

Prayer Guide for Mission

an invitation to pray for the world

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Mwesigwa Mugabi Publications

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Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are taken from the:
New International Version of the Bible



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Finally, we want to express our deep appreciation to our families. Thank you so much for your support and your prayers that encouraged us to finish this work.

Foreword

God is a God of mission. Therefore, He speaks to people, reveals His will, reaches out ...with the aim of reconciling man with Himself (John 3:16).

God wants to rescue all nations because of His mercy, His grace and His love for people (2 Peter 3:9). His desire is that every nation worships and honours Him as the only true God for what He does and who He is (Psalm 67:1f; 96:1f).

As the Father has sent the Son into the world, so the Son sends His followers: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 17:18; 20:21). Instead of carrying out His mission on His own, God has chosen to do it in a very personal way: He invites us to accomplish His purposes through us. That plan must affect our lives.

Since God is love (1John 4:8), Christian Mission is always a result, or a fruit, of this love. As soon as our love for God and for the people ceases, mission becomes a selfish business, sometimes out of fear for the decline of someone’s denomination. There are two motives that should drive us constantly to mission:

- a) Our love for God and our concern for His glory (Mark 12:31; 1 Corinthians 10:31);
- b) our love for man and our concern for his welfare (Mark 12:31).

Let us follow the footsteps of Jesus and the example of the apostles, allowing God to involve us in reaching those people who do not know Jesus. And as our Motto says: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

However, we sometimes focus on the wrong question: “What must we do to evangelise the world?” Yet, this is the wrong beginning point, for it locks us up in a human-centred perspective where we will feel depressed due to insufficient resources or we command others to “give more, do more, care more, serve more, love more, sacrifice more, etc.” The stories in the Old Testament about Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon and others remind us to begin with God and to be part of His plan: Therefore, we should ask:

1. Who is God?
2. What is God doing in the world?
3. How does God invite us to participate in His redemptive work?

Mission is ultimately not a human response to human needs. Mission is the work of the triune God in this world inviting the Church to participate in fulfilling His redemptive purposes. This is a joyous, life-giving privilege.

If a church lacks interest in God's mission, it is not cured by more shocking statistics or more emotionally manipulative commands to obedience. It is best treated by focusing the members on Christ, so that Christ's passion for the lost can drive our hearts to mission work.

It is my prayer that this booklet will be used by many people and fellowship groups to strengthen them in their intercessions and that God raises a generation of great missionaries from our midst, who are committed to "go into all the world and make disciples", as Apolo Kivebulaya and Festo Kivengere did.

Rt. Revd. George Katwesigye
Diocesan Bishop of Kigezi

Preface

Every Christian inevitably has to pray. No Christian should leave it to the priests and bishops on the assumption that they are the ones called to the ministry of prayer.

Jesus esteemed praying highly in His own life and the lives of His followers. Indeed He taught His disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9).

Many Christians do not find time to engage in prayer. They are preoccupied with other things. They seem to know nothing of the power of prayer. They do not know that prayer moves mountains. Naturally speaking, when someone is, for instance, in need of salt, he either asks for some from a neighbour or he will eat tasteless food, food that is not appetizing. All people regardless of who they are, how educated they are, where they come from or even how old they are, have needs that should be attended to.

However, even those Christians who value prayer tend to be self-centred in their praying. In praying, Christians should not focus only on themselves, their relatives, friends, tribesmen, etc.; they ought to go beyond those closed circles. No Christian is an island. Prayer ought to be extended to people beyond one's close circles in order to promote better living in this world. When we pray for others wherever they are we can be sure God will hear us. He will help us then live in harmony with those we pray for, so that we can praise God together for what He is to us and what He has done for us.

When Christians pray, their prayers reach Heaven, the dwelling of God (2 Chronicles 30:27). He pays attention to the prayers (1 Peter 3:12) and causes a positive change in regard to what was requested and in His appropriate timing. Christians should never be discouraged when they pray and do not see immediate results. Jesus called for persistent prayer. One gets to know this when one reads the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-6. Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, emphasised it in a similar way when He advised the Christians in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “pray without ceasing”.

Christians ought to regard prayer as food. A hungry stomach will always long for food. As long as there are issues to pray for or about – and they will always be there – Christians should pray. They ought to know that their praying pleases the Lord (Proverbs 15:8), that it should come to the point (Mark 12:40), and that it is always a delight to God when we pray (Psalm 6:9).

