A Woman of Prayer

Nancy Hinga Kimani is a woman of prayer. There is very little about her work in Malawi with World Renew (formerly the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee) that Kimani doesn’t bring before God in prayerful petition.

“We pray a lot,” she said. This includes middle-of-the-night prayer vigils for friends and colleagues who are suffering with sickness. It also includes prayers for organizational frustrations.

“With one of World Renew’s partners, I’ve spent a lot of time in prayer around the process of change,” Kimani said.

Their accountant had been mismanaging funds, but the staff was reluctant to fire him. In Malawian culture, she said, it is difficult to fire people because of the loyalty managers feel to employees and their families.

“People also tend to avoid facing up to problems,” said Kimani. “After months of the organization doing nothing despite my urging, all I could do was pray.”

That’s what she was doing one night when her phone rang.

“As I was finishing my prayers, I received a phone call from the board president. I shared with him my concerns. This time he took action. He called the general secretary; they posted an advertisement for the position right away and laid off the accountant that week.

“This would not have happened without prayer. I could see God’s hand removing obstacles that were standing in the way.”

Later, as she was driving a newly hired community development facilitator to a meeting to launch a new program, she said she felt the urge to pull over to the side of the road to pray.

“We were going to pilot a new village savings and loan program and had hired a woman named Grace Swira to run it. I had taken her to the training and bought...
The resource kits she’d need for working with community members. As I was driving her to visit with the first village, God told me to pray,” said Kimani.

“We stopped at the side of the road and asked God to take leadership of the program.”

They spent several minutes in concentrated prayer, laying the matter before God and reminding themselves that the work belonged to the Lord; they were simply his agents. They asked for God’s leadership and blessings on the program.

At the village, Swira presented community members with an overview of the program she hoped to start. She encouraged local women to consider joining a savings group where they could pool their funds to invest in each other’s small businesses.

From that one visit in September 2010, the new village savings and loan program has grown to 68 community groups.

Prayer Opens Doors

Followers of Jesus in the Hindu stronghold of Chhattisgarh, a state in northern central India, face hatred and hostility. But through prayer, God has opened doors for the gospel to take hold and for seekers to come to faith in Christ.

“We knew people in Chhattisgarh were listening to our broadcasts [in the Hindi language],” said Stephen, the Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) ministry leader in India. “We occasionally received letters from listeners asking for discipleship materials.”

BTGMI staff in India tried to bring Bibles and Christian literature into the area, but were stopped when their van was pelted by rocks. Hindus living in the area refused to allow any Christian teaching.

“Our media ministry team felt an urgent need to make face-to-face visits...”