

THE COOPERATIVE WEEK PRAYERS IN THE CHRISTIAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP 24TH & 25TH JUNE, 2017

“Prayer for the Spirit of Voluntarism; Servant Leadership, and Integrity in the Cooperative Movement”.

The Cooperators are once again humbled to start the National Cooperative Week celebrations by committing the movement in the hands of the almighty God. Our prayer theme year is: *“Prayer for the spirit of Voluntarism; Servant Leadership, and Integrity in the cooperative movement”*. In 2016 Cooperative Week, our prayer theme was for *“the revival of the cooperative movement”* in Uganda. We are glad to report to you that in various parts of the country our religious leaders accepted these approach wholeheartedly and led these prayer across the country. Since then we have seen an increasing registration of cooperatives at the desk of the registrar of cooperatives in Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives from as far away as in Karamoja registering a mining cooperative to harvest the God given natural mineral resource in the region.

But we have also seen a fast creeping the problem of selfish greed, corruption, outright theft, manipulation, and undermining cooperative principles in the cooperatives requiring urgent action. Such unfortunate happening often manifest themselves through; creating ghost cooperatives often targeting money donations from unsuspecting politicians and creating fake credit schemes baptised as financial cooperatives to fleece unsuspecting members of the public etc. These are the reason for a theme that seeks the spirit of voluntarism, servant leadership, and integrity in the 2017 cooperative week prayers.

The 7 Principles of Cooperatives

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

We strongly believe that a joint effort between the religious and cooperatives leaders, which puts *God First* in the Cooperative Movement will deliver a prosperity for our people.

We are grateful for your acceptance to pass on this invaluable message to the women and men of God in your congregations. Below are some of the suggested biblical text for your consideration during these prayers.

Voluntary Work

[Colossians 3:23](#) NIV- version

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

[Acts 20:35](#) NIV- version: - 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" [Luke 6:31](#) NIV- version

31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Servant Leadership

[Mark 10:42-45](#) NIV- version

42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

[Mark 10:45](#) NIV- version

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

[John 13:12-15](#) NIV- version

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Integrity

[Galatians 6:8](#) NIV- version

8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

[Romans 12:2](#) NIV- version

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will be—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) NIV- version

1If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

[Matthew 25:46](#) NIV- version

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

[Luke 3:14](#) NIV- version

14Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do? He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

[Hosea 9:9](#) NIV- version

9They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.

[Proverbs 16:1-5](#) NIV- version

1To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue.

2All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

3Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

4The LORD works out everything to its proper end even the wicked for a day of disaster. 5The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

1 Timothy 6:10 NIV- version 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

