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PRAYER REQUESTS

Your prayers are very important for a ministry like ours, so we implore you to include us in your prayer list. We do not want to inundate you with a long list of prayer requests, but here are our top prayer requests as of today. Please note that we did not use the real names of the people involved. We did this to protect their privacy and dignity in some instances where sexual abuse was involved. Pictures are real but faces may be blurred intentionally to protect the identity of those in the picture. Please keep in mind that these requests involve real people and their real-life experiences are presented here so you can uplift them in prayers.

Request #1: Pray for Rashidi.

Rashidi was very zealous for the Lord and active in ministry at his local church. He was a leader in the youth ministry. One day this summer, he went to work as usual with the construction company that hired him as



a construction laborer. His work is very dangerous as it involves climbing on scaffoldings in tall buildings. Unknown to him, this was a day that would change his life and test his faith in God.

The picture on the left is a real picture (with green arrow showing) Rashidi at work on a scaffolding. On this fateful day, he slipped, and he fell from the top of the scaffolding. Thankfully, he had his safety harness on, but this did not stop him from falling halfway down the tall building, eventually landing with his chest on one of the metals that stopped his fall. That was only the beginning of his ordeal. He survived the fall but has serious pain in his chest and coughed out blood. His company asked him to get a medical checkup before he could return to work. However, the company did not offer any medical insurance or monetary assistance to a construction laborer like Rashidi, so he was on his own.

Rashidi could not afford to pay for a medical checkup that would include a chest X-Ray (approx. \$10 USD). Without an income, he couldn't afford to pay his rent and provide for his wife and young daughter. Then he received an eviction notice from his landlord to vacate the small room that he shared with his family because he was owing rent. Rashidi stopped coming to church and tried to find an alternate way to treat himself and persuade his employer to hire him back. Meanwhile, his pastor noticed his absence from church, and sought after him. The pastor found him in a depressed state as he was contemplating suicide, thinking all hope is lost and God has deserted him.

Rashidi's pastor is one of the ministry partners with Ife Global Outreach in Western Nigeria. He immediately reached out to our organization and used some of the funding we already established for emergency benevolence to pay for Rashidi's hospital bills so he could get treatment. Praise God, doctors initial report shows no broken ribs/bones, but the chest pain persists.

* Pray that Rashidi will recover quickly to be able to return to work and fend for his family.

* Pray that God will send additional support to help us rehabilitate him. Our goal is to help him get back to health and fend for his family within six months.

* Pray that God will restore him back to ministry with greater fire than he did before the accident.

* Pray that his story will be a testimony that will encourage other believers in the church and the entire community that God will never leave or forsake His own.

Request #2: Pray for Maria & Ruth, two women who recently quit the sex trade to follow Christ.

Maria has a unique story. First, she had a family in her native village in the eastern region of Nigeria. That included her husband with four children and an aged mother. The husband could not get a job to sustain the family, so he abandoned Maria with the children with Maria's mom. Maria had to make a difficult decision. She left her older 3 children with her mom in the village and travelled far to the West in search of a job, taking her 18-month-old baby with her.



Things did not turn out as she expected. She couldn't find a job, so she was recruited into prostitution which brought in some income for her to send home to her mother and the 3 children she left in her mother's care. Maria was a reluctant sex worker who soon found out that she was being exploited in that trade. The picture on the left shows Maria's at "home" with her child and all her "possession".

Our ministry partners in the area conducted several gospel outreaches in Maria's village in Western Nigeria, and she decided to give her life to Christ in one of the outreach programs. The pastor's wife immediately took Maria under her wings and spent many days disciplining her in the Word and encouraging her to quit the sex trade. Prostitution provided barely enough income for her to feed herself and her baby, so she was ready to give it up and trust God for her future. Everything was at stake, including the little money she sent home to support her other children and her mom.

With the help of emergency funding provided by Ife Global Outreach, the church was able to provide Maria with some essentials such as a mattress and pillow, and some cooking utensils. The church developed a six-month rehabilitation plan to try and get Maria started in a new trade and become an active member of the church.

Within 3 months, Maria had become an active witness for Christ. She was able to persuade Ruth, one of her friends in the prostitution business, to come to church with her and abandon the sex trade too. Ruth's history is very similar to Maria's - she also has children that she abandoned in her hometown in search of a better job. Unfortunately, she ended up with prostitution too. Both Maria and Ruth are now being disciplined by the pastor's wife.

The effort to resettle Maria has not gone well as planned. The community / village she lived in still relates to her past, therefore are not willing to trade with her in the new profession that the church is preparing her for. The church is thinking about relocating her to another village where they don't know her as a sex worker. Both Maria and Ruth need prayers.

- * Pray that Maria & Ruth will continue to grow in the Word and never go back to their old lives.
- * Pray that God will provide for Maria and Ruth's families in a miraculous way, until they are well-established to take care of their families.
- * Pray that God will provide resources so that the local church can follow through with the plans they designed to rehabilitate both Maria and Ruth.
- * Pray that Maria and Ruth will be used mightily in ministry to young women who are prone to deception and recruitment into prostitution.

Request #3: Pray for Pastor Bukky.

Pastor Bukky and her husband Kunle have faithfully served the Lord in Iperu and Odogbolu area in Western Nigeria. We have known them since the 1980s when they were medical students and dedicated Christians. They started a church in Iperu about 30 years ago and became full-time pastors. They have conducted several evangelistic outreaches in the Iperu area, taking the Gospel to many villages that are difficult to reach because of bad roads or lack of road. They also conduct free medical outreach to their community, bringing together a team of Christian medical professionals who volunteer their time to consult with the local population who normally could not afford the cost of treatment or medications from local hospitals. Ife Global Outreach has provided funds to support recent medical outreach by pastors Kunle & Bukky.



Pastor Bukky

Bukky and her husband strongly believe in Discipleship. They believe that when people accept Christ as a result of hearing the Gospel, it is only the beginning. Their ministry is heavily focused on discipleship, training and mentoring new believers so they could mature and become disciple makers too. Recently, she has taken upon herself the task of discipling two former sex workers who accepted Christ and need to be rehabilitated so they won't go back to their past lives.

Her ministry requires that she travel between the towns and villages in their area, mostly on Sundays and Wednesdays each week. Although God blessed them with a car, the cost of gasoline was too much for their limited resources as pastors. The community they minister to is poverty stricken and cannot afford to support them. So Bukky travels on "Okada" and "Maruwa" which although dangerous, are the most affordable means of transportation in the region.



OKADA Taxi



MARUWA Taxi

On Sunday Dec 3, Bukky had an accident – falling off a motorcycle taxi - while she was travelling from Iperu to Odogbolu to minister. She sustained some injuries but not life-threatening – Praise God!

One of our goals at Ife Global Outreach is to help raise support for local ministers who often sacrifice their needs in order to meet the needs of the population they minister to. We asked Pastor Bukky how much it would cost if she used their car for travel (for safety) and she estimated about \$100 USD per month. Ife Global Outreach does not have the resource to provide that support at the moment, but we encouraged her that God is able to supply so she won't have to risk her life while going out to minister the word.

- * Pray for complete healing for Pastor Bukky – she still has ache and pain in parts of her body.
- * Pray that God will continue to bless the ministry works of Pastor Bukky and her husband Pastor Kunle. Pray that they will not be discouraged by any obstacles or difficulties that may come their way in personal lives or ministry.
- * Pray for God's protection and blessings their family.
- * Pray that God will raise up people who will commit to send resources to support the ministry of Pastors Bukky and Kunle in Nigeria.