

Weekly Prayer Strategy

9 April – 14 April 2018

This week's prayer strategy is based on the sermon by Paul Nyamuda entitled: An Introduction to Diversity.

Prayer Point 1

Ephesians 1:10

His intent was that now through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the prejudices you carry against those different from you. Repent of those prejudices and ask the Lord to help you see people as He does.

Prayer Point 2

- Pray that we would be a Church that appreciates, embraces and celebrates biblical diversity.
- Pray for the grace to work with and lead those:
 - who are not like you.
 - who are from a different academic background as you.
 - who are of a different gender, colour, generation and ethnicity as you.

Prayer Point 3

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. 13 We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. 14 So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. 15 Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. 16 And suppose the ear says, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? 18 God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. 19 If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? 20 As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one

body. 21 The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. 23 The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honour. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. 24 The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honour to the parts that didn't have any. 25 In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honoured, every part shares in its joy. 27 You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

- Pray that as a Church we may flourish in our diverse functions and gifts.

Prayer Point 4

Acts 17: 16-34

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) 22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'[a] As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'[b] 29 "Therefore since we are God's

offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” 32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

- Pray for wisdom to biblically address and manage diversity of beliefs in our Church, communities and business environments.

Prayer Point 5

- Pray that God we would walk in the fullness of our redemptive gifting and purpose as a Church.