Christians who feel too weak to pray should invite the Holy Spirit to help them in their weaknesses. It is the Spirit who enables us to pray as we ought (Romans 8:26). Let us as Christians regard praying as a duty the Lord has given us to perform, but also as a privilege and an opportunity to shape the world in accordance with His will. Let us pray for ourselves, for one another, for all races, for the conversion of people of other faiths to Jesus Christ, for all nations and their rulers, for the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, etc. This prayer booklet has been written to assist you in your praying.

We congratulate its authors: Revd. Matthias Scheitacker, a German theologian and missionary at Bishop Barham University College, Kabale, as well as Ord. Oscar Mwesigwa and Revd. Ambrose Kwesiga, both his students. May the Lord bless them, and may they write more books in both English and Rukiga-Runyankore.

Revd. Canon Damson Akandwanirira

Head of Department of Theology at Bishop Barham University College

Revd. Prof. Manuel J.K. Muranga

Principal at Bishop Barham University College

Introduction



“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This verse emphasises that the followers of Christ will be witnesses in their town/village (Jerusalem) and in their region (Judea) and among the people who live around them but have a slightly different culture (Samaria) and to the ends of the earth. We are not called to be witnesses either in ‘our Jerusalem’ or in ‘our Judea’. The Bible does not say finish first with Jerusalem and then go to Judea. Jesus emphasises “and” – this means we are called to minister to all: Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the world.

John Stott commented: “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” We are not the light for our town only, we are called to be the light of the whole world (Matthew 5:14).

This booklet will encourage you to pray for and to become active in glorifying God in your own town/village, in your own region, among people with a slightly different culture and to pray for the people living far away from you as described in Acts 1:8. May these prayer items inspire you for your personal intercession and devotion.

We have included 31 prayer items in this booklet so that it covers a whole month. Once the month is over, we encourage you to start the new month with the first item again since interceding is an ongoing process.

The item  stands for information,  stands for our Jerusalem,

 stands for our Judea,  stands for our Samaria and  stands for the world.

We included in each item a passage from the Bible so that the content of the booklet can be used and discussed in prayer groups, fellowship groups and Bible study groups.

May this booklet help us and our mission coordinators to discover God’s heart for all nations and our part in His plan.

May the booklet inspire us to intercede and create in us a desire to be part of God’s mission in His world.

Yours in Christ,
Revd. Matthias Scheitacker, Ord. Oscar Mwesigwa,
Revd. Ambrose Kwesiga



information

1

Prayer has impact

God wants to be glorified among all the people in the whole world and the love of God leads us to love His people. As we learn to love people we desire to pray for them. James reminds us that “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16-17). Therefore, Wesley Duewel challenged his listeners one time: “We can reach our world if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer.”

Intercession prayer is one way of ‘carrying each others burden’ (Galatians 6:2). To love is to hold others up in prayer and to intercede for them in God’s presence.

Yet, true love does not stop with intercession prayer and words. It also moves our hands to help and share.



Pray:



that we may learn from the disciples to ask Jesus as humbly as they did: “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1f). Prayer is something we learn. It is communion with God and deserves a lifetime of learning;



that we may learn to love and encourage each other to pray;



that we may hear God’s voice while praying. Intercession prayer cannot be divorced from listening. While interceding, God sometimes gives us clear insights into what needs to be done;

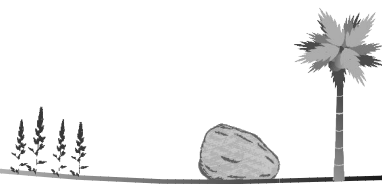


for a prayer movement within our churches that is committed to praying for spiritual growth and mission.

Passage for further study: Colossians 4:2-6



Our Jerusalem

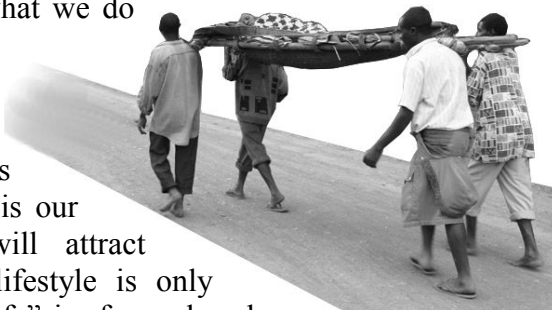


Be not just a hearer

We are living in a generation that groans and yearns to see the practical part of the Christian faith. It is a shame to mention that the “do as I say, not as I do” attitude has become part of the Christian life.

