

## **AIMFA INTERCESSORY PRAYER GUIDE**

(Submitted by Rev. Rhodarlyn Naa Shika Anyaa)

This manual is structured to serve as a guide for the AIMFA Intercessory Team. It offers time-tested guidance and scriptural insights on how to pray effectively for AIMFA leadership, the execution of AIMFA's vision and mission, for AIMFA ordained ministers, potential members, and the body of Christ.

### **Your call to Intercession**

The Spiritual gift of Intercession is the special ability God gives, to use prayer with confidence and power to intervene on behalf of an individual or group. Groups need people with this gift to remain intentional about inviting God's presence and provision to bless, protect, and guide other members of the body. He has called people in the body of Christ to arise and intercede for AIMFA. Are you one of them? God wants you to understand how important prayer really is to sustain the AIMFA initiative. Through Intercessory prayers you are allowing the needs of others to take preference over your personal needs. This is a ministry of sacrifice and God will bless you as you honour His call to stand in the gap for Adonai International Ministerial Fellowship Alliance (AIMFA).

*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;" (1 Timothy 2:1)*

*So, I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (Ezekiel 22:30)*

**GOD NEEDS PEOPLE TO PRAY SO THAT HE WILL DELIVER HIS PROMISES**

### **THE PURPOSE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**Intercessory prayer is a working partnership with God.** "As such, intercessory prayer is important. Jesus Christ taught it, lived it, and died on the cross for this grace. Intercessory prayer was encouraged in the New Testament as a necessary part of a Christian's journey of faith. There have been dramatic and supernatural results of intercessions throughout history. Some true and amazing accounts have been authentically documented. The basis of all intercessory prayer is a deep trust in Jesus' promise that God

hears and answers each prayer, and that God's power is released into human lives through this channel of his grace."

**Intercessory prayer is not a petition to change God's mind or to get God to focus on an unknown problem. Nor is it a magical incantation of human needs that require God's closer attention.** "God already knows what is going on in human lives. He is always there, waiting for us to recognize his presence and call upon his power to heal within his holy will. While our prayers on behalf of others—offered in humility and trust—are a necessary step, they are not the operative force in effecting any change. Rather, it is God himself and the power of his love in Christ that brings change. Yet, in the mystery of God's grace there is a divine power released through the request of one who prays for others. That call for intercession goes to and through God, is multiplied by the love of God in Jesus Christ, and flows into the life of the person or persons who are the subject of intercession."

**Intercessory prayer brings the intercessor into a deeper awareness of God's presence and miraculous power.** "Insightful prayers on behalf of others bring the discernment of mind and heart into sharper focus, enabling . . . the intercessor . . . to see more clearly the design of God's love and to accept the wisdom of God's holy will." Offering prayers for others is truly a holy process. Prayer opens a stream of grace with its resultant "strength, worth, love and peace that flows from the believing intercessor through God and into the life of the person or persons in need." When we offer a prayer of intercession, we "pray ourselves into the center of God's will as revealed to us in Jesus Christ."

**Intercessory prayer involves a sense of cooperation.** "As Saint Augustine stated: 'Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not.' God waits for our cooperation before his will is done in many situations. Sure, God wills wholeness and happiness for everyone; but we must accept our role in the healing of our own brokenness and that of others. This is often at great personal cost to us and is done through a faith and a love that is demanding in its discipline. Jesus went to the cross. He did not choose the most convenient way to redeem humanity— nor can we if we are to be like Christ."

## THE CALL AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAYER INTERCESSORS

**The Call of an Intercessor.** “Intercessory prayer is a priestly ministry, and one of the most challenging teachings in the New Testament is the universal priesthood of all Christians. As priests, appointed and anointed by God, we have the honor of going before the Most High on behalf of others.

This is not optional; it is a sacred obligation—and a precious privilege—of all who take up the yoke of Christ.” “God needs people he can talk to and who will listen to him; in turn they need to discern his will, Word and Spirit, and be sensitive to the material and spiritual needs of the world.”

### **Characteristics of an Intercessor.**

Intercession is not a take it or leave it proposition. When it is fully understood as a call from God, “intercession asks for surrender to God, persistence and patience, self-discipline, sensitivity to the needs of others, and penetrating self-examination.” Though the call can be challenging and even costly, “the spiritual rewards for the individual and the church are beyond price.”

