

2019

ISSUE No. 14

# ANGAZA

NEW DAWN | NEW LIGHT | NEW PERSPECTIVE

Feature: Dr Laureen Maseno

**CHALLENGING  
THE NORM**



| SLOW FADE | KEEP GROWING UP  
| GO WITH THE FLOW |

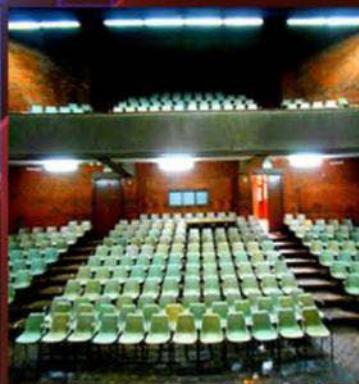
1st Thessalonians 5:21.... Test everything hold on to the good

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# Meet the Team

**Mercy Njeri**

*"The reading of any good literature is like conversing with the finest people freely. Herein is the proof..."*

**Brian Barasa**

*"Angaza Issue 14 can have impact on our behavior, emotions and value systems."*

**Shadrack Mbisi**

*"Don't be at the beginning or even at the center of a system whose end result is detrimental to life."*

**Dan Oyugi**

*"You write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what's burning inside you, and we edit to ensure every word counts."*

**Faith Kasila**

*"The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude."*

**Dorcas Jerop**

*"Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace"...*

**Magret Wanjiru**

*"You are the cause of the change you desire, be the change"*

**Beatrice Mnazi**

*"Knowledge is power, Angaza issue 14 comes with lots of it, nice read."*

**Valentine Moraa**

*"The beauty of literature lies in discovering that your longings are universal longings, that you are not are not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."*

**Michael Ayieko**

*"Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others."*

**Melisa Adhiambo**

*"We live between two important days, the day Christ hangs on the cross before all men, and the day all men will kneel before Christ" - Paul Washer*

# From the editor



The Literature Committee gladly presents to you the Angaza magazine, Issue 14. It has taken the hand of God for us to come to completion of this publication. Glory be to God Almighty.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all who contributed tirelessly to ensure the success of this publication. Our regards go to the Union members and associates who were inspired to write articles. May God continue to use you in the writing ministry. Our appreciation also goes to the editors and the designers (ICT) who have given the publication a luminous outlook. God bless you. Our final appreciation goes to Dr. Laureen Maseno who allowed us to have an exclusive interview with her. Thank you and God bless you for honouring our request.

Since its first publication, Angaza magazine has remained a well of knowledge and a source of inspiration presenting impactful messages to the church. This has seen many lives transformed and faith growing from level to level. I can assure you that this issue will be transformational too as it has been designed with power, with each article inspired to touch a soul.

It focuses on the fundamentals of the Christian faith in relation to the contemporary issues in the church. It's meant to make us understand the season we are in and to encourage us to endure the walk till the return of our Lord Jesus.

With that much you only need to let your eyes see, mouth read, mind comprehend and heart to absorb and retain. This magazine is preciously made for you. However if you don't like reading Christian writings, then it is your time to Challenge the Norm.

Welcome.

Oyugi Dan

Designer:  
Charles Kwendo  
Cover page by  
Simon Mwangi

If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb.

# SLOW FADE



**L**ife can beat us so hard, knock us down till we question our essence of existence or what we believe in. Is it just a farfetched idea, hoax or just a man-made illusion? This are some of the struggles we encounter and questions that flash through our minds when faith gauge seems to be flashing red and nowhere to refill. Was it a flambé only meant to last for a moment?

In the wake of this changing times, how do we challenge the normality, rise above the obvious and stand firm on faith without wavering? How do we overcome the screaming voices of giving up when the substance talked of in Hebrews 11:1 seem only to have been a powder, now being blown away by the wind and storms of uncertainties?

The current generation moreso we millennials and Gen Z have been blamed as the epitome of instant gratification. We want and demand microwave kind of blessings. We lack the virtue of patience thus we cannot enjoy the fruits of

endurance. In the midst of all this ‘accusations’ or rather truth, how do we turn the tables? We must be willing to be different, say no to the wave of trendiness and desire to incorporate this indispensable virtue in our very own lives. This is what we are calling **challenging the norm.**

In the recent past we've been hit terribly hard by heartbreakin news of denouncement of faith. While some are firm on their new stand, others seem indifferent, claiming the faith but trekking the ‘ wide path.’ Sadly, most of these victims have been role models to many. Take an example of some award winning authors and pastors such as Ray Boltz, Marty Sampson, Ivylyn Mutua... the list goes on.

Joshua Harris served as the lead pastor to a mega church, Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. At some point he also attended the seminary for training. In 2015 he had to step down following an unreported child sexual abuse. He is popularly known for his famous 1997 book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* which he wrote at 21. This

book was well adopted as a recommendable Christian literature to many singles, selling more than a million copies hitting the best sellers list. In the recent past he had to reconsider and revoke its publishing after much decry from the public.

This mid-year he announced to the public that he and his wife of 21 years had separated which is against one of the principles proposed in his book. He didn't stop there but went further to state that he had: “... Undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian,” he wrote. “Many people tell me that there is a different way to practice faith and I want to remain open to this, but I'm not there now.”

Musician Ray Boltz has written quite a number of songs (nearly 20 albums), the most notable one being *I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb*. The introduction is such a touching one explaining the history of the church. Won 3 dove awards. In 2004 he retired from

**“Got so much more to say, but for me, I am keeping it real.”**

Christian music industry. In 2005 he separated with Carol, His wife of 33 years. September 14, 2008 he officially came out to the world as a gay man. Although he still maintained to be a Christian, some of the songs in wimrecently released album depict a fallout.

Marty Sampson search his name and Wikipedia records- **Martin W “Marty” Sampson** (born 31 May 1979) is an Australian contemporary worship singer-songwriter, as well as a worship leader at the Hillsong Church in Sydney. He has over 300 songs under his name. In August he took to his Instagram and expressed, “I’m genuinely losing my faith.” An excerpt from the *relevantmagazine.com* read; “Time for some real talk. I’m genuinely losing my faith, and it doesn’t bother me. Like, what bothers me now is nothing. I am so happy now, so at peace with the world. It’s crazy. This is a soapbox moment so here I go ... How many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it. How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it. How can God be love yet send four billion people to hell all ‘coz they don’t believe? No one talks about it. Christians can be the most judgmental people on the planet—they can also be some of the most beautiful and loving people. But Christianity is just

not for me. I am not in any more. I want genuine truth. Not the “I just believe it” kind of truth. Science keeps piercing the truth of every religion. Lots of things help people change their lives, not just one version of God. Got so much more to say, but for me, I am keeping it real. Unfollow if you want, I’ve never been about living my life for others. All I know is what’s true to me right now, and Christianity just seems to me like another religion at this point. I could go on, but I won’t. Love and forgive absolutely. Be kind absolutely. Be generous and do good to others absolutely. Some things are good no matter what you believe. Let the rain fall, the sun will come up tomorrow.”

Ivyn Mutua, once a local gospel artist, recently released a secular song. In what she coined as reaching out to those who can't talk about Jesus, “I am a contemporary artist who will be singing about everything and not just Jesus,” she said. She went further to state “I’m taking my time for people to understand that nothing can separate me from Jesus.

On the flip side we've been served by Christians who have held on to the faith despite all the odds being against them, tested and stood the test of time. Some slipped but are back on their feet, running the race. This include names like Denzel Washington, Steve Harvey, Kevin Sorbo, Kirk Cameroon, Stephen Baldwin, Devon Franklin, Kanye West, Wahu Kagwi, Size 8, Amani and the list is boundless.



These are people who have tasted success, and are still riding on it. Some at a point derailed by the pleasures of this world went ahead and dived in them but the emptiness flooding their soul ignited a thirst in them that can only be filled by Christ. They have chosen to forsake everything for the sake of the kingdom. Guys like Denzel Washington, Devon Franklin are right in the middle of Hollywood. Jim Caviezel on working for Hollywood stated, ***“It's like water all around you and nothing to drink. You know if you go out to the ocean and you drink the salty water, you'll die.”*** Hollywood is what some have jokingly referred to as “the devils’ kitchen” to insinuate the place where ‘sin’ is cooked before being served to the world. This is a platform where many will do anything just to secure or maintain their career, compromise being the height of most. Faithfulness in such arenas means losing jobs, gaining nicknames (Stephen Baldwin-Jesus freak) and being sidelined. To remain still and rooted, they have made deliberate choices of growth. Washington reads his Bible every morning, a 2010 Christianity Today article wrote.

Why do people lose their faith? John would say; “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. ( 1 John 2:19)

Some of this are people whom we look up to. They are what may be considered as spiritual icons. What do we do when this news come knocking? They bring with them more questions, drawing some out of faith. In the wake of such, as the family of believers how do we respond? This then draws us to the big question; why then do some “lose their faith?” What of the immense contribution they have attributed

to the Christian faith? Should that still stand or be flushed away by their disbelief?

You can never untruth the truth. The truth they all professed at some point still remains to be the truth. One thing I know about the truth is that no matter who speaks it, it still remains to be the truth. It does not matter whether it's the devil himself. In fact during the temptation of Jesus, he quoted scriptures inserting some deception but that doesn't write off the truth. Having spiritual icons that we look up to is not wrong but let's take care not to follow them with this celebrity mind set. If you are to compare your faith with anything let it be Christ and the basis of his Holy words.

Let all theology we hear, be it from the pulpits, men of God or music be secondary information and devote yourself to do primary study of the word. With this, one is able to distinguish not only false and truth but also be wary of the almost truth, a scheme the devil is using for deception in our world today.

No one suddenly wakes up in the morning and declares his/her denouncement of faith. It's a ***Slow Fade*** as Casting Crowns sings. We all have doubts at some point but where do we direct them? Where do we seek our answers from? The Bible and Christ himself still remains to be the most reliable assurance of our salvation.



**By Manasseh Ngangá**

# keep GROWING UP

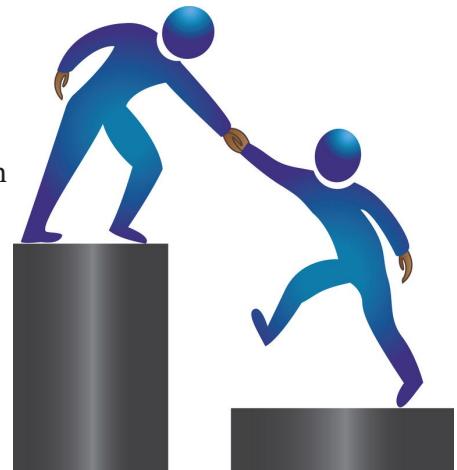
**A**mongst the twelve disciples, he must have been the comedian. Put differently, Simon Peter's gregarious nature made him the man who probably had the most conversations with Christ during his stay on earth. When he chooses to follow Christ, the first thing that Jesus presents him is a new name, Cephas, maybe because he knew of his present character, and sovereignly his future of a stable and dependable leader. However, change comes as a process rather than an event.

