

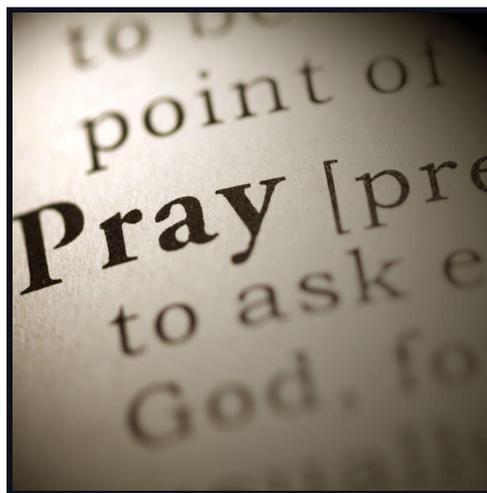
"Prayers & Benediction" by Sadiqa Delaney
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American Baptist Women's Ministries
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Prayers & Benediction **Let the Walls Fall Down** **By Sadiqa Delaney, Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team member**

Opening prayer for an ABWM Event

Heavenly One, The giver and sustainer of life, we invite your Holy Spirit to dwell among us today. Bless our time together as we love one another. Bless our time together as we share and fellowship. Bless our time together as we create and build sisterhood. And bless our time together as we learn and continue to commit to letting the walls fall down.

Heavenly One, we pray and lift up all who have made this event possible; staff, presenters, and all in attendance. May everyone leave this event with newfound understanding, wisdom, and encouragement to do the work you have set before them to do. We love you and praise you forever. In your son's name, Jesus the Christ, we do pray. Amen!



Prayer for Young Women

Let us pray! We will lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help. Because truly our help comes from you, oh God. God, with our collective hearts, we pray for every young woman as they navigate through, letting the walls fall down, seeking to be prepared and positioned in a world where your daughters are looked over, looked past, and often forgotten about.

Holy One, I ask that you speak to their hearts in a way that they can love you more. I ask that you speak to their minds in a way that they can pursue your word with hunger. I ask that you speak to their spirits in a way that they can worship and give you the due honor that you are deserving of.

Holy One, equip them with the confidence to walk boldly and firmly in their yes. Equip them with the confidence to walk into those spaces and places you are calling them to that may be telling them they are not enough. Equip them with the confidence to say yes to their passions and purposes, understanding that there are people and things connected to them. Equip them with the confidence to not be afraid to sit at certain tables where their thoughts, creativity, and skills are needed. And equip them with the wisdom to make sound decisions and the discernment that allows them to only take heed to your voice.

Holy One, there is a shift taking place oh God in the workplaces, in our communities, and in our churches where you are calling on your young women to let the walls fall down. So rise up in them that power, the fortitude, and the strength to do so. And as they continue to unpack who they are as your daughters. Allow their lives and the different ministries within them to be the light that will bring others to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!

Benediction

Let us go forth with the Love of Christ into the world dedicated to the "Letting the Walls Fall Down," continuing the fearlessness of women who have gone on before us. Go forth my sister, igniting the Mary within you eager to share the word of God with other women. Go forth my sister, igniting the Deborah within you willing to be on the grounds of the most rigid neighborhoods fighting for the humanity and injustices of the underserved. Go forth my sister, igniting the Esther within you, willing to risk your life for the betterment of your people and communities. Go forth my sister, committed to "Letting the Walls Fall Down"!