso, which is one of the poorest country in Africa may arise and grow.
 - b. May the Lord grant wisdom and strong leadership in the country that will prioritise the development of the people.
 - c. May the Lord bring the insecurity and attacks that have led to the displacement of over 700,000 people to an end.
 - d. Pray that the interference from France and other nations would stop and so allow the Burkinabe people to have peace.

Sun. 6th Sept. Prayers for West Africa ..continued

4. **Nigeria:** In terms of population Nigeria is the largest country in Africa estimated at over 206 million in 2020 and is the largest economy. The country's growth however has been sluggish and GDP growth was estimated at 2.3% in 2019, marginally higher than 1.9% in 2018. Growth was mainly in transport, oil sector, and ICT. Agriculture was hurt by sporadic flooding and by conflicts between herdsmen and local farmers. Poverty is widespread in the country and low skills limit opportunities for employment in the formal economy. The country also suffers sporadic insecurity in the north from the Boko Haram insurgents.
 - a. Let us thank God for Nigeria's current president who is committed to fighting the country's high corruption levels.

- b. Let us pray that God would give the Nigerian leaders wisdom on how to grow the economy and reduce the high poverty levels.
 - c. Let us pray that God would bring an end to the Boko Haram insurgency so that people living in the affected areas may live in peace and go about their businesses and that those who have been captured by the group would be released and be able to return to their families.
 - d. Pray for law and order to be established and corruption to come to an end in this country with the highest population in Africa and in diaspora.
5. **Mali:** Mali, a vast country in the Sahel region, is a low-income economy that is under-industrialised and vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. High population growth rates and climate change pose major risks for the country's agriculture sector and food security. Mali has been experiencing instability and conflict since the military coup of 2012 and the occupation of the northern regions by armed groups. Despite the security crisis, Mali's economy has remained resilient. In 2019, the country recorded 5% real GDP growth, driven by gold and cotton production.
- a. Let us pray that God would give Mali's leaders the wisdom to diversity the economy so as to make it less vulnerable to external shocks and to reduce poverty levels.
 - b. Let us pray for an end to political instability that has left 5.2 million people short of food and contributed to conflict in the region.
6. **Gambia:** The Gambia is a small, fragile country in West Africa. Stretching 450 km along the Gambia River, the country is surrounded by Senegal, except for a 60-km Atlantic Ocean front. The country has a population of 2.1 million and is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. Following the 2016 political transition, GDP growth accelerated to 6.6% in 2018 driven by a recovery in agriculture, tourism, construction, and trade. Debt remains unsustainable (81.8% of GDP in 2018), and has kept poverty stagnant (48%) and unemployment high (35.2% in 2018).
- a. Let us pray that Gambia would continue to experience political stability and economic growth.
 - b. Pray that God would give the leaders wisdom on how to reduce the debt so that the high poverty and unemployment levels can be reduced.
 - c. Pray that Gambians would know who they are in God and they would choose to serve him through serving one another.

“I was enraged by their sinful greed; I punished them, and hid my face in anger, yet they kept on in their wilful ways. I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s mourners, creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace to those far and near,” says the LORD. “And I will heal them” Isa. 57:17-19