Peter's most outstanding character is his cocksure personality. From his many reactions in the gospel accounts, it's undebatable that if he lived in our days, most motivational speakers would by default have him for a case study. What maybe overlooked are the inner insecurities accompanying his outwardly confident actions. This is clearly evidenced in Mathew 14:28. When he realizes Jesus walking on water, he immediately shouts out to him, to call him forth. This he does at an odd time, having hardly recovered from the shock of seeing a 'ghost' walk on water. He walks on the water anyway, but his inner insecurity fails him when he 'sees the wind' and gives in.

In another instance, Jesus randomly enquires from the disciples who people say He is. Later on, He pauses the same question to them and guess who? Simon Peter almost immediately answers him to be the Messiah. Jesus is pleased with him, and maybe from his response, Simon must have missed out on the part that it had been revealed to him by the father. The other disciples seemed to have nothing much to say, something that probably made Peter feel superior.

Moments after, Jesus is explaining to his disciples about his arrest and death, and then Peter again! This time round, he does an audacious act, perhaps prompted by the confidence from Christ's approval that he was knowledgeable. Taking Christ aside, Peter begins to rebuke him! To start with, who on earth rebukes the Messiah? St Mark puts it clearly, "But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter," (Mark 8:33). Perhaps, Jesus was overwhelmed by the thought of what would happen to them if he wouldn't die which could have prompted the sharp rebuke on Peter, plainly telling him that he only had the thoughts of humans and not God's concerns in mind.

On a different occasion, Jesus reveals to his disciples that they would all fall away on his own account. Simon responds immediately by confirming that even though they all fell, he would never leave Christ. Even after Jesus narrows down that he would deny him thrice, he still objects. You see, Peter seems to be overconfident with himself about the things of Christ. When the cock crows and he realizes that he has actually denied him, Peter can't help, but walk out weeping and maybe humbled by the unfolding of events.



During his transfiguration, Jesus tags Peter alongside James and John to the Mount of Olives. While He is transfigured Moses and Elijah appears. Even at such an amazing sight, Simon Peter still had something to

say to Christ! They must all have been both terrified and awed by the beautiful scene of a dazzling Christ, when Peter starts speaking to Him about building shelters. It's funny how he had to insist on speaking even when overwhelmed by terror and worse still, in the midst of a supernatural conversation. Either way, his understanding changes when they are all covered by the cloud and a voice is heard confirming Jesus as the son of God and further instructing them to listen to him. This could have brought Peter to an understanding that we are called to listen to Jesus when He speaks.

However, after walking with him for many days, Jesus' stay on earth is complete and He is taken up to heaven in the presence of the disciples. From that day onwards, Peter portrays a stable and independent character of a leader. After the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples, he gives a lengthy speech to a large crowd for the first time. He boldly and publicly witnesses about Christ resulting to three thousand converts at once. This marked the beginning of his apostolic life and he generally does many mighty exploits during his lifetime.



Perhaps, Jesus disciplined Peter to set us yet another example. As leaders, we are called to patiently nurture successors and as disciples, we are called to keep growing up.



By Mercy Njeri

*“As leaders, we are called to patiently nurture successors and as disciples, we are called to keep growing up.”*

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help sir? The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No, God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned and went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"



# Enduring

When the Clouds darken in the morning  
And the sun no more is shining  
If the moon hides during morning  
With the stars no longer dwindling  
And the blank sky no single tear dropping.

When pain through the eyes begin sprouting  
And laborers in the farm long ago went wearying  
For travelers under the baobab tree stand panting  
With the hunger leaving the stomach rumble  
And the goats out of hunger bleating.

When earth lack the most anticipated dripping  
And the leaves beneath the buckles shaking  
From the wind and the harsh sun shining  
For the green carpet long ago went fading  
And debris-like buildings skeleton leaning.

When diseases through the bones off eating  
And the suffering to the soul not ending  
When endurance far long's off giving  
For to soul affliction day by day multiplied  
And the faith to the body threaten leaving.

Then the Lord's comfort to the suffering is beginning  
For like gold the soul He takes to testing  
For the crown waits after mourning  
And blessed is them who were weeping

For joy He brings in the morning  
And His love has none to it be measuring  
For His grace He pours with no measuring  
To those who through difficulty choose enduring  
Like on the Cross when He was crucified.



By Fredrick Kimotho  
MCCU Associate

## James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

## The Wisdom Of Children

You can't fool the kids in Sunday school, they are way too smart...

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

"NO" all the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again the answer was "NO"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead!"

# Test and Hold the good

**P**aul exhorts the Church in Thessalonica, "Do not quench the spirit, do not despise prophesies, test all things; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil" 1st Thessalonians 5:19-21. In a similar vein, he exhorts the church in Corinth, 1st Corinthians 14:29, let two or three prophets speak, and let others weigh what is said. Prophecy can be tersely defined as revealing the mind of God to His people. This can be done through the texts of scriptures or genuine leadings by God through the Holy Spirit which does not contradict with any text in the Holy Scriptures. God from ancient times genuinely led and still leads people to reveal His mind but constantly warns His people against false prophets (Ezekiel 13:9, Jeremiah 23:16, Mathew 7:15-20, Mathew 24:24, Acts 20:28-30, 2 Peter 1:12-21).

Paul asked the Thessalonian church not to take and believe what they were taught but to take, test then believe. Acts 17:11 poses a group of Berean Jews that took what they were taught, tested it then believed. Luke referred to them as noble for their eagerness to hear the word of God (did not treat prophecy with contempt) and persistency in studying it. They carefully examined the scriptures to see if Paul's teachings were supported by God's word.

Kevin DeYoung lucidly writes of the Bereans in his book 'Taking God at His Word':

"Every day the Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if Paul's gospel had divine authority, and they confirmed that what they heard was true to Scripture, and "therefore [they] believed" (Acts 17:12). The Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians because they were utterly submissive to the Scriptures. They would believe something controversial-if it was based in the Scripture. They were willing to follow Christ for the rest of their lives, provided

**"Whether we are the ones teaching or listening, we need to have our Bibles open like the Bereans."**

they were, in the process, following the Scriptures."

As it was for the Thessalonian church then, so it is palatable for us today. It is our duty to evaluate the 'causes' we endorse if they are of God. We have to test our beliefs and the teachings we receive continually and rigorously against the only standard that counts - The Bible. In the wake of increased worldliness in our churches aiming for contextualization, we ought to test every iota of the teachings we receive. If a person cannot or will not prove beliefs using clear and unambiguous scriptures, that fact should raise a red flag.

We at times follow the teachings of our church leaders due to doctrines - in which we have been indoctrinated, religion, tradition or piousness exemplified by some church

leaders. The system of doctrines, whether sound or not, religion and tradition have at times blinded us to rightly divide the word of truth in discerning the mind of God. David Helm in the book 'Expositional Preaching', quotes Charles Simeon, a preacher from England in the 19th Century "God has not revealed his truth in a system; the Bible has no systems as such. Lay aside systems and fly to the Bible; receive its words with submission, and without an eye to any system. Be Bible Christians, not system Christians".

Jesus taught about the false teachers and said that we would identify them by their fruits (Mathew 7:15-20). True prophets will bear good fruits contrary to false prophets. John in 1st John 4:1-6 warned of this false prophets asking the Christians to test the spirits if they were of God or of the Antichrist. They were to know the spirit of God by genuine confession that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and the spirit of Antichrist that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. John Piper puts it that, mere words of confession on Jesus Christ should not stand as a measure, rather genuine confession from the heart should. Noting

Jesus teachings that not all who called him Lord and prophesied in His name will enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Mathew 7:21-22). God has also given some the gift of

the Holy Spirit on discernment. To discern right from wrong for the best of the church (1st Corinthians 12).

It is therefore our responsibility as Christians to weigh every teaching conveyed to us, not necessarily with the aim of correction or to prove our theological prowess or support our sound doctrine rather to ooze out what is good and hold fast to it. Charles Spurgeon noted that some are busy proving what is right and forget to hold fast on the good. And to be in a position to test, we ought to grow in the knowledge of God through His word. Continuously studying the Bible, praying constantly and asking God to open our hearts and minds to understand His word.

Suffice to say, this exhortation by Kevin DeYoung, from the same book, summarizes it all: "When I speak at different conferences and churches, I'm often surprised how few people bother to look at their Bibles when I am speaking. Be it laziness, forgetfulness, or something else, it's not a good habit. I have no authority in myself. I don't want people to just take my word for it. God's people should be testing everything against God's word. Whether we are the ones teaching or listening, we need to have our Bibles open like the Bereans."

Kariuki Mbugua,  
MCCU associate.



# INTERVIEW with Dr. Laureen Maseno



Meet Dr. Laureen Maseno. She is a senior lecturer at Maseno University, department of Theology and Philosophy. She is also the Board chairperson of Action Aid. Dr. Laureen holds a Bachelors degree in Arts from the University of Nairobi and a PhD in Theology, kinship and Gender studies from University of Oslo, Norway.

## Where did you grow up?

I was born in a village around Serem, the border of Nandi and Luhya. I spent two years in the village before relocating to Nairobi. My Dad was a civil servant with the immigration department a position which necessitated transfers, around class five we moved to Kisumu because my father was transferred again. We lived there until I was in form two then we came to Nairobi. So it has been movements up and down. But after form two we did not move again.

## Did the shifting from one place to another affect your life?

At a young age it was not too drastic, there is excitement into a new space, meeting new people and that gave me an opportunity to live in different contexts. That was an experience that helped me later in life when I moved out of the country. I could adapt and make it through those shifts and changes. I made several shifts in my masters through to my PhD; about six years ago I was in Norway and just recently from 2015- 2018 I was in Germany.

## What were your ambitions while growing up?

In high school, my career ambition was to become a medical Doctor. In terms of spirituality I wanted to add more value on teaching the word of God. My patron in high school was keen to help me develop my calling. I am a teacher by calling.

## You wanted to be a medical doctor... impressive! Why arts?

Though I worked really hard in high school I did not meet the cut off points to become a medical doctor.

