YOU NEED ANY HELP?

Contact the Cathedral Office for all necessary information and the Office will direct you to the appropriate persons to help. Below are the Contact Persons.

- A. For Booking of all Services of the Church The Dean; The Canon Residentiary
- B. For Social Welfare and Charity The Dean; The Rev. Dr. S. Opaaje; Dr. (Mrs.) Irene Omogbehin 08033223803
- C. For Cathedral Societies The Dean; The Society Chaplains; Presidents & Secretaries of Societies
- D. For The Elderly Ministry The Dean; Chief (Mrs.) Ayo Akideinde - 07068610707
- E. For The Evangelical Ministry The Dean; The Rev. Olukayode Fasogbon; Mr. Cyril Mgbamoka -07053334081
- F. For Cathedral Missionary Society The Dean; The Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere; Mr Tunji Odeneye. -08033163337
- G. For the Children Ministry The Dean; The Rev. Olukayode Fasogbon, Mr. Tunji Odeneye -08033163337;
- H. For The Youth Ministry The Dean, Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin; Chief (Mrs.) Funmi Ogunbadejo – 08033025033; Mr. Dayo Egbedeyi - 08022865591
- I. For The Boys' & Girls Brigade; Boys' & Girls' Guild The Dean, The Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin; Mrs A.O. Agara, Mrs C.F. Akinrotimi 08022791113; Mr Ayo Tetede - 08020691247
- J. For The Medical Board The Dean; Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere; Prof. (Mrs.) Ronke Akinsete 0802300049
- K. For The Counselling Ministry The Dean; Rev. Olukayode Fasogbon, Dr. (Mrs) Irene Okwerekwu – 08023078162
- L. For the Prisons & Hospital Ministry The Dean; Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere; Mrs. Babarinsa - 08031334211.
- M. For ETS Discipleship Training The Dean; Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere; Mr Tunji Odeneye – 0803-3163337; Dr (Mrs) Oyin Ilo
- N. For The Home Fellowship The Dean; Ven. J. Adekanye, Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere, Sir. Godson I. Chijindu- 08033025458
- O. For Singles' and Couples' Fellowship The Dean; Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin; Mr. Steve Aladesawe- 08033261047
- P. For Intercessory Ministry The Dean; Rev. Dr. Samuel Opaaje, Engr. T. Adejuyigbe- 08037227105
- Q. For Sports Ministry The Dean; The Canon Residentiary, Mr Desmond Odiase- 08033066901 Mr Steve Ahua - 07038816041
- R. For Board of Directors for Economic Empowerment The Dean; Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin; Dr. Oladimeji Alo; Mrs Segilola Olawoyin - 08074533508
- S. For Cathedral Christian Mothers Matters The Dean; Mrs. A.O. Agara; Mrs. Folake Owolabi - 08023156546
- T. For Chaplains to Societies The Dean; The Canon Residentiary
- The Dean; Mr Sunday Olawuwo 08023030357
- V. For Booking of the Hall The Dean, Mrs. Tola Famade - 0803-3109378
- W. For Booking of the Guest House Mr. Jide Afolabi - 08037128186;Tobi Balogun -08033716752

Below are the Telephone Numbers of the Cathedral Office, the Dean and the Cathedral Priests. You can contact these phones as need be.

The Cathedral Office	0811-1114588
The Dean	0803-7152811
The Ven. Festus Olowosile	0803-4003 552
The Ven. Gbenga Oniye	0803-3564593
The Ven. James Adekanye	0803-5806344
The Ven. Azubike Ahubelem	0803-3081617
The Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Chijioke Okere	0802-3270247
The Rev. Dr. Samuel Opaaje	08 06-3097612
The Rev. Olukayode Fasogbon	
The Rev. Bolarinwa Osineye	0802-3224427
The Rev. Opeyemi Ibikunle	0803-0573299
The Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin	0802-7562421

DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST

(Anglican Communion)



ARCHBISHOP VINING MEMORIAL CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Oba Akinjobi Way, GRA, Ikeja Founded – March, 1964 P.O. Box 506, Ikeja, Lagos Tel: 0811-1114588

Website: www.avmcc.org.ng

E-mail: <u>info@avmcc.org.ng</u>

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Vol. 16/09/36/2020

Our Vision:

"CHRIST FOR ALL NATIONS"

Our 2020 Mission:

"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" Romans 1:17

A GOOD INDICATOR OF YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE IS YOUR EAGERNESS TO COME TO THE CHURCH (PS 122:1). NEVER ALLOW YOUR SEAT TO BE EMPTY FOR AN EMPTY SEAT IS AN EMPTY HEAD AND IN HIS PRESENCE ONLY ARE FULLNESS OF JOY AND PLEASURES.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday, 6th Sept., - Saturday, 12th Sept., 2020

TRINITY 13

THEME: LEARNING FROM CHRIST ON PRAYER

Colour: Green

Mr. Adetunji Adekoya Cathedral Warden Mr. Charles Ojo Cathedral Warden

The Ven. Adegoke O. Agara *The Dean of the Cathedral*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. James O. Odedeji The Bishop, Diocese of Lagos West

Please Take A Copy Support God's Mission through the Covenant Seed Be A Diocesan Covenant Seeder

the end of		
1. SERVICES FOR SUNDAY – 6 th SEPT., 2020	C. ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	
A. 7.00 am HOLY COMMUNION	Monday, September 7, 2020 Colour: Green Epistle: Acts 13:44-52	
Celebrant: The Dean	Gospel: John 10:19-30	
Preacher: The Rev. Olukayode Fasogbon	Hymns: CH490, CH 202, VSH 64, CH CS 51	
✤ Processional Hymn: 'Lord teach us how to pray' {Pg.9}	Prayer Points:	
Tune:Edgware	1. Every tongue of contradiction and blasphemy against	
 Praise & Worship Description to Description 	divine purpose for my life be silenced	
 Preparation to Penitence – <i>The Dean</i> The Epistle: <i>Romans 8:18-23 – The Rev. Dr. Samuel</i> 	2. Let no man pluck me out of your hand, O Lord.	
	Tuesday, September 8, 2020 Colour: White	
<i>Opaaje</i> ♦ Gradual Hymn: VSH 19 { <i>Pg.8</i> }	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
 ✤ Oraduar Hymn. ♥ 311 19 {1 g.07 ♦ The Gospel: Luke 11:1-13-The Rev. Bolarinwa 	Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7	
• The Cosper. Lake 11.1-15-The Rev. Douarthwa Osineye	Gospel: Luke 1:39-55	
* SERMON	Hymns: CH516, CH 306, VSH 22, CH 578	
 Nicene Creed & Intercession – The Ven. James Adekanye 	Prayer Points:	
 The Peace (Let there be peace) 	1. Release the spirit of adoption over the, O Lord	
 ♦ All Offerings: Praises 	2. Let there be a performance of your words in my life,	
First Fruit, Tithes, Building, Covenant Seed, Sunday	O Lord.	
Offering & All other offerings}	BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW GATHERING OF THE NOBLES - ACTS 17:10-11	
 The Eucharistic Prayers 		
✤ The Administration: <i>VSH 20, CH 512, 21, CH CS 98</i>	Wednesday, September 9, 2020 Colour: Green	
✤ The Ablution: VSH 164	Epistle: Acts 14:19-28	
 Post Communion Prayer 	Gospel John 11:1-16 Hymns: CH 3, CH 478, CH 369, CH 623	
Thanksgiving:	Prayer Points: CH 5, CH 476, CH 509, CH 625	
i. Monthly Thanksgiving	1. I will speak of your goodness, O Lord	
ii. Those born and / or Married in Augustiii. ALL MINISTRIES HARVEST	2. I shall not die but live to show forth your glory, O Lord.	
iv. Family Harvest: (as indicated pg. 9)	HOURS OF DIVINE SETTLEMENT – 1 PETER 5:10	
v. Society Harvest: (as indicated pg. 9)	Prayer Leader: The Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere	
 Closing Prayer & Benediction 	THEME: "WE TAKE AUTHORITY TO TREAD ON	
✤ Notices	THE LION' –PSALM 91:13	
 Withdrawal Hymn: VSH 258 	Thursday, September 10, 2020 Colour: Green	
	Epistle: Acts 15:1-11	
B. 9.00 am HOLY COMMUNION	Gospel: John 11:17-29	
Celebrant: <i>The Dean</i>	Hymns: CH 266, CHCS 551, VSH 21, CH 153	
•	Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Benjamin Okere Prayer Points:	
 Processional Hymn: CH 466 Praise & Worship 	1. Save us by the reason of your grace O Lord	
 Preparation to Penitence – <i>The Dean</i> 	2. Fulfill the desires of my heart, O Lord and let me not be diagraphed	
 Preparation to Penitence – <i>The Dean</i> The Epistle: <i>Romans 8:18-23</i> disgraced. 		
 ♦ Gradual Hymn: CH CS 98 	ONE DAY SYNOD	
 ♦ The Gospel: Luke 11:1-13 	Friday, September 11, 2020 Colour: Green	
* SERMON	Epistle: Acts 15:12-21	
 Nicene Creed & Intercession – The Ven. Festus Olowosile 	Gospel: John 11:30-44	
 The Peace (Let there be peace) 	Hymns: CH 374, VSH 25, CH 209, CHCS 18	
✤ All Offerings: Praises	Prayer Points:	
{First Fruit, Tithes, Building, Covenant Seed, Sunday	1. Give me grace to abstain from all forms of spiritual	
Offering & All other offerings}	pollutions	
 The Eucharistic Prayers 	2. Raise me up, O Lord my God.	
✤ The Administration: VSH 19, CH 512, VSH 17, VSH 131	Sotundor, Contombor 12, 2020 Colored Concern	
 The Ablution: VSH 215 Det G 	Saturday, September 12, 2020 Colour: Green	
 Post Communion Prayer There begins an 	Epistle: Acts 15:22-35 Gospel: John 11:45-54	
Thanksgiving:	Hymns: CH 441, VSH 59, VSH 63, CH 373	
i. Monthly Thanksgivingii. Those born and / or Married in August	Prayer Points:	
iii. ALL MINISTRIES HARVEST	1. Break Satanic yokes in my life, O Lord, and remove the	
iv. Family Harvest: (as indicated pg. 9)	evil burdens placed upon my life.	
v. Society Harvest: (as indicated pg. 9)	 Deliver me not into the hand of the enemy, O God. 	
v. Society Harvest: (as indicated pg. 9) 2.		

