

**UGANDA NATIONAL PRAYER
BREAKFAST**

2011

**DIGGING WELLS FOR GOD AND MY
COUNTRY: A CALL FOR EXCELLENCE
IN SERVICE**

“Unless the Lord builds a house, the builders
build in vain; unless the Lord builds a Nation,
the laborers labour in vain”.

By

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DIGGING WELLS

“Oh Lord God, let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, for you are my strength and my Redeemer. In the name of the Lord Jesus I pray”.

His Excellency the President, First Lady Honorable Mrs. Museveni, the Right Honorable Madam Speaker and other Speakers, Honorable Ministers of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, Honorable Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors of Jesus Christ, Excellencies of Diplomatic Missions in Uganda, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

I feel very humbled and honored to participate in the Uganda National Prayer Breakfast which I have heard about for many years and wished to attend. It is a dream come true.

It is awesome to stand before you and deliver the key note statement. I come in the name of the Lord Jesus and I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me. Allow me thank and commend the organizers of this National Prayer Breakfast; all those who have worked behind the scenes and in front of the scenes, those who have prayed for this Prayer Breakfast, we say thank you. We honor those who thought of the idea, initiated the Prayer Breakfast and those who have implemented it this year and in the past. We thank you.

Let me begin by saluting your National Motto and those who thought about it and wrote it; “For God and my Country”. How wise of them to have put God first. For we know that unless the Lord builds a house or Nation, the laborer works in vain. Unless the Lord watches over us, our families, Nations and this great continent of Africa, we all labor in vain.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY: A CALL TO EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

What is Excellence? One Dictionary says excellence is, “The quality of being extremely good” (Oxford Dictionary) or “Exceptionally good”.

What is Service? The Dictionary defines Service as, “Contribution to the welfare of others” (Webster); “The particular skills or help that a person is able to offer” (Oxford), “The availability for use by the Public”.

What an honor and a privilege to be with the Heads of State of our great continent of Africa, the top leaders and decision makers in this great nation, the Pearl of Africa.

I would like to share with you this morning some thoughts about digging wells. Many of us are familiar with wells. Some of us have been blessed to be born in villages, to grow up in

villages or visit villages. Therefore we are familiar with wells. Some of us have drunk water from wells. Who built those wells? Did your parents dig the wells? Did your grand parents dig the wells? Did you dig the well in your village?

Let us have our Scripture reading:

1. Genesis 26:13-15; 18 – 22
2. John 4:12

From the Bible verses we have read, we see that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob dug wells not only for themselves but for their children, their grand children and descendants. Generation to Generation drank water from the wells that their forefathers and foremothers dug. These biblical examples of wells must have been well built to last for hundreds of years.

We see from Isaac that digging wells is not easy. We saw how he mobilized his servants to dig wells that produced such quantity and quality of water that neighbors fought over the wells. They contended for them, others blocked them. These are good lessons for us. Just because you dig a well does not mean that everybody will be happy about it. Wells can also represent the good we do; seeds we plant that last and benefit generations to come.

I am sure many here have experienced doing well only to be rebuffed. Or offered excellent service only to be demoted or even fired. We know that as we dig wells or plant good seed of excellent service, others come in secretly or publicly to uproot and spoil. No matter what happens, we must keep on digging wells. We must keep on offering excellent service to our children, or families, our Nations, our Continent, and World.

We learn from Isaac that he did not stop digging wells. Some of us would have stopped at the first well or given up. Isaac kept on digging. When his well was taken or blocked, he dug another one. He did not hesitate to unblock a blocked well. Isaac kept on digging until his enemies gave up. They could not keep up with him. They were no match. He kept on digging until at last he dug a well that had no contention. The enemies failed, Isaac excelled and was blessed by God. No wonder he became a very wealthy, prosperous and successful man. He became wealthy from the wells he inherited from his father Abraham but also from his own wells that he dug; the wells that his children and grand children and other descendants would inherit.

The woman of Samaria

In John 4: 12, we read about the woman of Samaria who had a conversation with the Lord Jesus; The woman who was the first person to whom the Lord Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, the woman who was a pioneer evangelist. This woman proudly boasted about the well her forefather Jacob dug - Jacob's well, which gave water to his descendants. Jacob was well remembered because he dug a well; a sustainable well that lasted centuries.

All who dug wells were appreciated by their descendants. Are we digging wells for the future generations? Are they sustainable wells?

For God and My Country: A Call for Excellence in Service

From the Biblical examples, let us move to the living Word Himself, The Word; The Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus the Christ. If we want to learn and practice

excellence in service, looking at Jesus is the best idea. Jesus surpasses all well diggers. For those who drank from the other wells had to keep on drinking every day, with women walking for miles and miles to collect the water.

Jesus offered and still offers water which quenches thirst once and for all. That is why the woman of Samaria left the water pot at Jacob's well and went running back to her village shouting, "Come see a Man; come see a Man". I can imagine her shouting to the shop keeper saying, "be quick; close your shop! Come see a Man!" To the Bar owners, those who were busy drinking she shouted, "Close the bar quickly, come see a man!" The she ran to the Butcher and said, "Forget about your meat brother, come see a man!" To the bottlers she said, "Forget about your coca cola, close your supermarket and come see a man". By now she was out of breath but still ran to the market and said, "Hey,

Hey! Close the market; run, come see a man who gives LIVING water and you shall never thirst again!”