However, for the first time in Kenya they allowed students to revise their course selection. I thought to myself, "If I cannot be a medical doctor to treat human beings then maybe I can treat dogs". So I revised it to be a veterinary doctor. Unfortunately, the number of students revising went high thus they raised the cut off points and I once again lost the chance. I do remember meeting my former classmates and they were taking this 'Big' courses and I felt intimidated. I went to my room, shut the door and asked God what He wanted of me. God is gracious, when you seek Him...he orders your steps (Jeremiah 10:23).

### **What are some of the challenges you may have come across while growing up and serving in the Christian union?**

Let me begin with the opportunities I got. I received Christ as my savior in high school .There were opportunities to dig deep in the word, I met prayer partners who helped me establish my walk with God and I was also put into the discipleship classes. The main challenge in campus is time factor, you have lots of things to accomplish and very minimal time such that if you are not very careful you may find you have slanted in things you like. The number of responsibilities in the Christian union are quite many especially if you serve in the executive committee .During my stay in campus I served as the vice secretary, a secretary and also a joint coordinating council secretary. I was also the Ufungamano students representative while serving as JCC secretary.

### **What are some of the skills that you gained while serving?**

First I gained interpersonal skills as a result of interacting with many people. Secondly I gained the discipline of delegation. There are those tasks that you can't delegate e.g. communicating to the union and communicating to the speakers but you can trust someone to go and pick letters from the post office and bring them to school. Thirdly I learnt the art of Mentorship. You need to groom people who can step in your position by the time you end your service.

### **Serving in the executive is deemed a highly esteemed position ,how did you ensure there was no gap between you and other**

### **members?**

I had a Bible Study group and friends whom we ministered together in high schools in Kajiado and these become an inner core team besides being an Exec member. Whereas you might not befriend everyone in the union, you need strategic relationships; friends, who can stand with you, encourage you, challenge you and pray with you.

### **After, School most people do think of how to find a job and start a family, but that was not your case?**

Right after school I desired two things, first was to do my master's degree. The second thing was to get a passport while in campus. Some months before my final exams, I went to several embassies to inquire what opportunities for academics or scholarships they had. In Israel embassy, I was informed of certain programs that would happen and I applied for them. After leaving campus, I stayed for a month in Israel where I got information about other scholarships, which I applied for. After my Israel stay, I came to Kenya and wanted to work specifically in Nakuru.

### **Seemingly on your left finger, there`s a sign of marriage**

Yes, thank you. These are two rings, one of them is anniversary ring and the other is a wedding ring. The wedding ring is the one in front and it has my husband's name and the date of marriage. I met my husband in campus, MCCU.

### **Mmh the chairman? (Laughter) there is always this norm that most probably the chairman and the secretary in any organisation do bond because most of the things they do together.**

No, he was the discipleship coordinator and we had named him bishop because he was coordinating those who pastor groups like bible study. Interestingly I had been paired up with him as my prayer partner. Our relationship built over time and we got married in 2003 at Ufungamano House.

### **Are you from the same tribe?**

No, we are from different. As per the community I am a Tiriki and he is Luo.



**Did you face any challenge in your intermarriage based on the prevailing stereotypes?**

Those days in the 1990s they weren't. If they were, they were few and they could be dependent on families concerned. I mentioned to you that I have grown up in different contexts with my parents meeting different people. It opens up your attitude of the world view, your understanding of people and you get to appreciate every community. What my parents wanted is that I had enough friends and especially those we could see a future together. They didn't have any contention.

**What then is your advice to those who want to intermarry but they face opposition from their families.**

Relationships are built over time and I would encourage every young person to first of all be open to their parents, people who consult, have good faith in themselves and also be people who express themselves with respect and have principles which should start from youthful age. These are things, traits or I can say the qualities that make your parents and guardians trust your judgment even in the future.

**16 years in marriage with a single seven year old son, are you satisfied with that? What has been the reaction of say, family and friends being an African society?**

After getting married, we knew we would not begin a family immediately as we were both students. This big space in time was therefore as a result of furthering our studies and the different locations we lived. To the pressure from family and friends, no, we did not get that. Normally people will question and pressurize you when you are in the same setting such that, they see you on a daily basis. We were abroad, I think it was an out of sight out of mind affair. Otherwise am very satisfied having one kid.

**Has marriage affected your career in any way?**

For me marriage has enhanced my career. That energy of two becoming one. We are very much alive in each

other's career path.

### **How was your first encounter with Christ?**

In form one I was admitted to a school I never wanted. To make matters worse, I had high marks and felt wasted. In the school CU meetings and entertainment happened simultaneously. My student guardian, mum, was pro- entertainmententerta, it figures, she wanted the same for me. But I would rather go to the cu meetings and laugh at the people because I could not understand how they could speak in tongues. I became the one putting down those who were in CU. Then one day they had a weekend challenge and there was a minister of the gospel who preached. I was convicted and said to myself that I am a sinner and I gave my life to Christ there then. I thank God for the transformation that happened in my life and immediately I went home I was able to tell my parents and siblings that I had made up my mind to receive Christ

### **So how has the journey of salvation been all this time?**

The lord has been gracious and there has been growth after growth with the help of other people like my high school patron. Being a leader in the Christian unions from high school to campus has also shaped and modelled me in knowing Christ more and more. When I moved to Europe for my studies I found a Christian union that is more of a social club where we could meet for dinner and have coffee then we could leave afterwards. This did not sit well with me. I therefore decided to make the meeting worthwhile by introducing short sessions of prayer, hymns and sermons which were warmly embraced.

### **Has your walk in salvation been challenged?**

The walk is not easy. Over time I have learnt to hide in him, seek his face and understand that am in a battle so that I don't get surprised by what happens. For example, early this year a car that I had borrowed from a friend, was stolen in my home at night in Maseno when I and some friends were organising prayers. The question is, do you start questioning God that were you asleep also while we were asleep? How could this happen at your watch? Not at all. We didn't do that. We just prayed about it and proceeded with the prayer meeting. The fruits of the Holy Spirit should be a reality in our lives.

### **Have you ever felt like quitting salvation?**

It has never crossed my mind. Being in the frontline as a leader in the church has been a training and

learning process. It has made me zealous to focus on Jesus and nothing else.

### **Have you ever been denied an opportunity because of your faith?**

Oh no, you see when I finished my studies and came back to Kenya I immediately got a job in Maseno and that is where I have been working. I have never been denied an opportunity because of my faith. Maybe, serving in a position and failing to get a promotion when it comes because of who you are but then, I haven't counted that as a big deal.

### **How do you maintain integrity in work place?**

You need to be firmly rooted and grounded In Christ. Once we are firmly rooted in him, every other thing will happen His way and we will bear fruits in and out of season. If we want to bring change in whichever environment we find ourselves in then compromise should never be part of us. We are representing Christ so the notion that I am an ambassador of Christ will be useful to any Christian out there.

Sounds repetitive but let me ask out of curiosity; what has kept you in the Faith all this while Well I have been sustained by His grace. I also have friends, networks and other engagements in ministry. This keeps me on toes.

### **Believers and norms; what's your take on the ideal norms?**

In my perception of a believer and norms, what they need to uphold would be summarized in fruits of the Holy Spirit. Christ summarized it by asking us believers to bear fruits...this to me is a process thus in due time a believer will portray outstanding qualities.

### **Nowadays some norms that are contrary to the word have found their way in to the church. Comment about this**

I think there are many things that people do that Paul would say are not important. I will highlight two examples. First, young people especially, are involved in networks and groups that perhaps do not allow one to have sufficient space for growth in one's faith. One of the activities such people involve themselves in is pre occupation with activities because of the popular belief that 'when am busy things will flow'. Preoccupation with things does not necessarily mean



**Q. How can Christians learn to sieve right from wrong and remain faithful followers of Christ?**

A. Every christian should hold on firmly to the word of God. We are called to desire the pure milk which is His word.

you are living up to the will of God. Jesus once said that people will claim that they did a multitude of things but He will deny them because He does not know them. This thus means that we can actually be preoccupied with a lot of stuffs in the church but we do not know him.

Lastly I wish to comment that the things that we are actually part of does not actually concern our Lord. This is well illustrated in the analogy of Mary and Martha when Jesus visited them. Both were in the presence of Jesus but one of them was keen on doing other activities like cooking while the other was at the feet of Jesus. My take out and encouragement to the young people and all of us as believers would be; let us up our game and be those people who focus on moments spent with Jesus and not the hula baloos out there.

**On that same note, you may have heard that postmodernism and relativism have found their way into the church today. How do they affect our image?**

I really hate the fact that we are being bombarded with a lot of information, beliefs and say directions from different places and people. My question would be; who is our ultimate authority? Those who are in the Lord would understand that He is the ultimate authority and that whatever He says is the truth. We would rather be called names than allow relativism where truth is relative and justice is relative. If we accept relativism then we are moving away from the fundamentals of Christian living. Apostle Paul advises, “Continue in the truth that you have learnt and firmly believe in those things that we passed unto you”. That continuity will ensure that we do not

compromise that which we have been taught to live for. The word of truth.

**There is this emerging trend whereby believers are better followers of men of God than the scriptures. How can Christians learn to sieve right from wrong and remain faithful followers of Christ?**

Every christian should hold on firmly to the word of God. We are called to desire the pure milk which is His word. Once we are well grounded in him, the bible says that His sheep know His voice. So, if only we mastered the voice of our shepherd, fleeing away from strangers will not be a struggle. May the Lord help us to discern Him in every setup such that whether we are watching YouTube channels or listening to audios sent to us, we are able to identify what does not fit well with my salvation.

Am glad you mentioned the issue of believers trusting in men of God. Cursed is he that puts his trust on man! Yes I agree that we need ministers of the word, but we should not allow them direct our lives and take precedence over the guidance of God. His supremacy is irreplaceable, neither can we fashion new mediators for ourselves.

**Mmh... thats so deep! Now, your schedule seems to be flooded with activities; travelling, lectures, meetings...What kind of activities do you enjoy outside your responsibilities?**

Nice, this must be about my hobby, hahaa. I like singing. Many times when I feel so crowded, I collect

my keyboard, have someone play the guitar and we just do several songs and some prayers. Its ever so refreshing.

**Playing the keyboard? Wow... That's so cool!!**

**Anyway, thanks a whole bunch for honouring our invitation. We are much humbled for the privilege of having such an informative conversation with you. May our Lord reward you abundantly.**

Amen. It has been a pleasure. My prayer is that every reader finds a statement, if not statements, of worth from this piece.