4. God of all grace, we come to Thee vi. The Churching of Mrs. Amarachukwu Awuzie for the gift of baby boy and God's numerous blessings With broken, contrite hearts: vii. 20th Remembrance of Late Mr. Sunday Adedapo Give what Thine eye delights to see, Odutola (Father of Mrs. Adejumoke Odunubi of Truth in the inward parts. Band of Faith & Guild of Stewards & God's numerous blessings on the family he left behind. 5. Faith in the only sacrifice * **Closing Prayer & Benediction** That can for sin atone; Notices To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes, ✤ Withdrawal Hymn: VSH 255 On Christ, on Christ alone. C. 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION Patience to watch, and wait, and weep, Celebrant: The Dean 6. Preacher: The Rev. Bolarinwa Osineve Though mercy long delay; Processional Hymn: CH 18 Courage our fainting souls to keep. Praise & Worship And trust Thee though Thou slay. Preparation to Penitence – The Dean 7. Give these, and then Thy will be done, ✤ The Epistle: Romans 8:18-23 Thus, strengthened with all might, ✤ Gradual Hymn: **VSH 254** We, through Thy Spirit and Thy Son, ✤ The Gospel: Luke 11:1-13 Shall pray, and pray aright * SERMON Nicene Creed & Intercession – *The Ven. Gbenga Oniye* ------* The Peace (*Let there be peace*) Praises ✤ All Offerings: CONSECRATION & ENTHRONMENT *First Fruit, Tithes, Building, Covenant Seed, Sunday* **Offering & All other offerings** THE VENERABLE ADEGOKE OLUDARE The Eucharistic Prayers * & MRS OLUTOYIN AGARA The Administration: VSH 19, CH 522, VSH 21, 25 ** * The Ablution: VSH 56 (Pg.9) VALEDICTORY SERVICE SUNDAY 13TH 1. Post Communion Prayer SEPTEMBER, 2020 * Thanksgiving: **i.** Monthly Thanksgiving 2. CONSECRATION RETREAT ii. Those born and / or Married in August WEDNESDAY 16TH iii. ALL MINISTRIES HARVEST MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST **iv.** Family Harvest: (as indicated... pg. 9) SEPTEMBER, 2020 (as indicated... pg. 9) **v.** Society Harvest: vi. 12th Year Birthday thanksgiving of Master Mathew CONSECRATION SERVICE TUESDAY 22ND 3. Onwadike & God's numerous blessings. SEPTEMBER, 2020 vii. Thanksgiving after the successful burial of Late VENUE: THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE Mrs. Christiana Famuyide and journey mercies. ADVENT, LIFE CAMP, GWARINPA, ABUJA. ** Closing Prayer & Benediction TIME: 9.00AM. Notices ✤ Withdrawal Hymn: CH CS 51 GENERAL SYNOD ABUJA - TUESDAY 22ND 4. **EVENT AHEAD** SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, ONE DAY SYNOD – 10^{TH} SEPTEMBER, 2020 2020. 2. **SENTENCES FOR TRINITY 13** DEPARTURE TO IDOANI SATURDAY 26TH 5. **Introductory Sentence** SEPTEMBER, 2020 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. 29TH TUESDAY 6. ENTHRONMENT -John 4:24. SEPTEMBER, 2020 **Collect for Trinity 13:** VENUE: THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE Lord God, the protector of all who trust in You, without HOLY TRINITY, IDOANI whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; increase and TIME: 11.00AM multiply upon us Your mercy, that You being our ruler and guide, may so pass through things temporal that we may WE COVET YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, Heavenly ACTIVE PARTICIPATION Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. 10. 3.