- **“First of all, an intercessor must be willing to surrender self to God—heart, mind, soul, and strength.** That is the first great commandment for an intercessor. God cannot use us if we are ‘half-hearted or half-souled.’ And he cannot use us if we are ‘half-sold’ on the truth of the gospel either. We need to believe fervently in the cause for which we are praying, in God’s ability to meet the deepest of needs, and in the necessity of our commitment to the ‘neighbor’ for whom we are praying.”

That is the second commandment for an intercessor: ‘To love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.’ “None of us lives a perfect life. We all are sinners. However, we should be reaching toward perfection; conscious of God’s calling us toward that goal. As we come before God and stand before our neighbor, let it be as forgiven and forgiving sinners.”

“With that mindset, an intercessor is tuned to God’s channel of truth

and grace, conscious of what God desires, open to and informed by the Holy Spirit in one's heart and mind, and a student of God's Word."

- **"Secondly, an intercessor needs great persistence and patience.** A large part of faithfulness is persistence— continuing in prayer 'in season and out of season.' Persistence enables us to pray regularly, whether you are 'up or down, whether you feel like praying or not.' The truth even for a dedicated intercessor is that there will be stormy periods in life when prayer for others comes hard, and you cannot seem to get into the act of intercession. In these dry times, keep on praying—for God is listening and responding the same as ever.

With persistence comes patience and with patience comes trust in God. Though you may not see an observable answer to your intercessions at times, keep on praying. Patience and trust cause us to keep on praying."

- **"Thirdly, an intercessor must be open to the needs of others.** Not only does an intercessor need to be tuned in to God's will, but the eyes and ears of one's heart must sense the needs of others—expressed and unexpressed. Some requests for prayers are clearly stated, while others require the leading of the Holy Spirit to help you assess their true need. It is always important to allow the Spirit to direct your mind and heart to pertinent prayer, and to stay alert and open to the needs around you. Most of all, view the world with the mind, heart, and eyes of Christ."
- **"Fourthly, being a prayer intercessor requires self-discipline.** Quite simply, the spiritual and personal life of an intercessor depends on discipline. Performing this ministry comes not only out of duty or necessity, but also out of love—in grateful obedience for what God has done for us. The discipline of prayer can be enhanced by these actions:

Meditate on God's Word and do so with diligence and a willing spirit. Scripture is one of the main sources of God's messages to us. Not only will we see the relevance of scripture to our intercessory prayer life, but God's Word also informs our own personal prayers and guides our

everyday life.

Relaxation is an important part of the discipline of meditation. Relaxing is an art which needs practice. (Deep-breathing and walking are two useful examples.) Develop your own style of relaxing and perfect it. As you use it consistently, you will experience a greater closeness to God through prayer.

Establish a regular time for intercession and adhere to it, as much as possible. If others are living with you, ask them to help you be faithful to your intercessory call. **Carefully pick a time and place that will offer the least chance of interruption and learn to block out any negative internal and external stimuli.** Once a time is established, stick to it. This discipline will help you overcome the many everyday distractions that would otherwise draw you away from prayer.”

- **“Lastly, the hearts and minds of effective intercessors need to be pure and free of bitterness.** God’s Spirit cannot be at home in a heart cluttered with hate or envy, or lives soiled by sins not repented. Self-examination is critically important for intercessors to first get right with God before we come to him in prayer. Scripture reminds us that sin-stained hands lifted in prayer by an unrepentant ‘person’ cannot be tolerated by God.” (Isaiah 1:15)

When we seek forgiveness for our own brokenness, and when we believe and pray under the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit, God has promised to hear our prayers. “As Christians, we believe in a God who, above all things, is a God of love. That love for us is infinitely greater than any earthly parent has ever shown to a child. God’s love never lets us go. It passes all human understanding. And, while our prayers do not always result in the removal of difficulties for others or ourselves, when offered in humility and faith they always bring victory over those difficulties through all surpassing love, wisdom, and power of God.”

**SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINES ON PREPARING FOR INTERCESSORY  
PRAYER**

**The following scriptural truths are representative of the love and promises of God revealed in and through Jesus Christ.** They represent a small portion of the many truths which provide a sustaining resource for intercessors.