Jesus the Christ sure dug wells. He left his wells to 12 unschooled, unlearned, uncouth men and the 120 faithful women and men. Look what they did to the World. They turned the World right side up. Those few women and men who had no computers, iPods, iPads, e.t.c. changed the world. These few people had no radios, no television and no transport. They had no horses, no bicycles, no chariots, no cars; they had no airplanes. The Jesus establishment had no jets to execute their mission. Jesus the well digger lived with the 12 for about 3 years. Some women worked with him and ministered to him from time to time.

All He left them were the wells he dug – his examples of how to implement excellence in

service to God and to people. He loved God and put God first in His life. He loved people and went about doing good because as a child, He grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and Man.

Jesus was a great leader who implemented the call to excellence in service. He was a servant leader who washed his disciples' feet. He had no problem with women no matter who they were, where they came from, what they had done or not done in their lives. Women ministered to him. Martha cooked for Him. When Martha came to Jesus to complain that her sister Mary was not helping, Martha said to the Lord Jesus, "Please tell my sister to come and help me because the woman's place is in the kitchen". The Lord Jesus said to Martha, "Ah ah, you are wrong Martha; the woman's place is not in the kitchen but right here in the sitting room taking part in the discussions and learning. Right here

in the sitting room listening to the news, in Parliament, in Government, as CEOs, as Managing Directors, e.t.c.”

The Scripture, the Holy Word gives us other examples from Genesis to Revelation. Yes, even the Old Testament. The Old Testament starts with Madam Eve, God’s special project and the latest model in creation, an improved version of humanity. When God showed this Eve project to Adam, he was at first speechless with delight, then he said, “Wow – this is indeed bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!” We have the Sarahs, the Hannahs, Deborah the Judge and Head of State – all men and women came to her. She was a National leader.

In the New Testament we have the Marys and other women who did not run away from the cross but stayed there under the gaze of the Roman Empire soldiers, the women who were

first at the tomb that Resurrection morning. These women who were sent to the men who were hiding. The Lord told them, “Women go and tell those men in hiding not to be afraid. Go and evangelize – tell them I am arisen and live forever more.”

We have the coworkers of Paul whom he described in detail; women such as Priscilla, who started churches in their homes; Dorcas who served others and the poor with such excellent service that she was returned from death. Death could not hold her prematurely because of her excellent service.

All these people, men and women were not given money or transport by Jesus the well digger. He simply commanded them, “Go and make disciples of all Nations – Start in your Jerusalem, then Judea but don’t end there – go even to the utmost parts of the world.”

Young people

Allow me to talk about the young people - and our Nations in Africa have plenty of them. Some countries have up to 60% young people among their populations. In the Bible, young people are well covered. In fact, among those who did exploits in their generations were young people. You have Esther, an orphan girl who became queen and delivered a whole Nation from destruction. You have a refugee widow like Ruth who became an ancestor of the Lord Jesus. There was Daniel, who answered the call to excellence and served in 4 different administrations; Joseph who became a Prime Minister in a foreign and powerful Nation – the super power of that era; Josiah the 8 year old King who turned his people and Nation into the right path; Mary the mother of the Lord Jesus.

Looks like when God wanted to do something big, he called on young people. These are the examples we have. But what are we doing with and for our young people?

God still calls young people to excellent service – to do exploits and turn things around. Every child is born for a specific purpose – to contribute to humankind a discovery, a talent, a skill.

What will happen to the Bill Gates of Africa? To the Steve Jobs still in the slums? The Oprah Winfreys, the Dorothy Heights, the Rosa Parks and others?

Have we left sustainable wells for them to drink from, be nourished and dig more wells? Are we the living examples that they can follow? We are where we are because some one dug a well for us. What wells are we leaving for our children? Yes indeed – Africa has produced

some well diggers. We have however failed to document them so that their examples and wells can live on.

Yes, all African Nations have had well diggers in the past – and even now we have our own Professor Wangari Matthai, who in her lifetime dug well in Kenya, Africa and the whole world. From her life we know for sure that it is not easy to dig wells. She was beaten; she was jailed but she kept on digging wells. WHAT A LIFE; WHAT A LEGACY. That is how it should be. Our works should live on and make our world a better place. We have Mandela and many others.

Let's document them and not leave these writings to those who write them from sometimes ignorant perspectives. Let us train our young people in excellent service for God and our Nations. There are too many Josephs still in prisons. The answers and solutions for

Africa are with them in prison. The street children, the orphans, children not in school, the unskilled youth, the unemployed – among these are those with solutions for Africa. Among these are those who can turn the tides so that our resources benefit us not others, so that our resources are produced with added value and our products compete favorably on the global market.

Among these are genius scientists with discoveries that can change Africa into a solution not a problem. Among these are female and male youth who were born to lead Nations, the African Union, the United Nations.

But how will all this come to pass when so many youth live below one dollar a day? How can Africa come up when these leaders sleep on streets, grow up in refugee camps; when so many are malnourished and stunted in growth?

We need young people who grow up in wisdom and stature, in favor with God and Man. The responsibility is ours. Invest in young people and leave them with sustainable wells. The Lord is ready to help us do so.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

Lord Bless the Cranes.