However, Jesus’ entire life demonstrates to us that our words and deeds must fit together. We need to make our faith “in Him” practical. Jesus calls us to Himself first to get transformed (Mark 3:13-15). Then we are able to say like Paul: “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11.1). We cannot lead people to where we do not know and we cannot give what we do not have. If our faith is dishonest, our teaching will become questionable.

Let us remember that actions speak louder than words. It is our exemplary lifestyle that will attract people to Christ and this lifestyle is only possible if we live a “new life” in, for and under Christ - in short, a life that remains in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times our words have failed to correspond to our actions;
- 🙏 that Christian leaders and Christians in general may become both doers and speakers of the word;
- 🙏 that our Christian faith may grow deep in Christ, become practical and a testimony for our neighbours.

Passage for further study: Ephesians 4:25-5:2



Mission and Mission coordinators

Mission is the very lifeblood of the Church. As the body cannot survive without blood, so the Church cannot survive without mission. Without blood the body dies; without mission the Church dies. . A Christian fellowship without mission loses its vitality. Mission is the force that gives the body of Christ vibrancy, purpose, and direction. When the Church neglects its role as God's agent for mission, it is actually neglecting its own lifeblood" (Gailyn Van Rheene).

Most, if not all churches in Uganda have Mission Coordinators who are responsible for leading, fund-raising and organising mission activities. God has entrusted them with authority to plan and motivate Christians in leading others to Christ. Sadly, some churches understand mission as a quarterly or annual activity and forget the day by day mission practice.



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we have given 'God's desire to look for the lost sheep' low priority in our churches;
- 🙏 that Mission Coordinators, Church leaders and other Christians may work together to develop a vision on how to evangelise their parishes and the many people beyond;
- 🙏 that Christians may work together with their Mission Coordinators to form prayer groups to pray for mission work;
- 🙏 that God may equip the chosen Mission Coordinators with zeal and skills to encourage and strengthen mission activities in our churches and to provide prayer groups with mission prayer items concerning the worldwide Church.

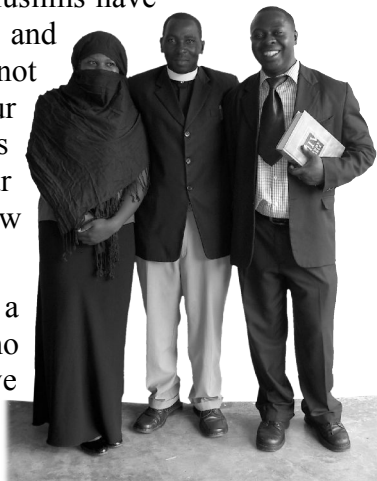
Passage for further study: Matthew 28:16-20






Loving God's way

The Bible emphasises very clearly that “the fruit of the Spirit is love” (Galatians 5:22). However, our relations with members of other tribes, other Christian denominations and Muslims have often been characterized by conflict, fear, and lack of trust. This shows that we have not allowed the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts enough. It is the opposite of how Jesus taught us to live! He taught us to love our neighbours and even our enemies (Matthew 5:44; Matthew 22:39).

The God who lives in us and guides us is a God of true love. Therefore, everyone who tries to do God's mission without love actually destroys the mission because he fails to reflect God.



Pray:

- ✦ that God may forgive us for any hateful feelings we have had towards other tribes, other Christian denominations or Muslims;
- ✦ that God forgives us for the times we spread negative talk about others and failed to allow God to fill our words with mercy and love;
-  that we may allow the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts so that the love of God shines through our lives;
-  that God fills our hearts with love for people from other tribes, for other Christian denominations and for Muslims;
-  that many people may experience Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through our own living example of showing God's love.

Passage for further study: Galatians 5:22-26



The Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Republic of Nigeria is 4 times the size of Uganda with a population of 155 million. It is predominantly occupied by Christians in the South and Muslims in the North. For nearly 40 years the northern ruling elite gave preferential treatment to Muslims and discriminated against Christians. The sudden death of the Muslim military ruler in 1998 and the following elections brought a committed Christian to the Presidency.

However, for the last two years, persecution, harassment, killing, burning churches and forceful marriages to Muslims have increased against Christians. The main challenge is a radical Islamic group called Boko Haram. This group is trying to wipe out Christianity, especially in the northern States and to impose Shari'a law.