Post Communion Sentence

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

Psalm 103:17

- 3. PRAYER POINTS FOR TODAY SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER, 2020
- A. Prayers for the Anglican Communion and for Christian **Denominations and Organizations**
- Pray for Henry Ndukuba our Primate, Olusina, Our i. Archbishop and Olusola our Bishop that wisdom and understanding to lead the people of God shall be multiplied upon them
- ii. For the Rt. Rev. Johnson C. Onuoha, his family and all members of the Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia.
- iii. Prayer of thanksgiving for Mrs. Janice Yetunde Olopade for divine healing from Cancer.

B. Prayer for Nigeria & the World

- Pray that the Lord of Host in His mercies will on account of His i. elects and remnants in Nigeria frustrate every raging from the pit of hell and all evil counsels, gang-ups and schemes in form of Boko Haram, Herdsmen and Islamnization agenda so that Christianity in Nigeria will never go the way of TURKEY nor NORTH AFRICA in Jesus Name. Amen.
- ii. That Nigeria will experience a divine turn around.
- iii. That the Lord will use His power to free our nation from all the works of the devil.

C. Praver for AVMCC

- That the joy of prayer shall not elude us i.
- ii. That God shall visit us in a special way this ember season
- iii. That the Lord will preserve our children and household

G. 7.00a.m. 9.00a.m. &11.00am - YOUTH SERVICE

Celebrant: The Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin

- Preacher: The Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin Theme: Learning from Christ on Prayer
- Processional Hymn: CH 497 / 425 / 201 *
- ✤ Opening worship
- Preparation to Penitence
- * The Epistle:
- Romans 8:18-23 The Gospel: * Luke 11:1-13
- Testimonies
- Sermon
- Creed Intercession & Peace
- ✤ Offerings: Praises
- (a) First Fruits (b) Tithes, Building, Covenant Seed & Sunday Offering
- * The Eucharistic Prayers
- * The Administration to Ablution: *Worship Songs*
- Post Communion Prayer
- New Month Thanksgiving
- Youth Anthem
- Notices
- Prayer & Benediction $\dot{\mathbf{v}}$
- ✤ The Withdrawal Hymn: CH (CS) XVI 'Lord dismiss us...'

4.

