

# PRAYER

AS A LOADED SPIRITUAL AMMUNITION.

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The strength of the ammunition to penetrate every object is the material used in its manufacture. In the same grain, the strength of prayer is the knowledge of the Word of God and the kind of lifestyle that one leads "Effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). The Word of God in the mouth of a righteous person, is the right ammunition that when engaged will cause prayer to be on-point. I must caution Christians that prayer is not to be used to cut down another Christian. "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). As much as it is true that for God to bless someone, He will use "flesh and blood", the same lies with the devil. However, the person who may allow himself/herself to be used by the devil is not the devil. For prayer to bring the desired result, pray according

to the instructions found in the Word of God. A soldier is taught how to defend self, attack the enemy and survival techniques, thus the infamous boot camps, strict indoctrination to obey instructions immediately without question, reading and understanding the rules of engagement and adherence to protocol. This is where a spirit-led life comes into play. There is the fruit of the spirit which should be in operation in the life of a Christian. We live right not so that we can get the houses, cars and the lot, but as a reflection (mirror) of the gift that we received from God in salvation. We live right because God has demonstrated His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Jesus came to die for us (Rom. 5:8). We live right because it is our response to this "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). We live right when we come to the understanding that Christ has given us a way out of the wrath that is to come. We live right by the grace of God through faith, which was demonstrated on the cross; and the Holy Spirit is the one, who helps us to chart aright in this life. The Holy Spirit releases a force (empowerment), velocity upon which prayer rests.. As a Christian, it is important to know that God has left you with reinforcement, in the Person of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us,

who becomes our guide (like how the GPS works). He leads, He teaches, He gives strength, He is a comforter, He brings us to all truth, He rebukes and much more. Once Christians learn to yield daily to the Holy Spirit, their lifestyles change, as the Word of God transforms our thinking. As we learn to surrender more of who we are to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our prayer life becomes more precise. The more we yield, the more we bear the image of a restored life, the more our lives radiate love, mercy and justice, the more our prayers become effective since we are not fighting "flesh and blood" and the more we can discern the difference.

As we learn to engage in Spiritual Warfare, let us learn to battle for that which is ours. It is time to "occupy" until our Lord returns. May you become the Lord's banner today, through the lifting up of effectual fervent prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who died and rose triumphantly on the third day.

Colossians 2:15 (AMP): [God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].

Sophie Njau



# THE SWORD

OF THE SPIRIT

Volume Six

# New JOURNEY

## NEW HOME

Capital Campaign Kickoff Event

TAMARA DURR

*A* journey. As I ponder the concept of a journey and its various meanings—a trip, a voyage, a drive, or an expedition—the tag of our capital campaign, "New Journey...New Home," expresses an even greater significance than I initially understood. When we started on this "New Journey" in November of last year, our endpoint, a "New Home," was very clear. Everyone understood that our final destination was to acquire a new place of worship. Since then, an enormous amount of time, effort, and planning has been poured into this campaign, and it indeed has been an interesting journey, thus far. The significance that I have recently discovered, however, is found in the "... of our campaign's title. In the beginning it was critical that we all understood the fact that we were launching into a "New Journey," and it was as equally important that we fully grasped the notion of our aim, a "New Home." The time and space in between these two phrases "... is what has not always been so prescribed. As the capital campaign leader, there have been many surprises along this journey. We have experienced the events

program participants...who cancelled the day before the big event. Internally, we have watched a 20-member campaign team...dwindle to a handful of individuals. Yes, some of the speed bumps and road blocks along the way have proven to be a great challenge. On the other hand, we have had amazing opportunities such as hosting our first Valentine's Day Spoken Word event and sharing our hearts in unprecedented style and class. We also had the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to unsuspecting individuals as they pass by our fundraiser table outside of Walmart.

I believe that God allowed for us to unknowingly incorporate the "... for a great purpose. It serves as a reminder to us all that much like our faith walk in God, our journey to a new home will inevitably bring about the unexpected, the unplanned, and sometimes even the unwanted. However, the "... also holds pleasant surprises and needed detours that lead us to even greater opportunities and experiences than we originally anticipated. All in all, I believe that the words of a great man hold true for this entire journey, it is our "faith that serves as our vehicle" along every path we take. It is and will be our faith that

will carry us through the "... I once had a good friend tell me something very profound. She said, "You can stand under the pressure, if you understand the promise." It is our faith that carries us along this journey, because it is by our faith that we believe our promise.