Our brothers and sisters in the North of Nigeria are suffering and whatever affects them also affects us!

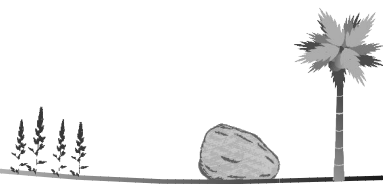
Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for neglecting to pray or showing little concern for those Christians who are persecuted in Nigeria;
- 🙏 that Christians in the North of Nigeria may remain strong in faith and able to respond with God's love, which is more powerful than hostility and hatred;
- 🙏 for courage and wisdom for the Nigerian government which needs to deal with the Boko Haram group and for proper Christian response within and outside Nigeria;
- 🙏 that Christ reveals Himself powerfully as Lord and Saviour to this Islamic militant group and those people who may be tempted to join them;
- 🙏 for the families of the hundreds of victims from terrorist attacks.

Passage for further study: Romans 12:14-21



Our Jerusalem



A heart for the poor

There will always be poor people in every society (John 12:8). The poor have often been marginalised and denied justice. At times, they are despised and exploited. Some people have gone to the extent of saying that poverty is a personal choice and have no regard for them. It is a shame to note that even some Christians have this mentality.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 25:34-45 that Jesus will welcome those who fed Him, clothed Him etc. by doing these acts to the poor.

Not only rich people are able to help the poor. In some of our homes, we pour away food. Some of our wardrobes are full of clothes. Others have skills they can share with them. When we see poor people, we hardly believe that God has placed them in our way for a purpose.

However, poor people are human beings with names, made in the image of God. People who live in poverty are valuable to God, important to Him and loved by Him like everyone else. They are people to whom God has given certain gifts and with and through whom God works.



Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for the times we have excluded the poor and failed to build a loving relationship with them – seeing Jesus in them;

✝ for God's forgiveness for the times we have taken advantage of and failed to care for them;



that God gives us a discerning heart to see who is really poor and who needs our help.

Passage for further study: Deuteronomy 15:7-11



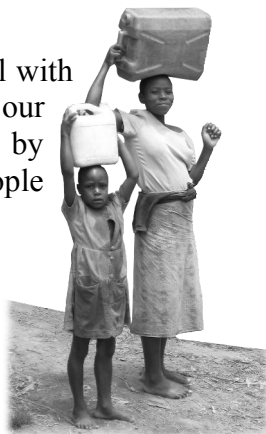
Voluntarism in mission

Mission was God's own initiative right from creation and arises out of love (John 3:16). This love urges us to serve one another.

We are supposed to reach out with this love through voluntary work. This can be done when we engage practically in helping the needy in our midst, the elderly by fetching water for them, cleaning their compounds or raising resources to meet their physical needs.

Further, this love is expressed in sharing the Gospel with others. We can also serve as volunteers by using our short holidays, our leave or vacations, and by cooperating with dioceses to reach out to those people who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

We need to be reminded that each minute we spend on serving others to glorify God is a minute when we worship God. This is the example Jesus has given us by living the Gospel in word and deed.



Pray:



that God will raise a generation that is on fire to serve others in word and deed;



that dioceses may create opportunities for the young and the older generation to engage in sharing God's love through voluntary work in their mother diocese, neighbouring dioceses and beyond;

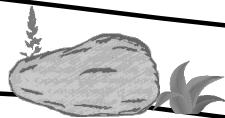


that God helps us to make mission work a priority in our budgets and their operationalisation;



that our mission outreach is practical and relevant to the present needs and situation of the people.

Passage for further study: John 13:12-17



Refugees among us

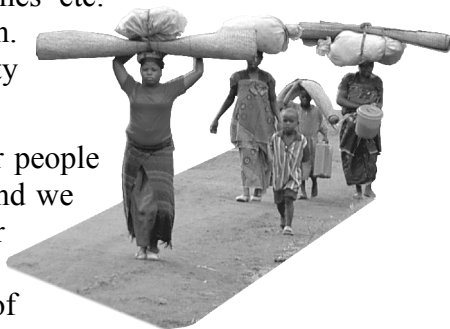
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was a stranger and you invited me in” (Matthew 25:35).

Uganda has become a host for refugees from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. However, instead of seeing the coming of refugees as an opportunity to share the Gospel with them and show them God’s love by giving them food, clothes etc.

many Christians see them as a burden.