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.”* John 15:16

*“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”* John 14:11-14

*“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”* John 15:7-8

*“For nothing is impossible with God.”* Luke 1:37

*“Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with men is possible with God.’”* Luke 18:27

**In preparing to pray for others, it is important for us to prepare ourselves by confessing our sins to the Lord Jesus, asking for forgiveness, and forgiving anyone that may have sinned against us.** It is also necessary to seek God’s protection from any evil influence, and that He bind any forces of evil from ourselves and those we are praying for. **It is always best to prepare through pre-prayer!**

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. ‘For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if*

*you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*  
(Matt. 6:12-15)

**Jesus has given the church—the body of Christ—the power to bind evil forces and to pronounce forgiveness in his name.**

*“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* Matthew 16:18

*“And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”* John 20:22-23

*“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”*  
Mark 11:25

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*  
Eph. 6:10-12

*Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”* Eph. 6:13-18  
12

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER SESSION**

**We suggest the following steps for our intercessory prayer session;** Scriptures will be added but you are allowed to add any other scripture by revelation from the Holy Spirit.

1. Pray as you understand the request.
2. Find your quiet place of prayer where hopefully you will not be disturbed.
3. Pray for God's anointing by the Holy Spirit for you and those for whom you will be praying.
4. Pray in the powerful name of Jesus that he binds all the forces of evil from you and those for whom you will be praying.
5. Give thanks to God that we as intercessors have the privilege of coming into his presence with our petitions for others.
6. Begin going through the individual prayer requests.

### **Prayers for AIMFA Leadership:**

1. Pray for founders and leadership of AIMFA, home and abroad who have been called to carry out the vision that they will not deviate or be destructed from their mandate. (1Tim 2:2)
2. Pray that AIMFA leaders will be strong in the Lord always and stand firm as they overcome battles against the devil's schemes, against the rulers, against wicked and unreasonable men, authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)
3. Pray that AIMFA leaders will lead with godly wisdom, by inspiration from the Holy Spirit (James 3:17); Order their steps Oh God (Jeremiah 10:23)
4. Pray for their families and personal lives; that their marriages will thrive against attacks of the enemy and remain peaceful. That their children will walk in godly ways and not bring them trouble but succeed in their endeavors. That their generations will be blessed (Psalm 115:14; Isaiah 54:13).
5. Pray for the health of AIMFA leadership; Pray for them to enjoy good health and longevity to impart generations as they fulfill their calling (Psalm 71:18; Isaiah 46:4).

6. Pray that they will never be discouraged and weary but be filled with enthusiasm and power in the Holy Ghost and fire (1Corinthians 15:58).
7. Pray that these leaders will have good reward for their works spiritually, financially, physically by divine provision (Philippians 4:19).
8. Pray that our leaders will not struggle to accomplish their godly goals for AIMFA but be endowed with grace to deliver (1 Corinthians 12:9).
9. Pray for AIMFA leaders to be known in society as men of integrity and influence (Exodus 18:21).
10. Pray that God keeps AIMFA leaders as the apple of His eye and let them find opportunities even in dry places (Deuteronomy 32:10).

### **Prayer for AIMFA**

1. Pray that the laws of every land, both in the nation Ghana and abroad will Favour AIMFA (Psalm 105:14; 1 Chronicles 16:21).
2. Pray that God will assign divine helpers for AIMFA. (Luke 1:37). Pray that AIMFA will attract the right Christian independent churches, Ministries, and Ministers with the right doctrines and attitudes that will flow with AIMFA's vision and Mission. (Luke 10:2)
3. Pray that AIMFA will not deviate from sound doctrines and its statement of faith. (2 Timothy 1:13)
4. That the love of God will be shed abroad in all members of AIMFA from top to bottom. (Romans 5:5)
5. Pray that the arm of the Lord will always protect and deliver AIMFA from danger and destruction. (Isaiah 59:1)
6. Pray for divine multiplication and fruitfulness of the AIMFA ministry in Ghana and internationally (Acts 12:24; Hebrews 6:14).
7. Pray that AIMFA will become a blessed household name in ministerial circles home and abroad (Isaiah 61:9)
8. Pray for the Favour of God so that AIMFA gets the right venues for all her conferences and ordinations. That all programs will be successful and blessed of the Lord (Psalm 90:17)
9. Pray for AIMFA, against any unknown and future contentions (Psalm 35:1)