### A POEM BY IRENE KIARIE

The drama at the Red Sea was not a mistake  
See it was all a set up so here is my take  
Let me say that again  
It was God's decision to call Moses  
An Egyptian prince Israelite born put in a basket  
Right into Pharaoh's house no reed could mask it  
It did not matter that Moses was a stammerer  
God's decision to use him was not based on glamour  
It must have been hard for Moses to accept the call  
Because left to men alone he would not qualify due to his flow  
Many are the times I feel unqualified  
Too cute to be undignified  
While all the while struggling with my identity  
Forgetting that in him lies indemnity  
Refusing to let go of my past  
Holding on to my scars  
All my hurt and pain incubated  
Fake prayers, fake laughs, my life manipulated  
I have walked through the wilderness  
Walked through the valley of the shadow of stress  
Hatred, manipulation, jealousy, hypocrisy, death  
Forgetting that his word is my daily bread  
Forgetting that the answer is prayer  
Everything I need in His arms right there  
It is God's decision to call me straight up  
And just like Moses my life is a set up  
He decided to give up his throne  
Pick up my life that was gone  
God is the master planner  
He gives us everything on a silver platter  
Let's make a decision to accept his call  
It's simple He provided for all

### WHO WE ARE

FFMI is a multiethnic and multicultural church. We exist to disciple Christians and fit them for the master's use irrespective of race, tribe or culture.

"There comes a point in your life when you realize Heaven and Hell are real. You come to a sense of realization and ask yourself where do you want to go?"

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## SINGLES MINGLE 2014



Friends with Boundaries and Blessings (NOT BENEFITS)

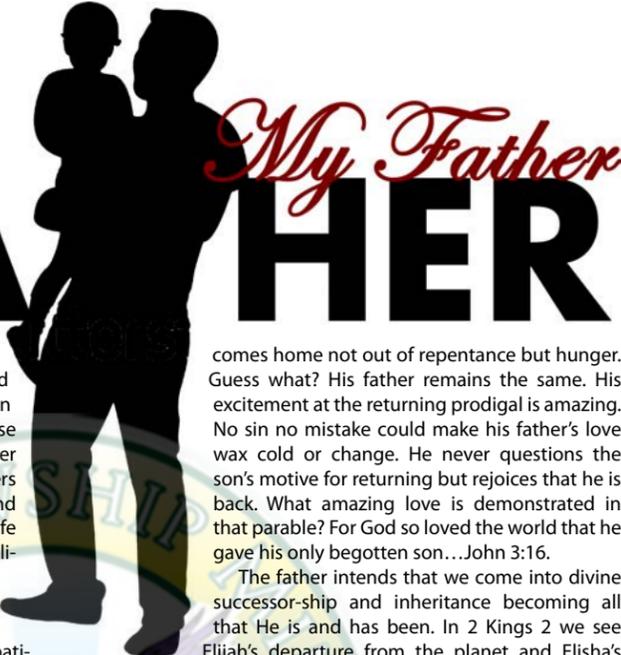
And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6

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## PASTOR'S PEN

Pastor Steve

# MY FATHER



Sunday June 15th 2014 was fathers' day. Fathers are imperative for divine success. No new mantles exist but that which is passed on and inherited. It behooves us all as growing believers to aspire to fatherhood: reproducing after our kind and guiding, nurturing and shielding our "young" until they hit the season of spiritual majority and maturity. It's a solemn charge of unconditional and sometimes unrequited love. We invest in others like we would our own children not for gain but for necessity of growth of His kingdom and because a charge is laid upon us to do so.

As you read this piece it is my prayer that that we aspire to have the grace of fatherhood. Please understand that the effectiveness and quality of our prayer (communication) is predicated on the strength of our father-son relationship and all its attendant rights, privileges and rightful assumptions. To inherit our blessing, to be who he has designed us to be, to step into our new levels, to be celebrated, favored and honored, we need to repair that relationship with our father in heaven, knowing that we only see and understand him based on our relationship with our earthly father: be it spiritual or secular. Be blessed in this season and reproduce after your kind as you read along.

For a pastor, fathers' day is not simply the celebration of your children by nature but also a time to reflect on your assignment and work for your children by nurture: physical and spiritual. It's time to take stock and reflect on shortcomings, progress and assignments with respect to the children, assigned to me. The bible is clear and unambiguous in the fact that God is a father. A father by definition is one able to produce offspring after his kind. That means a man endowed or graced with the physical capabilities to impregnate a female and produce a child. A child bears the DNA of and physical resemblance to a father. Beyond that a child's innocent and "empty" mind as the notion of tabula rasa indicates must then be nurtured: shaped, formed, informed, trained and oriented to be everything that the Father in heaven intended that child to be. Fatherhood is not a game, a joke or a past time. It's a full time job, divine assignment and indeed a higher calling!

