

First Lady Jeannette Kagame's

Opening Prayer

66th National Prayer Breakfast

Washington D.C., U.S.A

Good morning,

It is a pleasure to be here with you today.

Let us all join our hearts in prayer.

We begin Lord by affirming that you are a Holy God and we humbly bow our heads before you.

We lay down all that we are, have and come as your obedient servants before your majesty and power.

Lord Jesus I thank you for gathering today people from across 140 nations for this Prayer Breakfast to worship You and give You glory.

We thank you for our gracious hosts who work tirelessly year in, year out to make the **National Prayer Breakfast** a memorable communion.

Bless them for they bless people all around the world.

We thank you *Lord* for having kept your light shining in the darkest of nights and for leading Rwanda on the long road back from the terrible tragedy and destruction, 24 years ago.

We thank You that today, Rwanda, once a fallen and divided nation with a history painful beyond words, is now a beacon of peace for all her sons and daughters.

We thank You for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us. We are receivers of your compassion, your mercy, your care, and your everlasting love.

In turn, we are called to be the givers.

Dear Lord, grant us eyes of love, ears of empathy, hands of generosity, and hearts of forgiveness.

Lord, today we represent 8 billion people on this planet, who speak hundreds of different languages but on this morning we have one common language: the Language of Prayer.

May the interests of nations converge, for that special language of prayer to reflect the ideals of reconciliation, unity, and love.

May your people live in grace, wisdom, and your comfort.

As St. Francis of Assisi, a great man of universal brotherhood, taught us.

May we:

Become instruments of your peace.

Bring love where there is hatred.

Bring pardon where there is offence.

Bring harmony where there is discord.

Bring truth where there is error.

Bring faith where there is doubt.

Bring hope where there is despair.

Bring joy where there is sadness.

We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.