**“Continue in the truth that you have learnt and firmly believe in those things that we passed unto you.”**

# ARE YOU REALLY REAL?

“Being real” is a term that I think has lately been misused. It is used to justify one’s own weaknesses which would rather be rebuked than being covered and letting them grow into wickedness. It is a syndrome that needs to be put on check lest it becomes a generational epidemic in the house of God since it makes us comfortable in our fallen state rather than making us remorseful and triggering us to seek help.

A story is told of an eaglet that was found in the midst of chicks in poultry farm. Assuming that an eagle’s egg found its way into the chicken’s eggs so that when the hatching time came, the eaglet found itself in a wrong home being tended by its anticipated prey. It is quite interesting to figure out how the hen’s family coexisted peacefully with its anticipated enemy. It is even very intriguing to think of the responses of either parties when upon maturity as they discover who really they are. That notwithstanding, there arose a dispute between an ornithologist and the poultry farmer about this interesting scenario, the ornithologist insisted that an eagle will always be an eagle even if it had been fed with chicken feed for long. The poultry farmer insisted that the eaglet will mature to become a chicken but never an eagle since it has coexisted in the chicken vicinity for too long and has been taking chicken feeds. Soon, a certain eagle passed by the poultry farm seeking its prey, but in its quest it noticed that one of its own was in the midst of its prey and it started calling out for it. The voice recharged the eaglet. Flapping its wings, it came out of hiding, flew and perched on a nearby tree and soon flew higher into the atmosphere where the eagles spend most of their time, not in hiding anymore.



Shadrack Ngéno  
2018/2019 MCCU Chairperson

*“Real Christian learn, obey and teach the truth which constantly searches their hearts and renders them real to God and fellow men.”*

This story sparks four crucial questions: Are you accommodating something that will soon jeopardize your life. Are your abilities limited by the comfort in the foreign house? What are people saying about your Christianity? Lastly, have you really heard the voice of the shepherd and how have you responded to it? Several kings in Bible fell due to reasons like pride and sexual sin. They ignorantly nurtured them and their leadership was soon choked. The Israelites at some point complained of being forced to sing songs of Zion in a foreign land (Psalms 137), something that compromised their absolute worship to Yahweh. Can it be true also that there are some things that are hindering your true worship?

What people say about you may not be important but can

be very useful in evaluating yourself. Jesus appreciated this when he asked, “What do people say I am?” and when he advised the disciples on how to know a bad tree, that is, you will know them by their fruit. On the last question, Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they know me.” (John 10:27), there is need therefore to heed to the voice, follow Him to the letter if you are really His disciple. Many times we fall in either of the two categories, a hen hosting an eagle or an eagle limited by the hen’s comfort, and often hiding in a cocoon of being real. While ‘being real’ is an important sentiment to mitigate hypocrisy, nowadays, I really wonder if it is genuinely anchored on Christ, the light of our souls, if this is not so, then that statement is a hatching space of hypocrisy. It is therefore wise that we find

out who we really are in Christ.

At some point I was meditating on the assignment of our Lord Jesus Christ in correlation to that of our enemy the devil. While Jesus Christ is the Light (John 8:12), the devil masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:4) and the reason for such attributes is because they have different assignments. While Jesus came **to seek and save that which was lost**, (Luke 19:10) the devil fell to the earth **to steal, kill and destroy**, (John 10:10). While Jesus executes his task by proclaiming: good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners, recovery of sight to the blind, release of the oppressed and introduction of the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18, 19), the devil executes his by deception, one of which is self-deception: the "I know myself" and "being real" syndromes.

As Christians, we ought to constantly acknowledge the fact that we are not immune to sin as long as we are still in this mortal body. Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth and to Christians everywhere, he says, "*if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*" (1 Corinthians 10:12), and it is quite surprising because "*if it were possible,*" Jesus says, "*even the elect may end up being deceived!*" (Matthew 24:24)

And so, if you think you are a Christian, then you better watch out, lest you will soon be carried away by striving to be real based on what fellow humans define being real. Don't you know that you are a new creation? 2 Corinthians 5: 17 "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!*" So before you say you are real, find out what new has come. Not part of new, but wholly new because no one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it in an old garment, Mark 2:21. Please find out how those who are new in Christ are.

In some other instances, the Bible says that Jesus is not ashamed of calling us His brothers, Hebrews 2:11: "*Both the one who makes men holy and those who are being made holy are of the same family, so Jesus is not ashamed to call them Brothers.*" In another place, He calls us His friend, John 15: 15, "*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his masters business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you.*" Lastly,

we are born of God and thus we are children of God, John 1:12, "*Yet to all who received him, to all who believed in his name, he (Jesus) gave the right to become children of God.*" Do you believe these? If you do, then what are you doing about your relationship with God? Or his word is being maligned all the time because of you? Are you really real with spiritual matters the way you are with human matters? This should always be an ingredient in your prayers, if you have an assurance, then constantly thank God for His relationship with you. If you are not yet sure, then pray that He may reveal Himself to you in His word. Interact with His word as much as you can and soon you will start seeing Him at close range. Don't just embrace the remote relationship with Him through the "men of God". Also desire to be in the line of sight of His throne of grace and soon you will be transmitting His glory in the land of the living.

*"Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you."*

*John 15:15*

In conclusion, what I was trying to elicit here is whether you are real to yourself in relation to your walk with God. Is every step you take considered spiritual? Or are you part of the stop-spiritualizing-everything-and-be-real generation? Be cautious of your walk with God, because He is not only a friend that sticks close but also a consuming fire, (Hebrews 12:28-29 "*... so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire*" and Ecclesiastes 5:1 "*Guard your steps when you go to the house of God, go there to listen rather than offering sacrifices of fools..*") lest you will find yourself stolen by your enemy through a mere situation such as being real as per human standards. Real Christian learn, obey and teach the truth which constantly searches their hearts and renders them real to God and fellow men. So before you consider yourself real, please ask God to examine your heart just as the Psalmist would pray: Psalms 26:2-3 "*Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.*"

## Serving God in Singlehood

Dating is perhaps one of the most controversial issues impacting the modern-day Christian. The advent of social media has created an imaginary online world on which people express themselves as who they are not in real life. The effect is rampant especially among the youth who yearn to transfer the glamor on media platforms into a day-to-day lifestyle. Celebrity culture seems to teach that it is out of question not to be hooked up on someone in a relationship. Dating is therefore considered almost indispensable for the youth in response to the hype on public media sites. In the event of all these occurrences, what is the standpoint of the truly born again Christian regarding singlehood?

Singlehood is commonly viewed as a failure to grab the ever present opportunities to be in romantic relationships. Peer pressure and the societies we live in have set standards by which the average youth is expected live. For most single people, too much pressure is heaped on them such that the attitude towards singlehood has shifted into lack of the capacity to forge relationships. It is not surprising to find Christians conforming to this pattern of the world by getting into dating to satisfy the demands of their immediate friendship networks. It is against this background that we should seek to understand the will of God regarding singlehood as expressed in Scripture.

Paul expounds critically on the topic while addressing the ancient church, the teachings of which remain relevant to us now. Contrary to popular belief, it is interesting to realize how positive the New Testament is towards dating. To begin with, the status of singlehood is an opportunity to dedicate one's time to

serving the Lord. There is no better way to explain it than it is in (1 Cor 7:32-34) that commitment of a married man is naturally to their spouse while that of the single man is to the Lord. It is also a gift from the Lord as illustrated by Apostle Paul in (1 Cor 7:7) and therefore, it is also an avenue through which one can build their faith in Christ Jesus. There still exists possibilities for Christians to maintain celibacy while seeking the will of God regarding partners. Let not singlehood be a hindrance to godly interactions but rather a stage in life during which we invest our labor in serving God sincerely.



By Steve Njoroge



## Spoken Word

### Prayer

It's God's choice method for the development of intimacy

It's a dependence display

An opportunity for a soul deprived of oxygen to breathe

A demonstration of our faith, its out-pour and in-take

It's an evaluation, occasionally joined by tears and often associated with revelation

### Prayer

A place made for request and confession

Soap and water for the spirit; a place of cleansing

A place meant for bending, breaking and reshaping; its consciousness refined

A place where our perception is challenged by God's design, His intent explained through the wholes of our spirit and mind

Enter with an issue exit with a solution

### Prayer

It's listening to God's voice as your inner self spill its guts to Him

It's what the disciples asked to be taught

It's an escape for the weary and those fortunate to be less fortunate

It's about us going to our knees, kneeling at the door of prayer

A door meant both for receiving and releasing and there's no sign of a sign that says no man is allowed to ring aloud;

in fact its encouraged, recommended, suggested for the whole and shattered because it matters...



By Blessed Faith

# LOOKING UNTO GOD

**P**rayer is one of the most handled topics in Christian forums. It is every church leader's desire to lead the congregation into worshiping in truth and in spirit. Many a times, preachers have quoted **James 4:3** in their quest to enlighten people on how they "ask amiss". All these teachings, when handled in line with scripture, are precious and crucial for the present generation. I however, wish to incorporate into the topic of prayer the doctrine of **God's Sovereignty**. This article is therefore meant to shed light in our dark minds concerning the place of God's sovereignty in prayer.

With the advancement of charismatism, teachings of the **Word of Faith** 'name-it-claim-it' and the increasing material wants of believers, the acknowledgement of God's sovereignty in prayer has not been easy to teach, let alone to hold on to. The phrase '**may your will be done**' is usually said not with a genuine desire that the Lord's will be done, but with a hope that His will is our own will. Many a times, when we pray for God's will to prevail, what we crave in our hearts, is that His will be what we desire and when that is so, may His (our) will be done. How many times have we heard people asking God why He has forsaken them because, 'their prayers are not being answered?' How many instances have we heard people saying that God doesn't seem to be hearing them? Several reasons have led to this.

For starters, our minds have been in a way configured with a wrong interpretation of "answered prayers." We have been cultured to think that prayers are answered only when what we were praying for is what was done. Secondly, faith in prayer has been misrepresented. Teachings have been advanced outlining that with enough faith, we have the power to claim things and speak others into existence and this enough faith makes us in a sense 'gods' or rulers and sovereigns in our prayers. **James 5:16** has been consistently used to culture our minds to think that the power is more in the prayer than in the one to whom it is made.

## Where is the power of prayer?

The power of prayer is not in the well drafted wordings but in the one we pray to. Prayer is therefore a gift from God; the means through which we make our requests and ask Him to exercise His providence power. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** has been misinterpreted giving most evangelicals a wrong perception of fighting spiritual warfare. From their standpoint, Spiritual warfare means; ecstatic, loud, vigorous, and highly demonstrative prayers, a teaching that is to be found nowhere in the scripture. On the contrary, the opposite is taught by Christ in the parable of the tax collector and in **Matthew 6:5-8**. I speak not to prescribe the prayer posture, structure or way of utterance but rather the recognition of where the power of prayer lies. Someone else has used misinterpreted versions of **Proverbs 18:21**, **Matthew 18:18** to shift people's attention from the sovereignty of God and His power to them thinking that power is in their tongues and words in prayer. I struggle to see humility and utmost submission in decreeing and declaring the same way I would struggle to find humility in authoritative and commanding language to your boss; it is in essence not there.