HARVEST NEWS

- A. Family Harvest for today- Sunday 6th September, 2020 7.00am: ,,,,,,,,,,, & family,
- 9.00am: Engr. Tokunbo Oyenuga & family,
- 11.00am: Pharm. Chijioke Onwadike & family,
- B. Society Harvest for today Sunday 6th September, 2020 Christian Unity Band & Band of Grace Societies
- C. Society Harvest for Next Sunday 13th September, 2020 Busy Bees & Anglican Fellowship Societies

AVMCC CHURCH NEEDS

Dear Parishioners,

Be encouraged to pick one or more of the items listed below to mark your birthday, wedding anniversary and other occasions of joy. Do endeavour to get in touch with the WARDENS for specifications or monetization.

- * Walkie-Talkie (4pcs) Hand sfree (N160,000.00)
- Multimedia Headset (2pcs) (N280,000.00)
- Proper Lighting (N150,000.00)

NEW LOCKDOWN RULES

- 1. Wash your heart with Christ's blood (Psalm 73:1).
- 2. Keep a social distance from evil (Job 28:28)
- 3. Avoid the crowd of wickedness and wicked men (Psalm 1:1)
- 4. Cover your mind from being infected from the sneeze of sin and hatred (Lev. 19:17)
- 5. Do not shake hands with abomination (Deut. 25:16)
- 6. Do not hug, heresy and false teachings (2 Pet. 2:1)
- 7. Be safe so that you will be saved (Jer. 17:14)
- 8. Sanitize your life with the Word of God (Psalm 1:2)
- 9. In case you notice any symptoms of sin, call the helpline of Christ in PRAYER (Jer. 33:3)
- 10. Always remember to boost your spiritual immunity With Faith and the Power of the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN FOR 7.00AM

- 1. Lord, teach us how to pray aright, With reverence and with fear: Though dust and ashes in Thy sight, We may, we must draw near.
- 2. We perish if we cease from prayer; O grant us power to pray; And when to meet Thee we prepare. Lord, meet us by the way.
- 3. Burdened with guilt, convinced of sin, In weakness, want and woe, Fightings without, and fears within, Lord, whither shall we go?

GRADUAL HYMN FOR 7.00AM

- What a Friend we have in Jesus All our sins and grief's to bear What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer O what peace we often forfeit O what needless pain we bear All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer
- 2. Have we trials and temptation Is there trouble anywhere We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share Jesus knows our every weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer
- 3. Are we weak and heavy-laden Cumbered with a load of care Precious Saviour, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer Do thy friends despise, forsake thee Take it to the Lord in prayer In His arms He'll take and shield thee Thou wilt find a solace there.

AVMCC BANK ACCOUNTS DETAILS BANK ACCOUNT SORT PURPOSE <u>NUMBER</u> CODE ACCESS 0017948337 044151245 **Evangelical Fund** WEMA 0120970667 035150695 Offering& Thanksgiving FIRST 2025018178 011151841 Harvest (kindly signify the purpose e.g. Family harvest, Youth Harvest etc.) FIRST 2001350641 011151841 **Project Support** STANBIC 9200212515 IBTC 221150027 **First Fruits** GTB 0007899440 058152120 Tithes 0953002198 ECO **Building Fund** ZENITH 1011097083 057150314 **Covenant Seed** WEMA 0122245798 035150695 **Endowment Fund**

AVMCC DEVELOPMENT FUND ACCOUNTAccount Name:AVMCC Development FundAccount Number:1021733207Sort Code:033154512Branch Address, UBA Plc, 51A Adeniyi Jones Street, Ikeja8.

4. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 THEME: LEARNING FROM CHRIST ON PRAYER READINGS: PSALM 119:145-160; 1 KINGS 3:5-12; ROMANS 8:18-23; LUKE 11:1-13.

INTRODUCTION:

The ministry of prayer is very important in the church of God. Take away prayer from the life of a Christian, such person becomes empty and powerless, hence, it is said that a prayerless church is a powerless church. This implies that the place of prayer in the life of individual believer, and the Church as a whole, can not be over emphasised. If prayer was not important to the disciples of Jesus, they would not have requested that their Master teach them to pray while making a reference to the prayer ministry of John and his disciples (*Lk. 11: 1*).

Prayer is the key, the master key that every believer must possess to open and close any door.

What is prayer?

