



A Prayer for Africa

Lord, I give thanks for Africa's fertile spiritual soil, in which the Gospel readily takes root and presents Jesus as The Way.

I give thanks that Africa affirms the wholeness of our human experience, and rejects the false dichotomy of matter and spirit, of body and soul.

I give thanks for Africa's rejection of individualism, and for its belief that we become truly human in community with other humans.

I give thanks that the Gospel is now expressed in ways that affirm the African culture and African identity of believers.

I give thanks for Africa's vibrant unwritten theology, revealed in song, dance, story and prayer.

I give thanks for the spiritual strength that allows Africa to cope with adversity, and even overcome it.

I give thanks for the role of the Church in the pursuit of a more just society, and more representative forms of government, in many parts of Africa.

I give thanks that the Church is respected, trusted, active and redemptive in society.

I give thanks for Africa's capacity to transform hate, to reconcile enemies, and to pardon oppressors.

I give thanks that the response of hope in struggle, is now part of Africa's heritage.

And in a continent of much bad news, I rejoice in Africa's proclamation of good news through Jesus. Amen.

Taken from *Born to be Free: The Indivisibility of Freedom*

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