**How then do we fully trust in God and as well make**

**requests to Him without any doubt as His word says?**

The truth is in understanding what **God's sovereignty** and supremacy over our will means, standing onto that in prayer, waiting and in all of our life's decisions. It is in rejoicing in the fact that our will and the desires of our hearts are subject to the Lord's will that our trust in him grows. This however doesn't mean we pray once and claim that the Lord is in control from then. The scripture instructs us that it is God's will for us in Christ Jesus is to pray without ceasing (**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**) while constantly reminding the father of our requests. We are also to pray believing; without any doubt (**James 1:6**).

Acknowledging that God rules and governs the whole world and He is pleased to do His own will, brings with it so much peace. As a matter of fact the prayers we make are part of His will and He governs them, aware of what we are to tell Him. Prayer is therefore not instructions to God but a "dependence display" and "the demonstration of our faith" as put by Blessed Chepng'eho in one of her MCCU presentations. The same way a father who knows what the child needs still loves it when the child goes humbly asking for it, God wishes that we show our complete trust and submission to Him through prayer. We acknowledge His sovereignty over all the earth and everything in it (**Philippians 2:13**, **Isaiah 46:10**), not by decreeing,



"Therefore I will look unto the LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation:  
my God will hear me."

Micah 7:7 (KJV)

declaring or assuming His position by speaking things into existence but in our humble submission like the tax collector. In addition, acknowledging God's sovereignty strengthens our faith, trust and undivided reverence for God. It is then easier for us to obey the "pray without any doubt" scripture since we make our prayers while assured that the will of God is good, pleasing and perfect. That way, we will have confidence that all our prayers are answered, whether the answers are positively related to our prayers or not, we will be genuinely looking unto God.

Finally, I know that this opens the question of, "do our prayers change the Lord's will?" or "does God change His plan informed by the prayers that we make?"

The verses below will go a great mile in responding to such questions.

**Psalm 115:3, Romans 9:19-20,  
Ephesians 1:11, Daniel 4:35,  
Job 23:13, Philippians 2:13,  
1 John 5:14, Job 42:2, Isaiah  
46:10, Job 9:12, Psalm 47:2,  
James 4:15.**



By Edwin Mbuthia  
2017/2018 MCCU Chairperson

## Pictorials...



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Associates Sunday
2. MCCU Sports day
3. Elders Night
4. First years Sep orientation 2019
5. Alumni-student get together
6. First years during orientation week at Ufungamano



- 7. Executive Committee 2018/2019
- 8. Pamoja Retreat at 14 Falls
- 9. Crusade outside Hall 3
- 10. Mentorship outing



1. Members during a sunday fellowship
2. Holy Communion sunday
3. Executive Committee in NLMS
4. The CU Chaplain, Rev. Hosea Mitei





5



6



7



8



9



10



11

5. Elders during a meeting  
 6. Holy Communion service  
 7. Mess evangelism  
 8-11. Baringo Mission

# A letter to self

**At 21, I was enduring many challenges and it is around that time that I developed strength and resilience.**

**Dear Paul,**

At 22 you were innocent, naïve, confused and unsure of what the world had in store for you. When I think about your situation at that time, I really pity you, but at the same time I admire your resilience. You did not have a mentor, coach or anyone to guide you through life.

You were your own parent, provider and motivator. In collage life was so hard for you that you had to drop out and find a job so that you could feed yourself. That was a difficult time and I laud you for your courage and perseverance. You never gave up. You took advantage of every opportunity that came your way.

At that very young age you were very time conscious, were interested in creating good networks and making good use of the little money you earned, yet you did not have a college degree. You worked hard and volunteered to offer basic computer training at a private collage. You were determined to develop your IT career and you stuck to that plan and achieved your goal within a very short time.

I admire your foresight, focus, discipline and hard work .You developed a career in IT through self-training and

earned the title “IT professional”. You turned a lemon that life handed you into lemonade. You did not fall victim to peer pressure that has brought so many young professionals down.



**Paul Ngunyi, Chiromo Associate**

Paul, from where did you get that all strength? You could have easily given up but you did not. Perhaps your poor background is what was the reason you had such a fiery desire to succeed ,but I know so many of your friends who brought up under the same circumstances but were not half as determined to break the cycle of poverty.Now I see that your resilience, self-respect, self-belief and hard work propelled you to success. Receive a part on the back for your discipline and courage .

The experiences I encountered during your time have become very valuable in my senior adult life .I now mentor and encourage young people. I tell them that they can achieve their goals despite their poor backgrounds. You taught me that.

# Are you Limited?

*"I am feeling good. It has taken 65 years for a human being to make history. I have tried ...it means no man is limited."* These were the famous words of the defending Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge who made history in Vienna, Austria on the 12th of October 2019 when he became the first human to ever run a marathon in less than 2 hours.

You may possibly wonder why he quoted 65 years...well in the history of athletics, a story is told and actually recorded in the Guinness world book of records of an athlete; Rodger Bannister who in 6th May 1954 became the first man in history to run a sub-4-minute mile in less than 4 minutes. This move left the world stunned as it was initially considered humanly impossible and as a matter of fact some scientists went ahead to prove how such a move could bring health complications.

On 6th May 2019 (the 65th Anniversary of Sir Rodger Bannister win), Eliud announced his vision and plan of setting a new world record. Many took to social media to congratulate him while others; particularly those who can 'calculate the amount of effort a body can maintain before it releases lactic acid-the burn', went ahead to create real and imaginary barriers with some even quoting a wrong distance figure...it was 42.195kms not 42kms.'

On the contrary, Kipchoge did not heed to the critic's point of view. As a matter of fact, he went ahead with his training fully determined to win running at least 200kms every week. On the 12th of October as the whole world was watching he kept his word by running 26.2 miles marathon distance in 1.59.40 hours. Kipchoge's win will go down to the books of history and many lessons can be drawn from his win as this was his second attempt to run the marathon in under 2 hours after he tried and failed by 26 seconds in Manza, Italy.

I wish to quote him in my conclusion; *"the first kilometers were hard, it needs perseverance. I appreciate the 41 pacemakers for volunteering to do the job. I would tell Kenyans anyone can step out of their cocoon."* Dear friend, step out of your comfort zone and chase your dream, support your friends and family in their endeavors, persevere through the shortcomings of life and always remember that the words," no human is limited" carry a profound meaning.

*"I am feeling good. It has taken 65 years for a human being to make history. I have tried ...it means no man is limited."*



By Faith Nzuka.



# Kingdom Discipline

"Our school motto says that Education is Light, indeed it is powerful enough that it can be used to transform and illuminate the whole world. However, I want to make it clear to you that Education without discipline is like a cargo without value. If you don't have discipline you will not go far." This kind of statements always filled the atmosphere in our assembly whenever our primary school senior teacher came to address the pupils. He was in charge of all disciplinary matters in the school and I tell you he was good at it. I was a candidate in class eight when he said the words but I have never forgotten them. He would continue to describe discipline saying "To be discipline is being able to do what needs to be done even if you don't want to do it, it is choosing between what you want now and what you want most. It starts from how you leave your bed in the morning to what you do in the day and how you return to your bed."

Even though the whole assembly was quiet, it was hard to know if we were comprehending what he was saying. It did take me a long time to digest these quotes. Several years after primary, I still had his words lingering in my head. It mostly happened whenever our high school teacher or a motivational speaker touched on the importance of discipline in the life of a student. I

soon understood that for one to have a justified achievement, then he or she must practice discipline. Years later it even came clear to me when the KCSE results of our school was cancelled on account of cheating in examination. The candidates of that year were considered to be the most promising and they had set their goal to break the school mean score by two points higher. Everybody was hopeful about them and when the results were to be released, the whole school was prepared for a celebration only to meet the worse.

Something however happened that caught the attention of everyone as the results were read by our deputy principal. Among the few students who received their results only two managed University entry points. One of the two was index one student who always topped the class and therefore it was not a surprise. People only wondered how he had escaped the cancelling. "His God helped him" a student murmured next to me but I didn't bother to look at him. The surprise came when the name of the second student was read. The boy was a low performer and most of the times the form four notice board did not favor him. He appeared in bottom ten several times. How could he manage this? This remained a rhetorical question to me until the whole story was in the air. That day everyone was

confused whether to celebrate the two or to mourn with the eighty-nine who had their results cancelled.

I finally found the answer to my question on 'why them?' when it was made clear that only the two had refused to cheat in examination even after being subjected to threats and brutal force by the teachers who aided the exam cheating. They had given a reason that Christ knew they were doing their exams and he would provide solutions. I knew the two boys very well because they were leaders in the Christian union of which I was a member. I also knew they used to pray several times a day but I didn't know they had such a faith and self-discipline to resist exam cheating that is supported by teachers. Not everyone liked them for this. Many attributed the school's misfortune to their resistance but to me I had met my heroes because they made me understand what my primary teacher insisted that 'excellence is a journey and discipline is the vehicle. That it doesn't matter how bright you are, if you lack discipline, your huge success can become a huge cargo without value. Cargoes are meant to carry important goods. Imagine you opened a cargo and found out that all it carried in the container is all rubbish, what would you do? The best thing you could do is to burn it up as you cry over the cost of transportation. It's because it's

valueless and useless.

Today am both a student and a born-again Christian. When I hear about Kingdom Discipline I still reflect back to my experiences in primary and high school. Just like the in the school, those who want to see the kingdom of God have to be disciplined in a number of ways. It requires us to maintain the purity of our faith in this world of perversity, lest we be confused into believing in the science world. The purity of the gospel, we have to stand out and condemn false gospel where comedians crack jokes on the altar and people head back home with their unrepentant hearts. It is to maintain the purity of our bodies for ‘our bodies are the temple of the living God’s’ 2cor 6:16. Protect it from sexual immorality and drug addiction covering it up with nice dresses that give God Glory. It is the discipline Apostle Paul talks about in 1cor 9:7 when he says ‘I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize’. It’s going against the wishes of your own body and mind, your friends and everyone who is not telling you the truth no matter who they are to you. This is what the two boys in my school did. Joseph also practiced it when he ran away from defilement by Portipha’s wife.

