



THE HARVEST TIMES

A Call to Prayer in Ghana

By Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo+

At three o'clock in the morning, the call to pray began trumpeting throughout the town of Wa, Ghana, calling its citizens to gather to honor Allah. Though Christianity is the main religion of Ghana, this is not true for Wa, where 66% of those who live here claim to be Muslims.

As I ran the streets of this growing community, I was surprised to see the number of individuals, dressed in long robes, walking to their neighborhood mosque. It was early, and they were heading to spend time in prayer.

I do not identify with what Muslims believe, but I respect the level of their commitment to their faith. While running and praying through the town, I thought to myself, "How many Christians do I know who would commit themselves to wake up early, by 3:30 a.m., to pray?"

One person described Christianity as the "comfortable religion." In a way, this is an accurate description. I have found great comfort walking with God. But has our cultural value of comfort clouded our commitment to the practice of spiritual disciplines, such as spending daily time with God through the practice of Bible reading and prayer?

Often I hear Christians state that they are too busy to take time to have daily devotions. And, since Christianity is based on God's love, people explain that they do not want their faith practices to become legalistic, which, they claim, is the reason Muslims do what they do. They are just being legalistic.

But shouldn't our love for Christ cause us to be even more committed to wanting a vibrant relationship with Him, which happens through the practice of spiritual disciplines? What would happen if our love for God propelled us to a greater commitment to daily, loving prayer? And what would happen if we spent more time praying for a world that desperately needs Christ as their Savior and Sanctifier?

These were early morning thoughts I had while running the streets of Wa.



Dr. Jim's Travels

Please pray for Dr. Jim as he ministers in various places over the next few months:

October 1-6, St. Croix

October 5-25, 21 Days of Fasting and Prayer

November 15, Columbia, MO, Missions

December 17-21, Jamaica Conference

December 28-31, FOLLOW Youth Convention



Scan here to watch a video from Dr. Jim about this early morning run in Ghana.



CHURCH OF GOD (HOLINESS)

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HIGHER GROUND Devotional (excerpt)

By Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo

A few years ago, I took a group of students with me to China. While there, we heard of Christian men being beaten and thrown into jail. Their jail sentence would last up to three years.

But instead of seeing their time of imprisonment as wasted time, some of these Christian men preached God's Word to the other inmates. One of these Christian men shared, "The government thought they could stop me from starting up a church, but little do they realize that there is a church right in their own prisons."

We were told that one of these prison churches had over three hundred men attending worship services. Some of these Christian young men, upon being released from prison, would go home and spend time with their families, getting reacquainted and enjoying being with one another. Then, boldly, they would go to the market place and preach the gospel, knowing well that they would be thrown back into prison again.

A wife shared, "I am willing to make the sacrifice of having my husband imprisoned again, especially when he is able to go back and disciple those who have been converted. No sacrifice is too great for Christ!"



21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

You're invited to join the fall 2026 prayer initiative, Higher Ground: Connecting Love with Prayer. This is a joint effort of the departments of the Churches of God (Holiness).

If you would like to see your relationship with God deepen and your practice of prayer and fasting raised to new levels, consider joining this endeavor. We believe spiritual victories are a direct result of prayer and that God has victories in store for you in your local church and for the COGH ministries!

You can receive a free devotional in print, including prayer guides for each day, October 5-25. Contact us to receive your free copy.

Thank you for uniting with us to pray for Higher Ground.



Follow this link to download a digital copy of the daily devotional and prayer guide.



Follow this link to watch a video from Dr. Jim Lo about The Importance of Prayer.

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