Refugees are often despised as a calamity and called names like caterpillars etc.

However, the Bible tells us to love other people as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39) and we recite it almost every Sunday in our churches. So we ought to love them rather than leaving them to the care of Government and NGOs only.



Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for the times we have despised refugees and failed to see “Christ in them” (Matthew 25:35);

✝ that God forgives us for the times we looked at them as a burden to us and therefore broke God’s great commandment of love;

✝ that God forgives us when we have left them to the mercy of Governments and NGOs only, instead of doing what we were supposed to do as Christians;



that God increases our love and concern for refugees;



that God gives us a vision on how to disciple our refugees so that when they go back to their home country, they may go as ambassadors of Christ to spread the Gospel there.

Passage for further study: Matthew 25:31-46



The Republic of Rwanda






Rwanda is a small country about 1/9 the size of Uganda (the size of greater Kigezi). Though small, it is occupied by approximately 10 million people (this is 1/3 of Uganda's population!). It was the place where the blessing of the East African Revival began in the 1930s.

However, it has also had a history of nearly 40 years of inter-ethnic hatred and conflict that peaked in the horrible genocide in 1994-95. During those days, about 85% of the population confessed to be Christians. Sadly, the confession of most of these people did not match with their behaviour.

In recent times, Muslims have increased significantly through a strategic mosque-building programme.



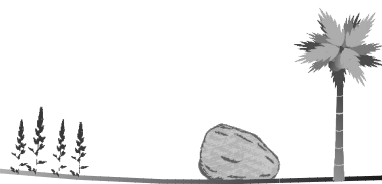
Pray:

-  that revival sweeps through the churches once more;
-  that the love of Christians in Rwanda increases for one another;
-  for continuous reconciliation and healing among the people of Rwanda;
-  for counselling and discipleship training that removes deep-seated inter-ethnic hatred;
-  that the passion to share the love of Christ with their Muslim neighbours increases among Christians.

Passage for further study: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



Our Jerusalem



Discipleship training for believers

It is common in Uganda to find many people accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour in a mission. Sadly, many get lost in the world again. We discover in some parishes that many people confess they are saved, but when someone sees the attendance at fellowship meetings, he wonders.

Sometimes we fail to do a proper follow-up for those who are new in faith. Other times we neglect to plan an appropriate program that strengthens the faith of Christians in fellowship groups.

These challenges call for a holistic discipleship training that focuses on the mind, the heart, and the hands. We need training that helps us to study the Word of God, to grow in love, and to practice our faith (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Emphasizing only one of the three parts might result in spiritually unbalanced believers.



Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for the times we failed to arrange for follow-up and training courses for our new believers and for our Christians;



that churches are committed to arranging for follow-up training conducted by mature Christians;



that Churches are eager to offer Christian training to all of their members which deepens the faith and results in a practical evangelistic lifestyle.

Passage for further study: Acts 2:42-47

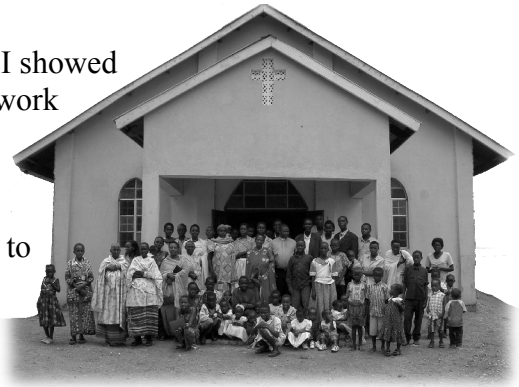


Cooperation between churches with different strength

Every society has the strong and the weak. This is also true within the church. There are spiritually strong churches and there are some churches that are not so much alive. Often, churches with few saved and committed people find it difficult to sustain annual mission outreaches or invite preachers from outside to minister. This leaves the members of those churches less evangelized and so the weak churches get even weaker!

Paul emphasizes in Acts 20:35: “I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’.”

Therefore, churches that are spiritually alive, are reminded to partner with other churches and to help and strengthen them.



Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for the times we have focused in an egoistic way on our local church only and failed to support missions to churches that are not so much alive;



that God creates among our churches a spirit of ‘resource distribution and sharing’ to build up the whole body of Christ;



that God increases our love to partner with churches to build them up.