**“...discipline is the bridge between goals and their accomplishment.”**

Many people see discipline as the absence of freedom while in fact it is the source of freedom and happiness. David realized it in his life and concluded that “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers”, Psalms 1:1-3. Our Lord Jesus also talked about it in the beatitudes saying that “happy are those who are pure in heart, for they shall see God Mat 5:8. Discipline allows you to see God in everything that you do.

Some Christian’s today feel they have grown so much to forget discipline. I think Samson felt the same. He felt too powerful that he forgot the dictates God had set upon his life as a Nazarite. With the great power he had, after Killing a lion with his bare hand, carried a huge gate to the mountain and killing a thousand soldiers armed to teeth with just a piece of bone, Samson shivered and surrendered in the presence of a small cosmetic tool. A shaving tool, in the hand of Delilah. It is because he went against the discipline of God. It is for this reason Samson never accomplished his mission of delivering the children of Israel from the hands of Philistines. Indeed, it

is true to say discipline is the bridge between goals and their accomplishment.

The end of the matter is that as Christians we must peruse kingdom discipline as it is our only way of remaining focused. It doesn’t matter how powerful or bigger title you have. If all this could help then both Samson and the bright students of my school could have succeeded. It’s about being disciplined to maintain the purity of your faith. If Joseph and the two boys in my school did it, we can do it also. Our Lord Jesus really loves us and would like all of us to achieve the goal of life in eternity. He even gave a confirmation that there are many rooms just waiting for us. I can’t wait to be allocated a room. Not one like School rooms. They are the best. Let’s not disappoint Him and make all the struggles we have met and the achievements to be in vain. Today I still can confirm it that the faith we have in Christ is a powerful weapon, one that can be used to transform the whole world, but faith without discipline is like a cargo without value.

**By Oyugi Dan**



## DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that if you sum up all numbers from 1 to 100 consecutively they total up to 5050?

# The Great Assignment

**But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**

Joshua 24:15-16

**T**here are myriad ways around our assignments in life, it is all hinged on one's lenses of view. We mostly grapple around this subject; lets delve into what our part is were we to be positive influencers amidst competing forces.

Imagine athletes in a race that leaves them with no option but to embrace sheer resiliency because of the hurdles on the way. I am reminded of the remarkable Olympic inspiration of 1958 featuring John Stephen Akhwari. He finished last in the race finding the last of his endurance to step up his pace, it had been a grueling hot day and he got injured in the middle of the race. Stephen had all the reasons to quit the race, he appeared in the stadium a lone runner when most of the stadium was empty. He didn't quit because his country Tanzania had sent him miles a way not just to start the race but to finish it. That was his reason for finishing the race., he is remembered today because of his faithfulness to finishing the race not because he emerged the best.

A close look at our world today, one observes the high rate evil that jeopardizes most operations. Our walls are broken in every way, we have nowhere to take refuge yet we cannot escape, we are all caged here and we MUST be part of the solution. I have been reflecting on the state of our nation, how polarized we are and one of the main agents of the polarization is social media. One day I thought to myself “the things I see on social media make me wish I was illiterate”, God then placed an impression in my heart that it is the wall that needs to be rebuild and not to be abandoned like I was wishing.

The campus students today are faced with the lurking temptations of sexual immorality, corruption, drug abuse and exam cheating among others.

We need to move from simply being grumblers or indifferent to fixing situations in both big and small ways. We certainly cannot do everything about the evil but that we can do something about it; we can pray to fight the enemy, reflect holiness, talk about it or pen it down in relevant forums and be a voice to the voiceless or lee privileged.

Regrettably, some Christians are perpetrators of the same



**By Pauline Kachinja  
CMF - UON Main & Chiromo  
CUs**

either in full or part. For such a people God calls for forgiveness if we are to join him in the task of fixing the broken walls. He wants us to plunge ourselves in environment that fosters Godly values. Therefore, we ought to yield our hearts to God, a commitment to daily dying of self.

**Joshua 24:15-16 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. The people answered and said, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; We are mostly likely in Joshua’s shoes, he had an influence on both his family and people around him. God has not saved us for ourselves but that we should light our candles and take them out to the dark world.**

**Matthew 5: 13-16 is very explicit on this matter, 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

We just need a pinch of salt to make food tasty not the whole packet; in the same way, we should never feel like we are a drop in the ocean but that we suffice to make a difference wherever we are. I dare say that if all Christians lived out Christianity then we would experience less of the wickedness. Where will we find ourselves at when God separates the wheat from the chaff? Shall we sit down to sing songs when the house is on fire?

The hope for change is pegged on the young people, Let's then fold our sleeves and be faithful in getting the work done. God is sending us out as messengers of hope in a depraved world.

# Preaching the Gospel

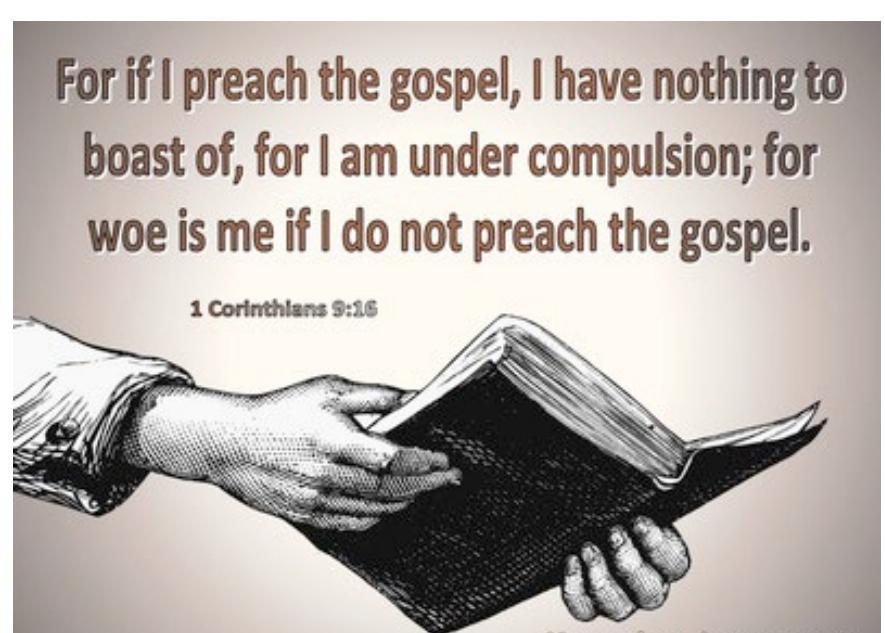
**P**roclaiming the Gospel is one of the most important task of pastoral ministry. The gospel is an unstoppable flow of the word of God throughout the world, which can neither be quenched nor restricted by territorial boundaries. Kings tried to bring it to halt but did not succeed. It breaks stony like hearts into pieces for submission to God's will. Apostle Paul confirms it when he says, "For I am in chains, but the gospel itself is not in chains. That's how powerful the gospel of our Lord Jesus is.

However, the gospel today has lost its flow due to the personal interest of the current preachers. It has come to grievous attack and great profanation, hence the current church has been unconsciously veiled with the 'man of God syndrome'. Currently, Christians are very keen to listen to what the 'pastor says' rather than what the gospel says. We have forgotten that preaching the gospel without exulting in the cross is to deny Christ. It could be the reason as to why Paul urges Timothy (**1Tim 4:16**) to watch his life and doctrine closely. Ironically, we have allowed people who are in open unrepented sin to con-

tinue in our congregation and so diluting the witness and the fellowship. 'Do what I say, not what I do...' Men are being honoured not for giving the message of the cross but for how well they present themselves regardless of their actual message. This has led to the rise of stage managed miracles and the ballooning trend of unquestionable 'men of God'. Most preachers are leading congregation towards loyalty to themselves rather than to God. Peter was keen to make the onlookers know that it was not in their power the crippled beggar walked but by faith in the Name of Jesus (**Acts 3:16**).

The nature of our fallenness is such that we can have a clear conscience and still be wrong. That's why Paul says, ' my conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is God who judges me' (**1 Cor 4:4**). Thus our conscience must be educated by the word of God since our self-esteem cannot lead us into understanding Christ's fullness, neither can our 'good deeds'.

A young African pastor in Zimbabwe made this prayer before he was martyred; "I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity or popularity. I don't need to be right first, top, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith through prayer in His presence. Apostle Paul also says 'What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing



Christ my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things, I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ, (**Phil 3:8**).

We are just stewards of God, we should not allow pride to overshadow God's intention of the gospel. Even the apostles who walked with Jesus did not take credit but toiled in midst of persecution to spread the word of life. We purport to give God's oracles to our own gain. Prosperity seems to have taken the centre of faith. Whereas Christianity does not advocate for poverty, it is monstrous to limit the power of the gospel to material possessions; if Christianity was about wealth then Christ should have hated Paul.

The preaching of the gospel is important and it is time to step up our

faith and completely do away with our personal interests and worldly desires. Keep looking unto Jesus and advocate for the true gospel. The coming of Christ is near, watch out that it does not catch you unaware!



**By Shadrack Mbisi**

# TILL HE COMES

**C**onsistency makes water to cut through rock. In a world with lots of things going around, it's almost impossible to maintain focus at one point. One is mostly torn between options, each seemingly attractive and appealing to the eye. What we set our eyes upon influences our behaviors and encounters either positively or negatively. Jesus, being fully human in nature experienced the same challenges that we face today but He conquered them all. He was filled with anxiety, felt tired as we do. Nevertheless, He set an example of righteous living and selfless sacrifice out of love none can beat.

No path taken with a single focus and purpose has ever been easy. The difference between a loser and a winner is that the former gave up in the middle of the race while all of them began together. Similar is the quest for eternal life. Endurance marks the life of a believer in Christ. In that, as firmness of a tree is determined by how deep the roots thereof go. Similarly, a Christian can only be as firm as s/he has been rooted and anchored in the Word of God. But how does one achieve this kind of discipline?

Every race has its own guidelines. One must keep in their own lane if at all they are to be counted viable for the prize. Jesus emphasized on the Kingdom of God in myriads of visible things from nature to liken it to; the ten Virgins who

kept watch for the bridegroom. Whereas half of them were prepared with extra oil if their lamps went off, the other half did not have such quality preparation. In the long run, the unprepared half missed the mark. It is very important to always keep watch as the Day of the Lord approaches. This calls for extra spiritual discipline that is unmatched.

Impossible as it may look, one is actually able to walk as the Lord desires. The Word tells us that the commands of the Lord are not hard to keep. The beauty of it all is that God provides strength for us to walk in His ways. Salvation is an entry point to living under the grace of God and being led by The Spirit of God; Helper and Comforter who dwells in the heart of every believer, giving an assurance of the inheritance that is from the Father. Paul, the apostle rejoiced greatly on the account of the things his faith could achieve not having the physical evidence of those things at the time. Looking at the awaiting surprising joy and the crown of glory afterwards he chose not to highly esteem the suffering.

With such kind of longing in our hearts, Could there be anything specific that any of us was born to accomplish in their limited time on earth? Eph 2.10 reminds us that 'We are God's workmanship created unto good works... There remains a purpose and thus a great assignment for each one on earth.

The greatest of them all, and that applies to every believer is to be a witness for the Lord. As ambassadors of Christ, the ministry of reconciliation has been handed to us, that we may be bearers of this great light, reuniting the world to its Maker. 'Behold I come quickly' He said. To some it may sound more of a cliché but our full salvation is much nearer than we first believed.

Till He comes, as the call for purity sounds louder, for any step taken the basic recipe mostly consists of: readiness to take the step, meeting all the requirements for survival in the next level and above all the Lord's voice crowning it all. Till then, one is free to serve the Lord fully and without much divided attention. Whereas walking in the right path seem wrong and walking in the wrong path would seem cool in the current generation. This calls for more discernment, not falling easily for the enemy's cunningly devised fables. Let's wake up as Christians, challenge the norm and live as Christ's character. This is the whole idea of a victorious life.

By Moses Bore



## Mind Blog

Imagine it is a cloudy and windy evening and the rain is almost pouring down. You are from work driving back home at a high speed. At one of the bus stops you notice three people waiting for the bus to board and you realize you know all of them because they come from your village. One of them is an old lady who is just from the hospital where she had gone to seek medication. She

is sick and shivering from the cold and only wished she could reach home before the rainfall.

The second person is a long-time lost friend of yours and you really look forward to catching up with him now that you have met him. The last person is a young beautiful lady you have been eying. You had proposed a date in the coming marry Christmas and you are yet to get a response from her.

All these three people are in desperate need of a vehicle to board home and your arrival seems to revive their hope. However you are greatly disadvantaged because your Mercedes Benz M116 can only carry two people with driver included. That means you can only carry one person out of the three. What would you do to ensure that each of the three people believe that you really care about them.

HINT: Long-time friend is a driver.

ANSWER: Any answer that leaves you the three people comfortable is correct.

# CULTURE

## IN THE CHURCH

**W**hat would you say if someone asked you what culture is?

A simple definition of culture would be the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a racial, religious or social group. One may wonder what this has to do with the church...well, a closer look at culture will bring you to the aspect of food, what we wear, our language, marriage, music and how we interact with one another. All these activities are practiced in the church today. This however, raises more questions than answers on how the church ought to conduct its activities.

The Bible right from the Old Testament provides information about their music, language, arts, literature religious institutions, monetary system food, clothing, calendric structure and marriage practice. The priests, prophets, women and children had their roles which were uniquely defined depending on the background one came from and this meant different cultures among different ethnic groups. New Testament authors too explain cultural differences between various groups of people in terms of beliefs and values. They highlight differences of belief and religion that produce the behaviour and conduct of a people. This is important because it contradicts the idea of cultural neutrality. Since values and beliefs are not neutral (i.e., they are either good or evil).

The church in the 21st century has its own diversity in culture; conduct of sermons, dress code in church, songs, tithing and offering. Every church has a unique way of conducting their worship activities. One then would be left to wonder which way is right and which is wrong. Quite often you have heard people say 'those people don't worship right or that church sings so loudly or those ministers pray so loudly'. Most of these people are confused. Well most of us are confused, I included and the main reason this happens is because of the new

modern cultures that have found their ways into the church.

A week ago I attended a service. Interestingly everyone was singing at the top of their voices and the worshippers were on their knees calling their maker to redeem them. I too felt they were being visited in spirit and joined the worship. Well, the unfortunate happened or should I say Kenya Power failed on their job because once the power went off everyone stopped their moves. The 'believers' who were once jovially praising and worshipping God got 'bored' and stopped.

I first thought that maybe they did that because much time had been spent but I was puzzled to hear the 'Man of God' lamenting that "hawa watu wa stima hawatutaki sikuizi hatuwezi imba in peace. Hatuwezi charge simu zetu ili tusome Biblia!"

I'm sure you have experienced such or actually practice some of these acts...well, I'll ask you a few things, suppose the church doesn't have power or the so called powerful instruments and talented instrumentalists, won't you sing?. What happens if you lose your phone? Will you fail to read the Bible? Suppose the worship leaders don't lead the worship and praise in loud voices dancing to the beats of the music, would you not worship? Would you still term the sermon boring if the minister doesn't mention riches and blessings upon your life during his ministration? Well, the questions can be endless and you could think they are ironical but these are the issues facing the church today. We are more focused on the modern culture and technology that we have missed the way we ought to conduct the worship of God.

"Worship of the most high God is not just about dancing and singing with the best band, having powerful instruments and talented singers but a personal relationship with Him."



By Faith Nzuka

We have missed the sole purpose of church fellowship. Worship of the most high God is not just about dancing and singing with the best band, having powerful instruments and talented singers but a personal relationship with Him.

Whether the minister speaks in some broken English or doesn't wear the latest fashion or drive the latest machine in town, listen to the message God has given to him. Don't allow the culture of materialism to influence you. It's a high time we stopped defining a church by its cultural content and go for a church full of gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. A church where worshipers desire to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God instead of cultural entertainment. This is the true and proper worship the Bible talks about in the book of Romans 12:1-2 NIV

*"therefore I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve of what Gods will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will".*

That's all. God's will first, culture follows.

# Go with the Flow?



**N**obody wants to be the ‘odd one out’. As social beings, we have an insatiable need to fit within every social circle we find ourselves in. Although each of us is unique in personality, character and mannerisms, we often find ourselves adjusting to the people around us so that we can feel accepted, appreciated and comfortable – and this is in spite of meeting people from different social classes, gender, ethnicity, and so on. When one dresses, talks and behaves differently from everyone else within a social circle, they are seen to go against the flow and therefore end up being isolated and ‘rejected’ by everyone else. If this happens in one’s family, workplace, class, church and other social places where they spend most of their time, the person would be forced to ‘go with the flow’ in order to fit in. The questions that lingers in my mind is, ‘how long can we keep adjusting our lives to fit in?’ Is it always necessary to fit in other people’s lives or can we influence other people to be like us?’

## Reflections from a play

As a third-year student at the University of Nairobi, I had an opportunity to perform in a play during Commission 2008 whose theme was ‘Upholding Kingdom values as we Go’. The play was called, “Go with the Flow”, and with a setting of a TV show where the characters had to answer the questions in a similar way to win a given amount of money. I was the main character as the TV show host. Of the characters, one was a famous Music artist, the other was a renowned politician and the third was a Christian of good standing. The TV host first posed the question of, “For 5,000 dollars, what would you do if while driving on one rainy night you found a woman bleeding by the road side?” The Music artist was the first to answer in a way to mean that he could not help since he can’t take in someone bleeding and muddy in his expensive car; the politician seemed to agree with him to the extent that he would be afraid it could be a trap and thus put his life in danger; however the Christian said it a good thing to help people, so she would stop and help in

taking her to hospital. This broke the flow, and thus the money was lost. This continued for two more rounds, and the Christian always answered contrary to the other two since she could only follow what the bible said was right. This made the other two contestants very angry, arguing that it was only a game and that money was theirs for the taking. At the end of the play, since the Christian took her stand, the whole group lost the money but good values won the day.

Thinking about all this in our context, the issues of cheating in exams, cohabitation, pre-marital sex, secularism, and so on, have been rising in the Universities. It is an unfortunate trend that even Christians are caught up in this mix arguing that, “everyone is doing it! So who am I not to do it?” It is not uncommon to find Christians who hangout in clubs and argue that they don’t do anything wrong, they only drink their soda and dance to the beat not the lyrics of songs!

Away from learning institutions, a lot of social vices like corruption, nepotism, violence, immorality, among others are also rampant. Caught

**Going by the flow is always an easy way, but always remember that the easy way is not always the right way!**

in the net are Christians as well. People are giving bribes to secure jobs, avoid prosecution, acquire property and seal business deals among others. This explains why a country claiming to be 80% Christians, is still ranked high in corruption worldwide!

## Reflections from the Bible

Christ came to the world to bring salvation to mankind; such that when we confess Him as Lord and Savior of our lives, we are saved, (**Romans 10:9**). This means we totally forego our life of sin/ worldliness and strive to be like Christ.

Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, found themselves at odds with the King of Babylon when they

refused to bow and worship idols. They were willing to die rather than renounce Christ. Everybody did it, but they stood their ground and represented God and we see that God gave them favor and saved them from the traps set for them. This is one of the many examples in the Bible of people who ‘went against the flow’ for the sake of their faith in God; people we ought to emulate.

Isaiah 59:15-16a “Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, He was appalled that there was no one to intervene;”

(NIV). God expects us to be true to Him and fight all forms of injustices. When you think of corruption, discrimination, violence, negative ethnicity, and so on, we should be on the forefront to stand and oppose such things rather than propagate them.

It is a high time to stand up for God in our generation; a time to choose to be different, challenge the norm and follow Christ. Mathew 10:39 reminds us that whoever loses his life for Christ will find it.

Swimming or rowing a boat against the current in a river requires more energy and most of all the maneuvering skill. Going by the flow is always an easy way, but always remember that the easy way is not always the right way!

*Written by:  
Evans Karanja  
Missions & Evangelism Coordinator  
Fellowship of Christian Unions*



## STAND UP FOR JESUS!

*Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!  
Ye soldiers of the cross  
Lift high His royal banner  
It must not suffer loss.....*



By Charles Muturi

I still vividly recall with nostalgia those moments in High School when we would in unison yap the above words, our heads and body parts vigorously collaborating with the drum beats and piano strings but their real meaning not striking my mind as they do today. We probably got a wrong prescription of the Gospel in that those that led us to Jesus only told us of a very sweet Jesus (a healer, provider, encourager); and while not refuting all that, they might have forgotten to let us know that He is also a consuming fire, a jealous God, a just God, He chastens and expects total obedience from us. In fact He promises that the double portion of all good things we receive in Him shall come along with persecutions (**Mark 10:28-30**).

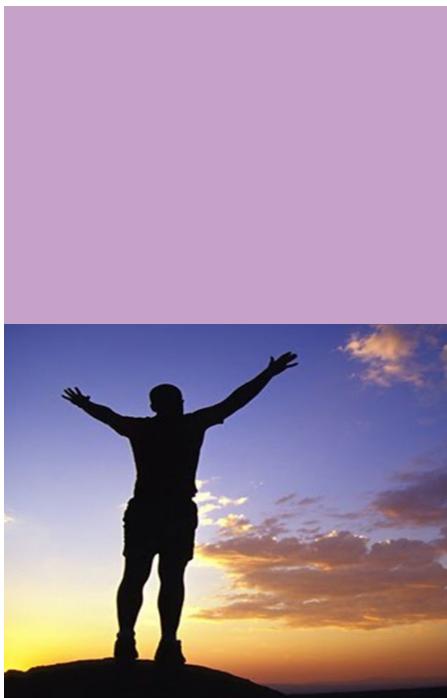
The world today offers a myriad of reasons for us to give up on the Way of the Cross. An endless list so to say. Leadership with malnutrition of integrity, politics soaked in tribal mediocrity and animosity, business devoid of ethics, despicable poverty of a majority of the world's population, snares of HIV/AIDS and cancer stealing lives at an alarming rate, a twisted exploitative 'gospel' that gives hope and direction to neither the sinner nor the saint, untrustworthy friends; the shortcut culture of doing things through the 'toa chai rafiki' and needless to say the challenge of technology which has robbed our focus from what matters to what trends. All these are things that leave the followers of Christ faint hearted, threatening to render them hopeless and faithless. And our savior never promised otherwise. In **John 15:18-25** Jesus warned the Disciples that they would be hated and persecuted by the world even without reason just as it hated Him.

But one thing remains, His love for us

never runs out and His promise to those that shall endure is as sure as it was more than 2000 years ago. His disciples by the help of the Spirit beheld it and abandoned everything to follow Him. Many years later we who have been borne of the Blood and evangelism of the Word of Life testify of the Risen King who has triumphed sin and death, and has been highly lifted up to sit at the right hand of God the Father daily interceding for us before the throne. This Messiah longs to see us passionately pursue the Way relentlessly laying off every weight that so easily ensnares us and run with endurance the race set before us. (**Hebrews 12:1**)

Apostle Paul in **Colossians 2** encourages the brethren to strengthen their faith in the knowledge of the Lord who is their Head and reality. The very exhortation of Jesus in **John 15:1-17** is what would really befit my discourse. We are encouraged to abide in Jesus so as to bear much fruit in this world where barrenness is the order of the day for the normal Christian. And I dare say under the authority of these scriptures that for the modern Christian to stand up for Jesus than never, they must abide in Him, consequently knowing His will as is explicitly expressed in the scriptures and thereafter obeying them (**John 15:10**). I need to be more a reader of the scriptures than I read motivational books, more obedient to the scriptures than I preach them to others and more prayerful than I encourage others to pray. Voddie Baucham asserts, '**there ought to be a sign posted in every Christian bookstore that reads, "the views expressed in these books do not necessarily express the views of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"**'.

Let's stand up for Jesus in every spectrum of our Christian living.



## MCCU LITERATURE DEPARTMENT



**Libraries are  
necessary gardens  
unsurpassed at  
growing excitement**

Over time Literature has been an effective tool used to influence people and their imagination of worldview. Literature is a vehicle through which knowledge is transmitted. Governments do employ Literature whenever they want to make their peoples to understand various policies that they make. Political campaigns all over the world are always coloured with literature materials to woo people to vote. Nations constitutions are informed of literature materials and even the Holy Bible is a literature inspired by the spirit of God. In fact it is the most powerful and oldest literature material. It is a true manifestation that God created Literature and it was for a reason. Because of this eminent power of literature the satanic kingdom has also been able to use it to woo Christians out of the faith by production of literature materials that blaspheme God. The devil has been using his tricks of masking the truth about Christ and salvation through literature to confuse the children of God by presenting to them unsound gospel and doctrines and to a good extent many Christians have been caught unaware.

It is upon this realization on the power of literature on humanity that the Main Campus Christian Union created the Literature Department about three decades ago. In order to achieve its vision of being a congregation of Christ like believers, ministering as a family in love to God and to fellow men and its mission of equipping every member of the union to Christ likeness for effective Christian life and reach every student in main campus, main campus Christian union has ensured the development and improvement of the literature department over time. As it stands, the literature department is currently well organised into various sub departments which are; the Library, bookstall management, editorial board, writers

club and the book club.

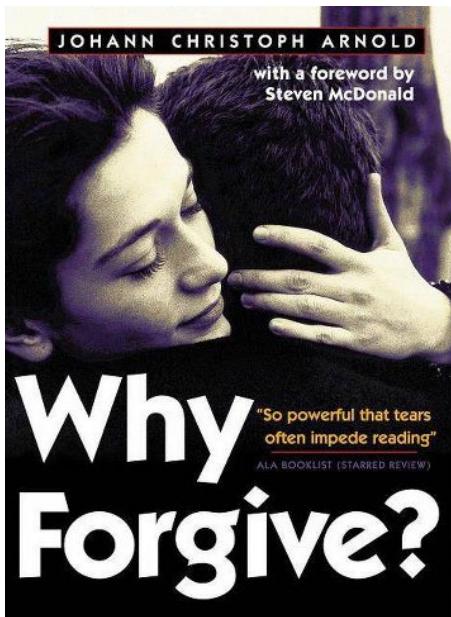
The library is well packed with over 300 sound doctrine Christian books written by reliable Christians all over the world. The library management system has been improved to digital system with all the books digitally catalogued and uploaded to the website. This has allowed ease of access to the books by union members even at the comfort of their seats through their phones. The bookstall management has ensured that new books have been sourced and that the library has been updated. The books are displayed to the union members every Sunday during the fellowship.

The writers club was created to promote writing skills among Union members and to create a forum for expression of ideas and preaching of the gospel by members who may not have the opportunity or the ability to express themselves verbally. The writers do a good scope of writings from poems to spoken word to short and long articles. The writers' club members also do have training for members and writers competition where writers are rewarded for their writings just to ensure that we have the best. With the help of the writers and the ICT designers, the literature committee has been able to maintain the publication of two journals which are; the Beacon and Angaza magazine.

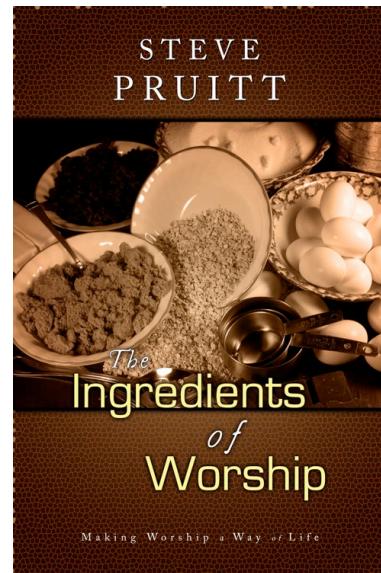
This year our semester publication the Beacon was titled The Bleeding Church. It focused much on the evils that have found its way into the contemporary church and ways in which the church can maintain its purity. On the other hand, the Annual publication Angaza magazine was titled Challenging the Norm. This is a great magazine that exposes the things that contemporary Christians have taken as norms of the church and dwelt on them instead of focusing on what the scriptures requires. The magazine

challenges Christians to walk out of such norms and look unto Jesus maintaining the kingdom's discipline in endurance till he comes.

The book club was started to promote the culture of reading among the union members. It's not just about reading but reading sound doctrine Christian books and analysing their messages through book reviews. This year we were able to read and review two books that is why Forgive and The ingredients of worship by Steve Pruitt. The writer of Why Forgive uses soul touching experiences from different people to reveal all the reasons why a Christian must be able to forgive as Jesus taught us in Mathew 6:14-15. On the other hand, Steven Pruitt in the Ingredients of Worship focuses on the true worship of God. The book answers the questions on how Christians can worship God in the right way just as our Lord Jesus spoke in John 4:23-24. All the members who took part in the book reviews have testified of the great experience they had from the books. If you missed the session you can visit the library as the books are still available.



The Literature Committee always culminates its spiritual year with a powerful Literature Night. The literature night is a place where no one would want to miss. It is always a time for refreshment as members showcase their talents and creativity in different literature fields



such as poetry, spoken word tongue twister recitation, puzzle solving, bible trivia and more. This year's literature night was tagged Wells of Knowledge and indeed members who came with something to draw with, drew a lot from the well.

The Literature Department comprises of the Editorial board headed by the chief editor and editors one, two, and three; the Library headed by the librarian and the assistant librarian and the Bookstall Management headed by the bookstall manager and the assistant bookstall manager. Together with the literature Coordinator and the assistant coordinator plus one member, the literature committee 2019 comprised of eleven members nominated and appointed under the constitution of Main Campus Christian Union.

Literature is an important aspect of human life. It adds a lot to reality. It does not simply describe it but enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and in respect it irrigates the deserts of our lives. Sink yourself deep into the well of literature and you will rise up refreshed and strong enough to challenge the norms of life.

**Mind Jogger:** Read and state how many times the word literature has been mentioned in the passage above.

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# WORD PUZZLE

This PUZZLE has 39 words from Revelation 5:8-14( the sealed scroll). They run Downwards, upwards, across and diagonally . Try to locate the words within 20minutes.

D	T	I	M	E	S	T	G	L	O	R	Y	H	L	R
O	A	E	W	O	R	T	H	Y	P	H	T	R	A	E
G	N	C	P	I	T	O	S	R	L	G	T	W	L	I
W	G	R	B	U	N	E	A	E	N	L	O	H	L	G
I	E	E	E	O	R	I	L	E	I	R	E	M	O	N
S	L	A	R	G	S	C	R	P	S	R	O	F	R	O
D	S	T	L	E	N	T	H	H	O	D	P	N	C	I
O	R	U	I	T	S	I	I	A	G	E	E	G	S	T
M	D	R	A	E	H	P	V	N	S	V	P	N	A	A
S	R	E	D	L	E	G	I	I	A	E	H	I	N	N
S	T	S	E	D	O	K	V	E	L	U	D	G	G	I
S	E	N	O	R	H	T	H	O	U	S	A	N	D	A
E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	R	I	E	D	I	O	L
D	O	O	L	B	R	E	W	O	P	C	I	S	C	S
L	A	M	B	S	S	E	R	V	E	N	E	M	A	E

After you find all the hidden words, the leftovers from the top left to the bottom right spell out a bible verse.

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# Main Campus Christian Union

## Who We Are

### Our Vision

To be a congregation of Christ like believers, ministering as a family in love to God and to fellow men.

### Our Mission

To equip every member of the Union to Christ-likeness for effective Christian life and reach every student in the Main Campus of the University of Nairobi for Christ.

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