



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2023

PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMY SECTOR

Isaiah 60: 5, 6

*Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEKLY FOCUS 2023

Week 1:	20 th August – 26 th August	Family and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 2:	27 th August – 2 nd September	Church and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 3:	3 rd September – 9 th September	Government and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 4:	10 th September – 16 th September	Education and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 5:	17 th September – 23 rd September	Media and the Business and the Economy Sphere
Week 6:	24 th September – 30 th September	Celebration/Arts and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 7:	1 st October – 7 th October	Global Business/Economy

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2023/24 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To seek divine enablement for the Body of Christ to rise to its place in the Business/Economy Sphere.
2. To pray for the economies of Uganda and Africa to rise to their divine destinies.
3. To pray for the restructuring of the global economy to a more righteous and just one.
4. To seek divine enablement for the individual, family, and organizational fulfillment of divine destinies in our generation and the ones to come.

MAIN PRAYER FOCUS OF THE WEEK:

1. To pray for the rise of Kingdom sons and daughters in the business aspect of the Celebration Sphere: entertainment, sports, the arts, drama, movies, theatre, poetry, literature, music, dance, fashion, comedy, and any other way we that we enjoy and celebrate life.

WEEK SIX: CELEBRATION/ARTS AND THE BUSINESS/ECONOMY SPHERE

24th – 30th September 2023

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.*

The focus for this week is the Celebration Sphere. This sphere encompasses entertainment, sports, the arts, drama, movies, theatre, poetry, literature, music, dance, fashion, comedy, and any other way we that we enjoy and celebrate life. It is a sphere that especially expresses the creativity God endowed man with and is particularly attractive to the youth.

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's archenemy, the devil, has never created anything but rather perverts everything God created. Subsequently the arts that were meant to fill God's house with glory are corrupted and distorted to a point where God's people no longer want to associate with them. Through the celebration sphere, the devil has been able to seduce, capture, corrupt and thwart the destiny of entire generations.

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: sex, the arts, music, sports, fashion, and makes them so distasteful 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).

Music and Dance

God is the creator of rhythm, music, movement and dance. Music was present at the creation of the earth as revealed by the verse from Job above. Prophet Ezekiel suggests the Archangel Lucifer had musical instruments created into his being (Ezekiel 29:11-19); this has led some to believe that he was in charge of 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. There was also evidently music from the early days of man on earth, as seen in the book of Genesis where Jubal is mentioned:

... Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

Genesis 4:21

Music and Dance in Celebration and Worship

It was however the parting of the Red Sea and the drowning of Pharaoh's army in its waters that resulted in the first direct mention of the words, "song" and "dance" in the Bible. It was a song and dance of celebration led by Moses and his elder sister Miriam: a spontaneous

response to one of the most astounding divine interventions in the affairs of men (Exodus 15:20). Considering what God did that night, what a dance that must have been! This teaches us that singing and dancing are appropriate responses to acts of divine intervention and providence in our lives.

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’**”*

The word dance or dancing is mentioned 21 times in the King James Version. Every good thing God creates, Satan seeks to pervert. So in the same book of Exodus we later find dance used in pagan worship (Exodus 32: 19). In the New Testament, on the one hand music and dancing were part of the celebration of the return of the prodigal son (Luke 15:25), on the other, the dancing of the daughter of Herodias was used by her mother to have John the Baptist killed (Mark 6:17-28). So music and dance can be used either for good or for evil. They can be used for celebration, worship or recreation, or for idolatry, and seduction.

Dance is further associated with joy and gladness for the young and old alike in Jeremiah 31:13, and the dedication of the temple in Jeremiah 31:4. This means dance is not only limited to those gifted with agility and graceful movements; even the old and those with an awkward sense of movement can join in. It is a way of expressing our emotions through our bodies.

King Nebuchadnezzar is an example of one who perverted the divine intent for music. He used music as a signal to fall down and worship a golden statue.

Daniel 3:15

“Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good”

Music can be intoxicating and serve the purpose of worshipping the world, the flesh, or Satan. We must be careful to discern the spirit behind the songs we hear.

David on the other hand, was a gifted musician and composer who is referred to as the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1). He wrote at least 73 psalms that are part of the canon of Scripture. Like all musicians, he must have had many other songs that were not preserved.

1 Samuel 16:23

“Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him”

The Spirit of the Lord was upon David. His anointed music ushered in peace from God and the evil spirit tormenting Saul had to leave. Divinely anointed music creates an atmosphere that is repulsive to demons. The bible furthermore mentions songs of deliverance in Psalm 32:7. Conversely, satanically anointed music brings in the presence of evil. Most churches use music as a way of uniting the congregation in praising and worshipping God.

Music For Nation Building And Instruction

Moses composed the first recorded song in the bible after the defeat of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. He went on to write two other songs. In his song written in Psalm 90, Moses covers life themes like creation, death, family, work, wisdom, and God's help through all ages. In another song written in Deuteronomy 32:1-44, he covers themes related to national life like: idolatry, national values, history, national boundaries, complacency, jealousy, war, national pride and stubbornness. The song was written as a warning and a national memorial.

Music permeates every culture with diversity, expression, and experience. It can serve a godly purpose or encourage evil behavior. Godly music is not limited to church worship only; it should address the whole of life. There should be songs speaking about God's value system and truths in the family, business, government, education, and every aspect of human life. A whole book of the bible is dedicated to love and romance – and it is a song: the Song of Songs. Indeed the gift of poetry is activated in many when they find love. So it is ok to write love songs - so long as they espouse the biblical worldview about love and romance.