### **Prayers for the ordained ministers of AIMFA:**

1. Pray that the gifts and calling upon them all will be stirred up and manifest (2 Timothy 1:6)
2. Pray that each member will live the kind of life worthy of their calling (Ephesians 4:1). Not deviate from their area of calling (Ephesians 4:11)
3. Pray the Lord grants AIMFA members divine escapes from traps and snares with their loved ones (141:9)
4. Pray that members preach and teach with power having signs and wonders following them (1 Corinthians 2:4)
5. Pray that the members will be ministers of integrity; morally and ethically (1 Timothy 6:11)
6. Pray for their family roles and their families; stable marriages, and godly children (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
7. Pray for their ministries and churches to flourish while bringing many to Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
8. Pray for members' financial, physical, spiritual, and emotional health to be good. (Proverbs 10:22)
9. Pray for all members to be obedient to leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
10. Pray for members against unhealthy relationships, unhealthy competition, (Ecclesiastes 4:4), (Galatians 6:4), (Philippians 2:4-4)

### **Closing your prayers.**

When you have completed the list of prayer requests, thank God that he has heard these prayers and is going to answer them according to his will.

You have been faithful to intercede for AIMFA. It is not your job to carry the burden of these requests. Jesus is the one who will carry these burdens; in fact, he has already done it. Release them to Jesus.

## **THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**The Holy Spirit has promised to be in us and to guide us in our prayers.**

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:15-17*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Romans 8:26-27*

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18*

*"For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Matthew 10:20*

## **SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH TO EFFECTIVE INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**As intercessors, we must have deep faith and trust in God's ability to answer the prayers we make as we intercede for others. Scripture helps us in this regard:**

*"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'" Matthew 17:20b*

*“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’” Mark 10:27*

**Our faith is in God and in his promise of our resurrection from the dead and eternal life in Jesus the Christ.**

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this!’” John 11:25-26*

*“We live by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7*

**Lastly, as you pray, trust in the Lord with all your heart:**

*“May the God of peace, who through the blood of our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

### **HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION**

***Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:3)***

If you want to intercede properly you must identify hindrances to effective intercession and eliminate these from your life. A "hindrance" is anything that stands in your way, preventing you from interceding.

**Study the following Scriptures which reveal hindrances to effective intercession: -**

- Sin of any kind: Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 1:15; Proverbs 28:9
- Idols in the heart: Ezekiel 14:1-3
- An unforgiving spirit: Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:23
- Selfishness, wrong motives: Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3
- Power hungry, manipulative prayers: James 4:2-3
- Wrong treatment of marriage partner: I Peter 3:7
- Self-righteousness: Luke 18:10-14 -Unbelief: James 1:6-7

- Not abiding in Christ and His Word: John 15:7
- Lack of compassion: Proverbs 21:13
- Hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition: Matthew 6:5; Job 35:12-13
- Not asking according to the will of God: James 4:2-3
- Not asking in Jesus' name: John 16:24
- Satanic demonic hindrances: Daniel 10:10-13; Ephesians 6:12 41
- Not seeking first the Kingdom: Only when you seek first the Kingdom are you promised the "other things": Matthew 6:33
- When you do not know how to pray as you should, prayer is hindered. Therefore, it is important to let the Holy Spirit pray through you: (Romans 8:26)

### **ELIMINATING HINDRANCES TO INTERCESSION**

Remember that identifying hindrances to intercession is not enough, but you must also ask God to help you to eliminate them from your life. Also remember that unanswered prayer does not mean there are hindrances in your life. As we mentioned earlier, answers to prayer may be delayed (Luke 18:7) or answered differently from our desires (II Corinthians 12:8-9).

**God enlists you to be an AIMFA intercessor therefore do not treat it as  
voluntary**

### **Bibliography**

1. Intercessory prayer: A working Partnership with God. A manual for intercessors. Robert E, McPherson. San Antonio, Texas. Third Printing, 1993.
2. Celebration of discipline: The path to Spiritual Growth. Richard Foster. Harper Collins. San Fransisco, California. Third Printing 1998.
3. Harvesttime International intercessory prayer course manual, 2018.