Prayer is one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith. Everybody prays irrespective of his/her religious affiliation. Thus, prayer is a universal practice yet least understood of human experiences. From the Christian perspective, prayer means communication with God. We pray to God based on the belief and or assumption that we can enjoy intimate relationship with the One who hears, cares and able to do what we ask in prayer.

Prayer is an act of humble worship whereby we seek God with all our heart, for the Lord said we will find Him when we seek Him with all our heart (*Jer. 29:13; 2Chr.7:14*)

Prayer is an expression of an intimate relationship with someone whose love and resources are at our disposal as Jesus would always commune with his father in a lonely place, always found in the wilderness praying *(Mk. 1:35).*

Effective prayer, therefore, includes adoration, confession, commitment and requests as we can see in the Scripture (*Neh. 1: 4-11*).

In his response to the disciples' request, Jesus taught that prayer is an intimate relationship with God the Father, through the Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship is based on the premises of dependency for daily needs, commitment to obedience, and forgiveness of sin.

By all indications, Jesus Christ was a man of prayer during his earthly ministry. He started with prayer and ended also with prayer. In his absence, he has given us the Holy Spirit to make intercession on our behalf *(Rom. 8:26).* Our Lord Jesus Christ remains our perfect example of what should be our attitude on prayer. Why should we learn from Jesus on prayer?

1. Jesus took priority in prayer. The disciples wanted to emulate their master in prayer. They had watched their master pray and understood his commitment to prayer. They knew he prioritised prayer, and this is evident by unfolding events as recorded in the Scripture

- A. Jesus prayed at his baptism (*Lk. 3:21*).
- B. He prayed before appointing the Twelve Disciples *(Lk. 6:12)*.
- C. He prayed on the increase of the crowds (*Lk. 5:16*)
- **D**. He prayed while asking the Twelve for their confession of faith *(Lk. 9:18)*.
- E. He prayed during his Transfiguration *(Lk. 9:29)*
- **F.** His disciples noticed that their master was oftentimes praying alone *(Mk.1:35)*.
- **G.** Jesus depended on prayer during "the days of His flesh" *(Heb. 5:7)*.

2. Jesus had a unique pattern for prayer. This is called "The Lord's Prayer". In the prayer, Jesus teaches us that true prayer depends on a spiritual relationship with God, and that relationship enables us to call Him, "Father". However, this can come only through faith in Jesus Christ *(Rom. 8: 14-17; Gal.4:1-7)*.

The Lord's Prayer centers on the universal Fatherhood of God to all believers giving the impression that the followers of Christ are members of the one big family of God. Elements of the Lord's Prayer include:

- Acknowledgement of the universal Fatherhood of God.
- Recognition of His holy name.
- Expectation of His kingdom
- Obedience to His will
- Request for daily provision
- Forgiveness of sin
- Deliverance from evil

3. Jesus taught us to be persistent in prayer: Persistence in prayer does not mean we can forcefully make God do what He is not willing to do. It is not an attempt to change the mind of God but to get ourselves to the place where God can trust us with the answer. Persistence in prayer connotes praying without ceasing (1Thess. 5:17); keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking (Matt.7:7). God has promised to answer us when we pray to Him (Lk. 11:11-13 cf. Matt.7:11).

4. Everyone needs prayer: We all need prayers irrespective of our status and spiritual inclinations. John the Baptist was a "miracle baby"; he was filled with the Holy Spirit, yet he was a man of prayer, even the disciples of Jesus recognised that. More so, Jesus described him as the greatest of the prophets *(Luke 7:28)*. Upon all this, John depended on prayer. What about our Lord, Jesus Christ? He was the anointed of God, and yet he was Man of prayer.

Having followed their Master for a while, the disciples still did not know how to pray, even though they understood the importance of prayer. So, they asked the Master, *"teach us to pray."* They were ready to learn from Jesus the concept of prayer.

CONCLUSION: Prayer brings us into intimate relationship with God our Maker. Anytime we pray, we come into the abiding presence of God just as Elijah brought down the glory of God through prayer. Jesus' prayer life is a challenge to every believer who wants to be fervent in prayer. It is the duty of everyone to intensify more on the prayer ministry of the church, because without prayer the altar will be powerless. May God give strength to His church to pray always.