Miriam Webster dictionary defines a father as a man who has begotten a child, the first person of the Trinity, one that relates to another (usually a child) in manner of father to child, an old man (a respectful form of address in many cultures), a priest or clergy, one who originates or institutes (i.e. a thing or idea especially in science or some field of endeavor), Pre-scholastic Christian writer accepted

as authoritative witness to teachings and practice and finally one of the leading men especially of a city or place. These seven understandings of father reveals the importance of fathers and fatherhood. A father is beyond a provider, he is a caregiver, a life coach, mentor, a friend, a disciplinarian, an advocate (for the child's welfare), a hero (to that child) and much more than time and space will allow for me to expatiate on. Suffice it say that even the secular world definition of fatherhood acknowledges its spiritual, natural, social, authoritative and relationship dynamics.

Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth". Fatherhood is important to our eventual dominion, Revelation 1:6. Being born of an earthly father (assigned to us by the Holy Spirit. Psalm 139:13-16), maintaining a relationship with our heavenly father and also recognizing the role, appointment and authority of our spiritual father brings progress and eventual dominion. Fatherhood thus remains key to our attaining dominion. When we truly appreciate the concept we will have a powerful prayer life, a deep relationship with God, assurance of our position and place, great and in-depth understanding of God, power, possess our inheritance in Him and finally gain dominion like He purposed.

Jesus taught us that when we pray it is imperative to start with "our father". The foundational basis for "successful" prayer is the acknowledgment that God -mighty, glorious and imperious is just my daddy. The understanding of childlike innocence and the omniscient, omnipotent God being nothing but a father, to whom grace allows access free of obstacles and protocols is key to our receiving answers when we go to Him to Ask, Seek or Knock (Matthew 7:7). Indeed the analogy that Jesus provides in prayer after his instructive words is simple. "Which of you, when your child asks for bread, will give him a snake?" We have to understand, fathers and children just do not wish away or lose their bond. Mistakes do not change the relationship, a father is always a father. It's the prodigal son that leaves, it is he that whittles away his share of the father's inheritance, it is he that faces misery of eating food meant for pigs and ultimately, it is he that realizes that his father's heart, love, wealth, place and position is unchanging eternally unwavering where he is concerned. He

comes home not out of repentance but hunger. Guess what? His father remains the same. His excitement at the returning prodigal is amazing. No sin no mistake could make his father's love wax cold or change. He never questions the son's motive for returning but rejoices that he is back. What amazing love is demonstrated in that parable? For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...John 3:16.

The father intends that we come into divine successor-ship and inheritance becoming all that He is and has been. In 2 Kings 2 we see Elijah's departure from the planet and Elisha's inheritance of his office and mantle. The key to stepping up into that place and position for Elijah is this. "if you see me when I am taken"... not just merely looking on but being a witness and testifying to the great spiritual encounter. Beyond that, it suggests that if you still acknowledge, perceive and understand my role, position and situation as your father at the point of my transition- then you will step into that position. How often we fail to recognize fathers due to some mishap, mistake or misery along life's path.

It is important to know the role a spiritual father plays in the life of a believer. To be effective, have a powerful prayer life, faith walk and effectual ministry, recognizing a spiritual father is imperative. It took Eli to point out to Samuel that God was calling him. Elisha had a more expansive ministry but it took his recognition of Elijah "if you see me as I am taken from you" to come into his ministry. Joshua succeeded where Moses failed but it was his service to Moses that brought him into leadership and the limelight. Moses himself had Jethro's mentorship and guidance to help him lead a recalcitrant people in dire circumstances. Jesus' prayer kept Peter sane and alive to function in ministry having alerted him that the devil had sought permission to "sift him (Peter) like wheat". Jesus the Messiah and our soon coming king needed Joseph's nurturing skills of fatherhood to grow into a man and also John the Baptist's bold announcement: "behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" to proclaim his ministry. Right after John's announcement the bible states that John (the disciple. Son of Zebedee) and others left to follow Jesus. From the forgoing we glean that certain spiritual laws are triggered when a father is recognized. The spiritual laws of recognition and relationship are evident in acknowledging a father. The law of obedience assures the lesser that by recognition favor is carried from the greater. Further as shown in the example of Elijah to Elisha especially; the laws of honor, service and perseverance ensure that when the law of asking comes into play- the one who desires the inheritance comes into the desired position.

# WOMEN IN ACTION!

Come the afternoon of June 26th, a bunch of God-loving often loud women will find our way to Litchfield Connecticut on a bus-singing, giggling, taking pictures-for our 2014 Women's Retreat.

It all started four years ago when the idea for us women to go away for a whole day was birthed. I remember our first retreat as if it was yesterday. We found an old and quaint retreat center in the town of Harvard with sprawling lush green fields-Friendly Crossways. We worshipped, we prayed, we made new friends, we shared the Word and left for Worcester knowing something special had happened, knowing this could and should not be last time we went away together. Everyone wanted us to do it again but requested a residential retreat.

