



**So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. – Luke 9:6**

**Leader:** We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**  
*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

**Leader:** We thank and praise God for women who have left their homes and families, their congregations and jobs, and the comfort and protection of the United States of America to travel to a foreign land to serve and to learn.

**All: For Ruth who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God 'til death.  
We praise you, God of Israel and pray for hearts set free  
To bind ourselves to others in love and loyalty.**

**Leader:** The missionary in Africa will serve people in desperate situations of poverty, unsanitary drinking water, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and other serious challenges. Many of us have seen videos of starving, hurting African children on the television. The pictures pull at our heart strings.

**All: Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.  
Send us, O Christ, Your body, where people cry in pain,  
And touch them with compassion to make them whole again.**

**Leader:** There is much to do. There are many to serve. A female perspective and understanding to identify and develop human care opportunities is especially beneficial.

**All: We sing of busy Martha who toiled with pot and pan,  
While Mary sat in silence to hear the Word again.  
Christ, keep our hearts attentive to truth that you declare,  
And strengthen us for service when work becomes our prayer.**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the missionaries who currently serve in Africa. Let us acknowledge and give thanks for the children of African missionaries who have been given to serve by their parents' commitment to serve.

**All: To Hannah, praying childless before your throne of grace,  
You gave a son and called him to serve before Your face.  
Grant us her perseverance; Lord, teach us how to pray  
And trust in Your deliverance when darkness hides our way.**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, through mite box contributions and a faithful female missionary, give the people in Africa human care assistance and the witness of steadfast faith in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen**