

THE BEACON

REBUILDING THE BROKEN WALLS



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INDIVIDUALS

THE CHURCH

THE NATION

The BEACON 2021 ISSUE

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Editor's note

Hey! Am so glad you are reading this! This issue is a reflection of life struggles expressed through meticulous writings by young people who have used their voice to make a difference in God's name. As you read through each page, it is my hope that you will be edified and see yourself through God's love and Grace. May the Lord bless you!

KIPROP K. COLLINS | Chief Editor

Literature Coordinator's Remarks

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally the long awaited Beacon is here with us. The compilation of this publication wasn't a walk in the park, that I must say. There were moments of total labor, toiling through the night to see a success of this edition. However, we thank the Almighty God for bringing us all to a witness of this beautiful publication accompanied with beautiful stories from our very own skillfully-blessed minds. It's my utmost desire that the writings herein will bring a total turnaround in wherever's messy within your life cycle.

Additionally, be assured that the write-ups that you would encounter flipping from page to page would send you into deeper thoughts, self-nourishment and above all that you would live in the great hope so desired in Christ. Last but not least, to everyone who has sacrificially contributed to the release of this publication, can't thank you enough, blessings of God be upon you. May you delight in the great sense and wisdom oozed in this publication. Now let's get to reading, articles full of clarity and poems worth your time.

This is a must-read to all and sundry, why rebuild the broken walls of life?

-MAUREEN CHEPKOSGEI | Literature Coordinator

HOW I OVERCAME DEPRESSION

Sometimes I just lean back and break into uncontrolled fits of laughter. Even though there is absolutely nothing funny about what I went through and how close I came to committing suicide. Yes, you read that line right. I guess if I were to fully explain the story for you to understand I have to go back to where it all started.

I was in my prime years, a bubbly second year student who was curious to explore and learn new things about the marvel of creation. And so without knowing the depth of the sea, I dived head first into a relationship. (*A couple of months later...*) should we call it pure bad luck or fate? It ended in prime fresh tears (ha-ha). It was a nasty breakup, with all kinds of nasty words exchanged and so on, you know how it goes.

(DISCLAIMER: In the words of David Ewagata, '**When**



breaking up with someone do it gently, this is still a child of God you are handling'.

So there I was freshly single, having pushed most, if not all, of my friends away, my studies in a mess, because frankly I had neglected them, my family in a tough financial spot and I having no means of income.

It was at this point that I began holding my problems of higher esteem than God's power. It was downhill from here. I figured if this was the end, I would stop trying so much. Just because I felt that God had more pressing concerns than my issues. ('O ye of Little Faith' – Matthew 8:26)

I was so depressed that I stopped going to church, actually started experimenting with alcohol and weed. I was hurting and I just wanted it to all end. I

wanted death. (*'O Death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?' – 1 Corinthians 15:55*)

So much so, one night I became super overwhelmed with the darkness and the pain. I had drowned several glasses of alcohol. Standing on the balcony, a silent whisper came to me. 'Why not just jump? It will be easier; God will understand'.

Friends, I stood still for a while. And you know the worst thing was not even the fact that I was actually contemplating giving in, rather, I didn't care whether God would understand or not! So am not going to lie and be all dramatic that a voice came over me at this point telling me not to jump, all I can say is am glad I didn't.
It took me some time to be able to recover (*Am yet to fully, but these things take time*). I avoided moments where I was in solitude like a plague, because thoughts are like a

leaching virus. I started going out more, instead of staying cooped up in the house all day, bike riding, hiking and hanging out with friends more. All the free time I had in my hands I transformed into constructive things I loved, from writing and writing some more, starting a blog, reading and more.

Slowly I drew closer to God again; it had been a mistake leaving in the first place. For we need Him more when we are weak.

Healing will happen. It will take time, but it will happen.

Three rules of thumb,
One: Don't Push God Away,
Draw Him closer
Two: Don't Push Friends Away,
Talk to Them
Three: Don't Stop Doing What
Makes You Happy

Re-build, Re-store, Re-vive

SILAS MWANDIKWA

UNMASKING THE MONSTER

Depression is like a wild beast
Clinging so tight, locking up all the beauty of life.
Causing a painful force that pierce so sharp to an innocent being.
Heartache grows inevitable, misery covers up.
Thoughts of failure bulge up; a painful past long gone appears
like it has just happened.
Sleep acts as a relief, yet at times it just can't tolerate the mess
inside and betrays you too.
Just after a relief maybe, the battle continues.
Demons of darkness dominates so hard
Voices of non-existing objects engulf
Images of fictions appear real in mind.
A solo world it is!

Grooming up that lovely outfit turns awkward.
That hobby, that job, that talent
Becomes "a no-go zone "
Hopelessness creeps in so loud,
Misery grows into a norm.
No courage, low self-esteem, everyone else is right and you're
wrong so face downcast!
You can't get it off, you can't bear it, you can't talk it out, just ailing
inside.
Time elapses and nothing seems to work out .
A solo world it is!!

Life curve moves from bad to worse,
Thought torture deepens, no healing no care! Just pain!!
Wait!!!
Intervention seems close.
Those within can't take the shame you "caused "so a pill is fished
to cover the mess.
Therapy perhaps involved, help is pursuedat last!
It's quite interesting , isn't it???
Well, which is better: getting helped before pain or after pain????

See, it's alright not to achieve everything; it's still fine to fail a
thousand times and guess what, it's
Still fine not to be OK!! Oh yeah, very OK not to be OK.
You just don't
Have to be always right
You just don't
Have to blame yourself too much mistakes happen, and correc-
tions are done!
Speak up, coop with it, avoid that trigger of depression!
Pray it out loud!!
Let the Lord battle the rest!!

EUNICE WAMBUI

DID YOU KNOW ?

Depression can cause hallucinations

DEAR LOVED ONE...

Some things just start, others we bring them upon ourselves while we learn some from others. In this case, it started with clicking on an AD that popped up on my phone and then to a clip with images that have never fully gotten out of my mind. This and idle days plus free internet and sometimes sprinkles of frustrations have been the greatest triggers to masturbation. Other times as they say, it just happens.

Realization hits- "It's wrong but it appears to be more wrong when done by a Christian such as me." But this time it has become like a deep hole dug by me, so deep I don't know how to get out. I try praying but just 5 free minutes and am back to square one. I try talking to my friends, but, I don't get the help that I need.

Something comes with this kind of sin. It results to low self-esteem, self-hate, and despair. It's like you don't even know yourself anymore. You feel like even God cannot forgive you, you need Him but you feel you can't get to Him. So what to do?

Just accept what happened, focus on the future. The bed is a sweet place but not sweeter than the peace that comes with knowing you are at peace with Christ. It all started from the mind and it has to end from the same mind. I train my mind to fight, to train the body to obey the right and resist the devil.

However my strongest yet toughest weapon has been crucifying my flesh daily. Waking up, reading that Bible, meditating on that scripture and allowing the scripture to take effect in me. Telling God to take me through each day and that whatever may come my way I will overcome. It is better not to dig your trap too deep that when you fall it will kill you or take you longer to get yourself out of it when you have a destiny to fulfill.

Sometimes it's not easy, the desire is strong but it is possible to conquer.

BY NJERI MUTHONI

BREAK FREE...

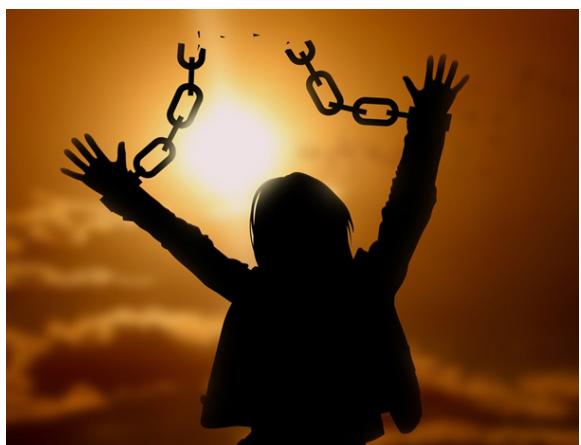
Fear and guilt are ways in which the devil hurts God people by renewing to them their past sinful acts hence delays them not to come back to God for forgiveness. Sometimes our journey cracks on the way and we find ourselves indulged in earthly acts which angers God.

To the believers who at some point had tasted the grace of God and had started foundation building with the rock ‘Jesus’ ;the guilt of sin may feel worse than before. However, let’s keep in mind that our God is slow to anger and doesn’t treat us as our sins deserve.

As a believer the first take is to repent to Him then he will wash our iniquities and remove them far from us, From *Psalms 103: 12[as far as east from the west so far has he removed our transgressions from us.]NIV* this gives us assurance that he truly forgives and forgets our past sinful life.

This indeed shows the greatness of God s love. As believers, the love of God is a great holder of our faith because His love is perfect. *1st John 4: 18[there no fear in love but perfect love drives our fear because fear has not made perfect in love]*

This gives assurance that we can face God confidently because his love to us is perfect and God Himself is love. Addressing to young believers (*youths*) we all have fears; fear of the future, fear of relationships, fear of faith in salvation, fear lacking of money, the list is endless.



VINDICATED

The amazing story of the prodigal son as the bible addresses him as the youngest it portrays the Young generation. Luke 15: 11-32 the younger son worries about life and wants to go outside and enjoy the world leaving his father place where there's is sufficiency of everything .He squanders his wealth and later comes to the senses. The son figures out confidence to come back home regardless of the past; all he wants is repentance and he ask for forgiveness.

For us to rebuild again with God, it is important to acknowledge who He is; His love for us ,the sufficiency in His kingdom and His excess of forgiveness regardless of our past . In doing so, we shall be so confident that the fear and guilt of our past or future won't be the reasons for not coming back to God and rebuilding our Father-Son relationship with Him.

JOAN OKUMU

At the cross when the blood run red
When the wrath of God was pacified
All my sins washed white
I received a salvation, I deserved not.

Not my work nor efforts
Would attain this sanctification
Neither could my deeds
Justify my innocence before the Father.

Gallivanting in the desert of dryness
Only His grace could provide an oasis of hope
While the floods threatened to engulf
And drown me in the miasma of sins
His saving hand reached out to my rescue.

I received sight when my eyes
Were removed from the blindness of
Being good which only makes you a
good person.
Introduced to an eternal grace by
Christ.
Salvation is only through Jesus our
eternal hope.

Life and it's dynamics can be so flirtatious
Tricks us to the longevity of it's twilights
As the days and elements turn to seasons
Darkness is coming, make the choice while it's still day.

MANASSEH_NG

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE...

We live in a society where every arena of its environment is crumbling down. From broken lives to broken families, broken education system to broken youthfulness, from broken spirituality to broken churches. Where do we find strength and hope for a generation?



When you read through Nehemiah's prayer following the dismal report of Jerusalem's vulnerability and shame, you can see that his heart was broken. But it wasn't the ruined walls that broke Nehemiah's heart. It wasn't the burned gates. It wasn't even the desolate temple. There was only one factor in this entire situation that wounded Nehemiah to the heart: God's name was disgraced. The pagans not only mocked God's people, but they mocked God Himself.

Walking in the streets we'll meet persons of all kinds, some who'll embrace you and a majority who'll mock and jeer you at the mere mention of you seeking a fair world with a success over you. But wait, isn't the latter what Nehemiah faced in the journey of rebuilding the broken walls of Jerusalem? As we seek a good or rather a safe place for a people for the sake of their growth most a times there's a tendency of blindness. Not to mention the noises that will get our eardrums aching, negative-filled statements that may end up making you doubting the success of a particular cause mandated your way.

You see when Nehemiah was up to rebuild the broken walls



he wasn't skilled in masonry works but either way God had skillfully prepared him for the cause of the journey. People(the Pagans) failed to understand and were determined to make him fall little did they know that it's the Prayers sought diligently in his closet that was making him stronger amidst all the humiliations. Mark you, the great God Nehemiah acknowledged was the same God of the greatest results/ success they did achieve in ensuring there's a fortress over Jerusalem.

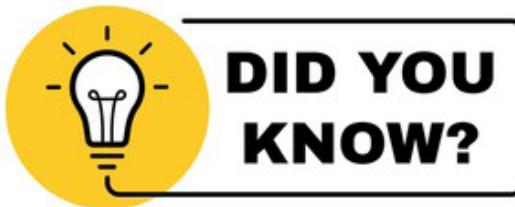
You'll today allow me bring my point of focus on youthfulness. The everyday notion that, "The youths are our tomorrow's church" is something I grew hearing all around. Today we ought to break that and know that we the youth are the today's church regardless of what the society holds of us. My point of concern here would richly dwell on how the youths perceive themselves, are we shallowly able or deeply abled in the all-round aspects of life? The youth battle with lots of sins, oops! Nearly talked of dark sins only to remember we never magnify sin, sin is sin dear reader. Lest I find myself deviating from the point of concern, I choose to bring a voice of hope to us as the young people.

Talking of the secret sins, from masturbation, sexual immorality, homosexuality, drug addiction, just to mention but a few. However much the society will tend to blame it all in the upbringing and at times the environment grown in. When everything seemed like a standstill for Nehemiah he chose to pray the more and persisted in that which he knew was God's- chosen cause. Dear brother and sister, there's nothing too dark or too heavy that God cannot wipe away and make you a new, as in, 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and

to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. They say, "Rome wasn't built in a day" but it won't go unmentioned that we're serving a faithful God who knows our deep scars, in the matter of time He's sure to bring down His mercy upon your everyday negative voices. You still can overcome that just maintain yourself in the closet(pray and pray and when everything seems not working choose to keep on praying).

It would be easy for us to feel overwhelmed and discouraged by the enormity of the task to rebuild. But like Nehemiah, we serve a God who is greater than all the powers of this world. Let that fact encourage and inform you as you seek to rebuild in the arena God has placed you. God's delay however should not be confused with God's denial, He simply calls on our patience as stated in Psalms 5:3 In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. Let's now get into mending the shattered walls of our lives that goes a long way in affecting the society we live in. Dear reader, you are deeply abled!

MAUREEN CHEPKOSGEI



Humans aren't the only animals that dream.



THE TIRED BUILDER.

Am so tired...super tired. I don't know if I can take it anymore.

Every time, I try to slap in some cement on a brick it just keeps drying off before I place it. Is it my fault? Probably?! Honestly, I really don't care. You see, when you make a habit of something, it slowly becomes your reality and fighting it isn't worth it anymore.

Enough with the analogy; at this point, I think am going to be a foreman at a construction site one day. But seriously, am tired. Am tired of trying so hard but end up failing anyway. I am tired of looking at myself in the mirror everyday knowing that am just going to fail again.

My life was broken way before I knew Christ and that never bothered me because I had never seen life through His lenses.

However, when I found him, I found hope. Hope that one day my brokenness could be mended and that I could finally put up a beautiful brick wall.

Easy right! , Just flip a switch and all your problems just go away. At least that is what I thought would happen but the joke was on me because I still had to work through all my brokenness but this time I had help.

I had never worked through all my darkness. I just figured it was who I am and it would be pointless to try and do better. So this was new ground for me and so for years on end I tried working through it all but found myself falling back into the same cycle of darkness.

I know you are wondering what kind of darkness am talking about. What broke this man? Well, am not going to tell you because I am not ready it and that is OK. As long as am open to the idea you should never force someone to open up because in reality you are only pushing them further away.

So am tired. Tired of the fact that I let in the darkness every now and then. I need a lifeline. I want it. I yearn for it and even though I know how to get it, I need someone to help me reach it. A friend, a loved one, a comrade.

Check up on me once in a while. It feels kind of weird saying this but I know someone reading this wants someone to check up on them. Reassure me of God's undying love and grace. Help me build my beautiful brick wall.

COLLINS KIPROP

GLOWING WHILE GROWING

Glowing while growing
Laughing while loving
Walking while rocking
Smiling while rhyming
All this I do along the way
Trying as much to heal the day
Mending all that's broken

Willingly wailing
Seeking the sick
Confiscating the gone
Mending the mind
I must not lose focus today
This small steps lead the way
I must fix all that's broken

Standing I won't
Pausing and moving
Saving souls all along
Aspiring to inspire
Touching a soul is the goal
Seeing smiles is the vision
Building the wall in all means

LIZ KHASIRO MUNYUA



THE PERFECT ILLUSION

Many at times we put up a persona and hide behind the smile because we are afraid of the judgment. It's so hard to confess when everybody thinks you are perfect. Being in Jesus Christ means that He gets to renew you daily, putting off your former self (*Ephesians 4: 20-24*). it's taking your cross daily to follow him(*Luke 9:23*), and that means some seasons are going to be tough because we live in the world in as much as we are not of the world. Yes, Satan was defeated and condemned, however, he still schemes and plots (*2nd Corinthians 2:11*) and brings temptations (*John 10: 10*).

How do I say out loud that a week has gone by without reading the Bible? Oh my days! How do I explain that there are times I have been on my knees to pray yet words fail me and all I do is stare because things got hard and for a split second, I doubted His will?

Would you pray for me or will you judge me?

Luke 15:4-6, He leaves the ninety nine to search for that one lost sheep. Whether one is struggling with masturbation or gambling addiction, whatever it is you think is so despicable, Let God in and you shall overcome. There is no wall he can't break down, no mountain he can't move to save one who earnestly seeks Him (*2 Corinthians 7:10*). Let God gracefully break you that He may build up a new being. Repent, pray and seek God by reading the Bible for only He can rebuild great walls of love, forgiveness, patience and joy and peace in our lives.

Nehemiah before going to the king to ask for permission to re-build the walls, he prayed, invited people to join him in his quest and was not shaken by opposition. He prepared enough for he knew it would not be easy; like him we should be ready to do our part in the restoration of our lives. Even in our struggles with sin, we should take the necessary steps to walk away, avoid putting ourselves in situation that lead us to sin, keep good company and cleanse our thoughts (*Philippians 4:8*). Like King David when Nathan came to confront him for killing Uriah, acknowledge that you are struggling and that you have sinned against God and seek help, counselling, therapy and Watch God pull you out of your Darkest place. God redeems and restores.

Brokenness before God should not be seen as a bad thing for God uses it to bring us back to his loving arms. Perfect is an illusion, everyone goes through stuff you know nothing about, however in Jesus Christ, we can advance against a troop, we can scale any wall.

In Christ Alone.

MELISA ADHIAMBO.

HOPE FOR BROKEN WALLS

So many books I could read. So many stories I could find from the archives and get a view of how the world is. Yeah, I had the choice to make the olden tales as the telescope to get a grasp of what the current is like. For miles and miles I can travel into the past, I can tread in the paths already trodden, find wisdom which was already discovered.

Darkness captions the day, blues become the song, scattered become the throng as boldness denies to follow along. Purged and chained by our own decisions. It was hard making the decision but I finally decided to walk in the present. Maybe the church maybe the world, I chose the secular first.

Social media the new home, many make efforts daily to find solace and happiness there. Many issues left unattended to! More familiar faces take the positions in the offices. Students doing their best in schools but end up in the streets as jobs are taken by the “stronger”! Students

destroying each other in lustful relationships. Nations coming together for war and never peace. Covid-19 making the situation more hopeless.

I put my guitar down and turn around to see any source of happiness available but nothing to look at. I tried to play something to sooth my soul but all was in vain. I lead my way to explore the “church” maybe there, I would be able to neutralize my sadness! It was not long before sorrow pierced my heart again.

So many denominations I found, majority of them criticizing one another. Getting deeper into the church I found more scars than I did from the world. Between the world and the church I had nowhere to put my hope or take my brokenness for healing. I tried my guitar to find a soothing music but it did me no any good. Back at home an idea came into my head and I decided to write a letter to whoever who will read and understand my concern about the world.

Dear all,

REF: REBUILDING THE BROKEN WALLS

Peace is not in the world or the church but in Christ. For how long will we watch our friends and family members suffer? (*Nehemiah 2:3*) Nehemiah got sad when he saw the broken walls of Jerusalem. They were all vulnerable to attacks nothing to protect them from their enemies. He could not withstand the pain and decided to rebuild the walls.

Self-esteem, courage, love, happiness, satisfaction, security and above all our faith in Christ make up a strong wall against all external harm. Whereas, depression, anger, vengeance, heartbreaks, lust, sexually oriented relationships and many others are the threats to us all. They are the agents that break our foundation in Christ.

Samson lost his connection with God due to lust and found the end of his strength. When he realized and came back to God for renewal God made him stronger once more and used him to kill the Philistines (*Judges 16:23-31*). It's possible to come out of our hopelessness. (*Deuteronomy 31:6*) Saul (*Acts 9:1-19*) was the greatest persecutor of Christians, he was a great source of redemption but the world could not handle him. Jesus rebuild him into Paul who saved many souls.

There are so many broken people in the society today who are the missing pieces and the main reasons why the church does not shine enough light to the world. Like Nehemiah lets raise up banners to shade hope and restore happiness to the sick, the street families, the victims of daily disasters greatest being the

covid-19 pandemic.

Let's stop the spread of depression which has caused many to be mentally handicapped. Many have committed suicide to escape the pain of losing jobs, to escape the pain of being homeless.

Let's carry our candles into the darkness. By waking those in slumber due to malicious circumstances, we will bring more happiness into the world today. We can never complement ourselves for God made us different. Why should we suffer bad leadership only because we are led by the wrong people? Since the ones anointed for those positions are still victims of depression? Bringing to life the dead situations in the society will restore and bring many out of the dark. Peter raised Dorcas from the dead and saved many people from pain and wiped the tears of the mourners. (*Acts 9:36-32*)

Some situations seem difficult to handle but since it's God who is in control we just have to become vessels of honor so that He can use us to heal our friends before they find their way into drugs, suicide and revenge as solutions for their pain due to depression.

LENNOX KAHATI

DID YOU KNOW ?

Several places in the Bible compare God's Word to "honey" (Rev 10:9-10) (Ezekiel 3:1-3)(Psalms 19:10) (Psalms 119:103). It is interesting to note that honey is the only food that never goes bad.

DO YOU WANT TO FLY HIGHER?

Then fall harder
I just loved her, my sweet mother
Who had a solution for every matter?

The birds in the sky
Flying freely far away
They didn't just wake and flew
They fell so many times

She says while drawing lines
As humans we mess darling
I know I'm your role model
That's nice, I feel proud
Just know, before this strong woman
There was a weak person, who fell everyday
But refused to give up

She says stroking my hair
A crack on the wall is not the end of the house dearest
A slide of the leg is not the fall of the body
You are young
This battle you must fight
Just remember the spirit
Never give up

I can see through her
My power woman she is
Remember to keep close to Jesus dear, He's the only one worth it all
Remember Christ in every Crisis
Keep moving
Without stopping
Only pausing
And continuing
You're going far dear

LIZ KHASIRO MUNYUA

HYPOCRISY IN THE CHURCH

Gone are the days when the battle was between right and wrong and here are the days when the battle is between right and almost right. These are the days when sinners will walk into the church and walk out un-convicted of their sins and believers serving in the church will indulge in all manner of ungodliness and still move about unbothered.

Has God changed His standards of what righteousness means? Never would He do that. He is an unchanging God and so are His standards!

Are we praying less prayers?

Oh no, ours are the loudest and longest in the room .

Are we mean in our giving?

Not even a bit, generosity is our second name.

Is it that we serve unwillingly?

Not really, we're more committed than anyone else.

Then why do we remain unchanged by the same Gospel that we preach?

Why are there snares behind every smiles we give ?

Why do we praise God in the morning on a Sunday service and use the same lips to speak ill of others on our way out?

Why do we preach water and drink wine?

When God says He is looking for people to worship Him in truth and Spirit, I believe that it was not an idle phrase that God declared.

The real deal is not if we'll get so consumed in the service, but



are we doing it from a genuine heart?

There may be no machine to test our authenticity in service but when our works will be tested by fire eventually, will anything remain standing?

It is said that "not every dark cloud bears rain". In a like manner, our zeal in the church cannot entirely qualify us to be Christians. God is interested in our skills, our talents, our service, our prayers and our giving. But He is more interested in our hearts! And if any impact is to be realized, we need the Fire of the Holy Spirit and that Fire can only be invited by hearts that are genuine in the Kingdom of God.

GLORY ROMBORA

PROSPERITY GOSPEL

God wants you rich. God wants you healthy! These are statements which were made by prominent charismatic preacher. The message is "*come to Christ and he will heal you from diseases and give you wealth*". It is about giving what you have to the Lord, and then he will bless you abundantly. It is about sowing seed in order to break curses and to open the doors of blessing. The message revolves around Zarephath who gave the man of God all, Abraham who gave a tenth of all his possession to Melchizedek and a widow who gave all that she had. All these and their testimonies move undiscerning congregation to do that which God never desired them to do.



Now, Is this the Gospel? Where is Christ in such sermons? Where is Hell and Heaven? Where is Repentance? Where is sin exposed? What do we see? How many "God told me" stories do we hear from such preachers? Do they not make merchandise of their believers? The sermons are just about feeling good about yourself. They lie to their members to scam them of their hard-earned money. Are these followers of Paul, who said I do not seek what you have but you? No, they are what Paul wrote to Philippians, saying, *"they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end [is] destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."* Philippians 3:18-19 KJV

The Gospel is about Christ dying on the cross to save mankind from the wrath of God. Man has sinned and thus deserves death. Christ died on the cross to save mankind from the wrath of God. Those who believe on Him, are forgiven, justified (*declared to be righteous*) and sanctified by the blood of the lamb. Therefore, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. On judgement day, those who have believed in Christ, will be declared righteous and have everlasting life while those who have

not believed, will be thrown into eternal fire to be tormented. Therefore, repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved from the wrath of God. This is the gospel.

However, in this prosperity gospel, the sinful nature of man, repentance, hell, holiness, and God's wrath are never mentioned. They make shipwreck the faith of many. They solicit money. After years of giving out money to such pastors, members see no results, while the "papa" and his family live extravagant lives. 2 Corinthians 2:17. At last, members of such churches give up and think this is true Christianity. They burden their members, for they seek what the members have and not the members themselves. They make the name of God to be blasphemed by nonbelievers and they give excuse to unbelievers for remaining in sin.

The members are bewitched to never question what "papa" says. Do not touch the "anointed" is the message. Though these men are heretics, they preach lies to keep the suspecting members in this state. They do not need members to be Bereans. They tickle the ears of their members. Sadly, they do not care for the sheep, they are wolves.

There is need to rebuild the broken walls of the gospel and state clearly what the gospel is. We need to read our Bible to guard ourselves against these ravenous wolves. We should mark such and warn the church about them. God knows better than us and what He ordains is the best. The gospel is neither about health nor wealth. If anyone came to Christ to seek these things, he or she is still lost. But Jesus came to defeat death and sin, the notorious enemies of mankind. God heals when He wants and whoever He wants and makes whoever He wants rich. Whatever He ordains for us is the best.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Romans 16:17-18)

DENIS MUSYIMI MUSEMBI



LEADERSHIP WRANGLES IN THE CHURCH

What is the purpose of leadership in the church? Who is it meant to benefit? These two questions have always gone begging. I suppose what happens in the church today is a product of either the misrepresentation of the responses to these quizzes or a total silence on them. It is for this reason that many have deviated from the original understanding of leadership and so have begun pursuing other versions of its meanings. Most of these “meanings” however, are not within the scope of the Christian view of what a leader in church or even elsewhere should be. In the bid to reinstate the lost taste of the church; which is the relevance of believers therein, there is need to rethink concerning our leadership in the church. For it is written in Mathew 5: 13b that “*you are the salt of the world, and when the salt has lost its taste, how can it be made tasty again?*”

One of my pastor friends once said, “*A group of sheep led by one lion will defeat a group of lions led by a sheep in any battle.*” It is true therefore that we cannot underestimate the power of a focused leader for however weak his team seems to be, it will always win against a great team with a weak leader. The church is not an exception. When the shepherd in church loses focus

of the Kingdom of God, then even the least of the demons in the kingdom of darkness shall subdue the church. This focus is lost primarily due to the greed for power in church by different individuals. Some people have based the qualifications of an individual for different leadership positions in the church upon foundations which completely lack scriptural backgrounds. For instance, one will want the richest of the elders in the church to become the bishop and some, the most eloquent in various languages to become the pastor. These are not within the stipulated qualifications that Timothy receives from Paul in *1 Timothy 3:1-12*.

It is painful to believe that the Kingdom agenda is no longer a reason for our desire to lead. It is good to have the desire to lead, as Paul says, “*whoever wants to be a bishop wants a good thing...*” However; it is evil to have wrong intentions in this desire. It is for this reason that there is always war in the church as to who should be the leader. Some cases reported for leadership wrangles in the church involved the desire to be in control of the church finances. More painfully, the victims of this vice have at times reached the extent of literally killing their “*opponents*”, which is the most obnoxious practice we can ever do in the church. The church is just as confused as the world! Trust me dear readers - in one of the churches in our locality, an example of this incidence was seen. At other times, some will desire to lead for no reason but to gain popularity in the society. The worst however, is when one will need it as a stepping stone into “*higher*” arenas.

Even though I used “church” to refer to a congregation and a group of believers in this context, it should be noted that the church begins at a personal level and so one’s responsibility in the church is inevitable. However, there is a call for us to listen to God and make spirit-guided decisions when it comes to coming up with church leaders.

GEOFREY ARITO

The Beacon 2021

THE NORM OF EVIL

Had Noah lived in our world today, he would have commenced building an ark. Moreover, Sodom and Gomorrah would have thrived. The evil in these two times in history are a characteristic of the society today. On the flipside, isn't Salvation our ark and the world worse than the unrepentant cities of in the "*plain*" of the Jordan?

The society today is dynamic with rapid changes and foregone consequences. Philosophy and advances in technology has transformed man from being dependent on God to being independent of Him. Evil has crept in all aspects of the society and man has become familiar with it. That which united society before is now causing division, and what caused division before is now uniting society. How unfortunate!

Virtues such as faith, hope, and love have united societies and enhanced cohesion among people. Any bit of a vice would bring discord. However, the modern society values vices more than virtues. People would rather take a video of an individual drowning in water than help them out. They are momentarily "*united*" by the thought of a moment of fame in social media once they post the clip, and love is foregone.

A major ideology that propagates evil in the society is the principle of relativism. With regard to truth, the modern society is adamant that my truth is not necessarily your truth. This has caused a lot of chaos in the society, since people committing evil deeds base their defense on relativism. An example would be the LGBTQIA+ Movement.

Modernists would base such a movement on human beings being different. That a person's opinion about sexuality can only be defined by them. Five years ago, Google had three options in its gender validation. Watch out for more if such a trend keeps escalating.

The modern movement is fighting God's word tooth and nail by propagating the atheism. Many people follow blindly laws of men that alienate them from fulfilling God's will for their lives. This only leads to delay which, in this case, becomes denial. Atheism has become a norm to the extent that people are bold in expressing their identity in it. This only leads them to an entanglement with the devil. He uses them like tissue paper and disposes them after accomplishing his particular mission. As others are running the race, they are running errands for the evil one. Wasted!

The only antidote for a bad habit is a good one. Therefore, the only cure for evil is good. However, if we go the modernists' way, this good would be dependent on the beholder. We need a point of reference to draw the line between good and bad. The only proven point of reference across ages is the word of God. It demarcates between good and bad with no grey areas. As Jonathan McReynolds would state in his song "*No Gray*", that it's either you are white or black, no shades of grey whatsoever! Let's embrace God's word and depart from evil!

WAINAINA SAMUEL WAWERU

STAND OUT

The Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit reckons in *Romans 13.11* that “...*for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed*” and by this he calls us to awake from sleep and be vigilant in waiting. He would later write to his son in faith in the book of 2nd Timothy Chapter three, describing in detail the last days. Terming them perilous of which we so agree to be the case in this dispensation that we are in. Taking a step back and thinking of these words that were written close to 2000 years ago, how much closer are we to the end?

In the recent age, most conversations have been tailored towards normalization of the vices that we see in the society. Rottenness has increased and seemingly the world loves the stench thereof. Reading through random posts on social media, I have gotten to see how evil is praised more than good. The truth is received with lots of resistance while lies seem to be the order of the day. Recently, we have witnessed ministers of the gospel appearing nice and sugarcoating evil all in a bid to keep a congregation, to be loved by the world, to be famous among other selfish reasons.

The call to standing out for Christ has never been this loud. In such moments we see God’s plan for his people as he gives them grace to stay pure, without blemish (*Jude 1.24*). While the world chants “*Do what makes you happy!*”, we should ask ourselves what the Word of God states. (*Colossians 3.23*) says, “*and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*” and going further to (*Hebrews 12.14*)we are

urged to, “Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” When the world and alas, part of the ‘church’ supports homosexuality and same sex marriage, we need to go back to the drawing board and like Bereans search the Scriptures. With that we get to see how God instituted marriage strictly for opposite sex and even condemns homosexuality in (*Romans 1.26-27*) terming it as vile affection, while in (*1 Corinthians 6.9*) He says that no sexual immoral will inherit the kingdom of God. The question begs, will you trust man or will you trust God and be answerable to Him alone.

Important to note is that we are living in the era of the dispensation of God’s grace and Him working amongst his people in great and diverse ways. As we draw towards walking in the miraculous, let us not loose ourselves from the Gospel, the foundation of our faith. The word says in (*Romans 11.29*) that, “for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable”. In other words, it is possible to walk in desirable gifts of the Holy Spirit, like faith, speaking with tongues, prophecy among other gifts as explained in (*1 Corinthians 13*) only to miss the mark when these gifts are not mixed with Love. Perhaps it will be of great value to pause and ask ourselves as many questions as can be, to assess whether we are on the right track. It is through this that we will be established in the truth, our worship shall be authentic, and we shall stand out for Christ. As we draw nearer to God, he draws near to us – and he takes full charge of our lives and revival is born!

MOSES BORE



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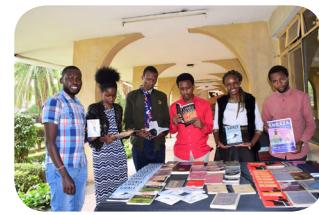


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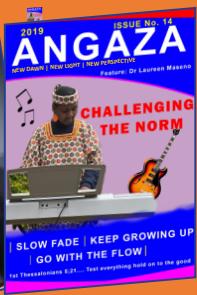
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