THEATRE, DRAMA, FILM

God made mankind genetically coded for stories. The best preachers and public speakers are also good storytellers. Recently during a Sunday morning service I watched the congregation react as a sister told a captivating story of an experience she had gone through. There was rapt attention. All eyes were on her. Even those given to checking their phones during the service had put them aside to follow the story. Everybody loves a good story. Most people will struggle with maintaining attention to a speech or sermon that goes on for long. However if the speaker includes stories or is dramatic, he or she will often retain the attention of the audience. Watch the behavior of an audience the next time you hear a speaker say, "Let me tell you a story".

Jesus was a master storyteller. He used the skill effectively in communicating with his audiences. This is perhaps one reason why thousands of people of all ages and social strata following him.

Matthew 13:34

All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable.

One can only imagine the Lord of Glory telling stories. He must have livened them with different gestures, facial expressions, and voice tones. Once He even called up a little child in the audience to act as a character in his illustrations.

Luke 9:46-48

"... so he brought a child to his side. Then he said to them, anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my side..."

SPORTS AND RECREATION

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, is increasing at a fast rate.

Additionally, sports activities draw out some of the most emotive expressions of patriotism for nations.

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

- That there will be a new understanding of discipling Fashion and Art as a part of the Great Commission.
- Envisioning: To pray for fresh vision for Fashion and Art in light of the Great Commission and the Kingdom of God.
- Spiritual Warfare: To wage war against the hordes of hell that are confusing the church and resisting her advance on this mountain.
- Recommitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through Fashion and Art.

FASHION AND ART

God is the creator of beauty. He created everything beautiful we see in the world. Whenever we see beauty it should remind us of God the Creator. He created out of nothing not only the objects that exist but even the materials out of which they are made. 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". Since God has created us and made us to reflect Him (Genesis 1:26-27), we are also capable of aesthetic creation, reflection, self-evaluation, and visual communication.

The garments of the priesthood were made for glory and for beauty. We too need to choose garments that express glory and beauty.

THANKSGIVING:

- Thank God for 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 musicians in the country who are using their gifting not only for godly worship, but also for teaching and discipling the nation in biblical values.
- Thank God for bodies He gave us and the ability to move, walk, run (if you can do so).
- Thank God for the sportsmen and women in the country who have developed and are using their abilities to promote the Kingdom of God.
- Praise the Lord for the victories and advances Ugandan sportsmen have made in netball, football, athletics, chess, etc.
- Praise the Lord for the sense of patriotism that these victories have brought to the country.

- Thank God for the beauty he made in creation.
- Thank God that He made us creative in His image.

ASK GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR:

- The ways music and dance have been perverted and used for idolatry, sensuality, and the propagation of hatred and sectarianism in our country.
- The ways that the church has followed the world's patterns and standards in music and dance instead of vice versa.
- The church's relative neglect of the celebration sphere and inadequate discipling and instruction of the nation using the powerful tool of music.
- The laziness that is creeping in on the country due to a sedentary lifestyle that is now 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 exercise and rest.
- The failure of the Church to lead the way in promoting Fashion and Art.
- The failure of the Church to lead the way in promoting Fashion and Art.
- The scandals and corruption associated with the bodies governing sports in the country.

PRAY THAT:

- God will teach us how to correctly represent Him in the music and dance scene.
- 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.
- Understanding will increase among Christian music and dance artists of the importance of their role in discipling the nation and building God's Kingdom.
- There will be a teachable spirit in the Body of Christ in Uganda regarding the role of the Celebration and the Arts in discipling the nation.
- Those called to the celebration sphere will be grounded in God and His Word so that they can spread biblical values through this sphere.
- There will be greater networking among those called to this sphere in the Body of Christ across church and denominational barriers.
- That God will raise disciplers with a biblical mindset and understanding of what He wants to do in this sphere and that they will train others.
- The sports and recreation will be promoted for the citizens of Uganda and will play a strong role in unifying the country.
- Policies will be formulated that will create conditions that will make it conducive for the private sector to effectively participate in the development of recreation and sports.
- Corruption in the national administration of sports will be exposed and removed. The Lord will expose and bring down corruption and the corrupt.
- The place of sports and recreation in healthy living will be promoted in the nation.
- Sports will be used as a positive energy outlet for the youth

- That there will be an increase in sport-related evangelism.
- God will raise up good role models for the youth in the sports and recreation sector
- Pray for increased creativity expressed through Fashion and Art
- Godly fashion and art will be promoted in the country
- Sons and daughters of the King will arise to prominence in the Celebration sphere and build big Kingdom businesses in this sphere.

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

ECCLESIASTES 3:1,4B

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

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.”

Psalm 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.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.....

*when the **morning stars sang together***

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38: 4, 7

EXODUS 28:2

*“And you shall make holy **garments** for Aaron your brother, **for glory and for beauty.**”*

EXODUS 28:40

*“For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall **make them for glory and beauty.**”*

2 CHRONICLES 3:6

He adorned (decorated) the house with settings of precious stones.

PSALM 8:3

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers ...

PROCLAMATION FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRATION

A Declaration Of What We Are Praying For And What We See As God Answers Prayer

God is raising sons and daughters of the King in the celebration sphere

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

Sons and daughters of the King in the Celebration Sphere will build big businesses that glorify His name and display His glory to the nations.

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

AMEN