The following year we had our first 2-night, 3-day residential retreat at Singing Hills Christian Center in New Hampshire. It was quite an experience. It was a delight watching the women unfold, leading us to pray, delve into the word, share experiences and testimonies, and tightening bonds. We returned home with renewed zeal to change our lives, get deeper into God as we wait on His promises and a desire to affect those around us positively. Our third year's event was even better than the second which was better than the first. It has been an up and up experience so far and I have no doubt it will only get better as we allow the Lord to lead us, follow closely His leading and not lose the purpose of these retreats.

What is the purpose? To take time away from our busy lives to spend time with our father in heaven, learn from each other's stories and experiences, encourage and inspire each other to be better women, mothers, sisters, wives and above all better Christians. Retreating allows us to connect as only women know how. Every time, we have come back from the retreats feeling we can take on any demons, principalities, wicked kings of high places trying to mess with us. It's a serious time and though we try to put in equal parts of leisure and intensity, the latter always takes precedence. We see it as a time to reevaluate who we are in God and the power we contain as part of the royal priesthood and how we can use this power to further the kingdom.

This year we continue our tour of New England retreat centers as we go away again to seek the face of God. The makeup of our group so far is interesting; apart from the frequent fliers we have two pregnant women, first time retreaters and outsiders joining us. I am still hopeful a few of the young ones will come along to learn from us as we learn from them.

I will implore you to make every effort to go away with us this year. I promise you will not regret trip; it will be worth every penny and if you come back not recharged and renewed in your Christian walk, I will personally return your fee! Let us get away from the hustle and bustle and monotony of our daily lives; let us leave the cares behind for just a couple of days as we nestle in the bosom of our Father and bask in His glory uninterrupted. If you have never gone with us, now will be a good time to start. Four things I can guarantee: you'll return home with an in depth knowledge of the Word, a love for prayer, a new sense of purpose and a new friend.

Our Lord Jesus himself retreated for forty days and nights in the wilderness where he fasted and prayed. He received strength and empowerment from on high to launch his ministry. Throughout his three year ministry, he would often retreat away from his disciples to be by himself to pray.

After Saul's Damascus encounter, he was led by the hand to Damascus because he was blind. The bible tells us that while there he retreated, neither eating nor drinking. And as he stayed blind and hungry in the presence of God, God revealed His light to him and filled his spirit man with His word. We are told that when Saul's sight was restored and he was baptized, he immediately began to preach Christ! The Lord had given Saul such an understanding of who Christ was during his short time in solitude with God that, Saul could do nothing but immediately start spilling about Jesus! He had been filled to the brim during his retreat. Beyond just joining us on this year's retreat, I will encourage you all to take time off every now and then as your family life, work and school permit, to just move away from the noise and drudgery of your daily lives and spend some alone time with God. The benefits of retreating are more numerous than what I have tried to enumerate here; at the end of your retreat-whether alone, with a friend or in a group, you can be sure to feel refreshed, recharged and empowered for the next level of your ministry, whatever it might be.

See you on the bus on June 26th!!  
Blessings.

# RETREAT TO Recharge

LEADING LADY MONICA ARYTEY

# PRAYER AS A LOADED SPIRITUAL AMMUNITION.

Prayer is not an easy, go-lucky, one more thing I need to do as a Christian. It is hard, it is stressful, it involves labor, toiling, traveling, persistence, endurance, and resistance, getting up and pushing through until one is established. It is an upward task. It involves going against what you see and at times what we do not see; and listening to that still small voice within that tells you that you are more than what you see and whatever you may be going through at this moment in life. Oh! But for prayer.

AND YET God made it in such a way that nothing can get done until Christians lift up prayer, bombarding the heavenlies with unceasing prayer, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:18).

"Pray without ceasing;" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6).

The song "Onward Christian Soldiers," embodies the concept that the Christian is in a constant battlefield, where the devil is relentless in his pursuit, "For the enemy comes but to steal, kill and destroy..." (John 10:10). Whether we know it or not, the devil and his team of fallen angels, are at work and their vision is to keep one from coming to their fullness-physically and spiritually. Apostle Paul in 2 Tim. 2:3-4, reminds us that this walk of faith is seen from the perspective of a soldier. He referred at the end of his life as having fought the good fight (2 Tim. 4:7). Even the Lord God is referred to as a "Man of War" (Exo.15:3). And throughout the Psalms, King David called upon God to deliver him from his enemies, to be his defense, to be his covering in the day of battle, to teach his fingers to war and so on. So what has being a soldier and war got to do with prayer? Prayer to a Christian is what a gun is to a soldier. Prayer is the weapon that a Christian will use to direct their petitions, supplications and requests unto the Lord. Prayer is loaded spiritual ammunition. Soldiers go for target practice to learn how to shoot and hit and not miss their target; in the same token, for a Christian to be effective there is need for training. Just as a soldier, one has to learn to direct the right prayer to the occasion/situation at hand. Therefore, there is need to teach the principles of prayer, so that a Christian's prayer life can be with precision and purpose. Strategic prayer will avail much. "Effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

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