Passage for further study: Revelation 3:1-6



Tribalism


Our tribes are important because they strengthen our God-given cultural identity. However, this cultural identity becomes dangerous when someone feels his tribe is superior to other tribes and puts his cultural identity above his Christian identity. In God's eyes, everyone is a sinner; everyone deserves God's punishment and everyone who accepts God's grace gets saved. Therefore, the Bible tells us in Romans 10:12-13 that there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles because God is the Lord of all and we share the same hope.

Our challenge is that all of us learn what is 'normal' from the perspective of our own people. That's why everybody naturally assumes that his own culture is the best and we evaluate different behaviour in other cultures as strange or inferior. This makes one tribe suspicious of other tribes.

Thus the process of genuinely seeking to understand and appreciate the culture of other tribes breaks down our cultural biases and enables us to experience our unity in Christ, irrespective of ethnic or tribal backgrounds.



Pray:

- ✝ that God may renew our hearts if we have deep-seated negative feelings and cultural biases towards other tribes, learned during our childhood from our relatives and society in general;
- ✝ for God's forgiveness for the times we have discriminated against people from other tribes and favoured our own tribe's people to strengthen our tribe instead of promoting the whole nation;
-  that God helps us to appreciate and understand the culture of our neighbouring tribes and increases our love for members of those tribes.

Passage for further study: Galatians 3:26-29

The Karamojong of Uganda

Christianity is strong in the south-west of Uganda. However, the situation is different in Karamoja. North Karamoja Diocese, for example, covers a huge area the size of the one covered by the Dioceses of Muhabura, Kigezi, North Kigezi, Kinkiizi and Greater Ankole put together. However, there are only about 25 parishes. Some Christians in Karamoja meet under trees for church services and many Karamojong do not know the love of Christ.

The Bible teaches us to “do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

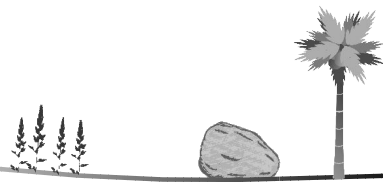
Instead of helping and supporting the Church in Karamoja, some Ugandans – Christians included - look down on those people, saying: “We can not wait for the Karamojong to develop.” The Christians there are trying to do their best. However, this huge area needs more witnesses to spread the Gospel.



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we looked down on the Karamojong instead of praying for and helping them;
- 🙏 that God blesses the Karamojong and strengthens the Christians there to reach out to their tribes people;
- 🙏 that God calls more Ugandans to spread the Gospel in Karamoja. They can go as missionaries to evangelise while working and witnessing in their various professions.

Passage for further study: Philippians 2:3-11



Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are given to serve and edify the Church for the benefit of all (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10f). Sadly, some Christians try to turn them into a measuring rod for someone's faith. As a result, some Christians imitate others and end up neglecting their own gifts by striving to speak in tongues, heal etc.

However, the Bible emphasises that all gifts are equally important and necessary for the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). An egoistic striving for spiritual gifts for oneself is against God's will. Gifts are not given for prestige but to glorify God, serve His Church and spread the Gospel! Paul emphasises that "the most excellent way" is love, that is, using our gifts in loving service to others. But without love, every gift fails to archive its purpose (1 Corinthians 13:1f).



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for those times when we have neglected our own gifts and tried to imitate other people's gifts;
- 🙏 that we may become more concerned about using the gifts we have than trying to access gifts which are not given to us. God has given each one of us all the gifts we need to fulfil His purpose for our lives;
- 🙏 that God helps us to overcome pride which comes at times as a result of misusing our spiritual gifts;
- 🙏 that God gives us a real desire to use our gifts to edify His worldwide Church.

Passage for further study: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:7



Supporting mission outreaches


From the beginning, Jesus clearly called and sent His disciples out for mission (Matthew 28:18-20). However, it seems there has been a shift in some of our churches. Many Christians today are very committed and supportive in building magnificent churches and putting up development projects, but they are less committed in supporting the work of evangelism and caring for the poor.



Buildings are good when they serve to evangelise and disciple people. However, we should bear in mind that we are unlikely to find our buildings in Heaven. The Bible describes the early Church as a community of believers more interested in people than in buildings.

Let us also commit ourselves to organising and supporting mission outreaches to people within our own churches and beyond our parishes who do not know Jesus Christ yet. In Heaven we will be glad to see all those whom we have invited and helped to follow Jesus.

Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times when our priorities shifted from caring for people towards caring for buildings;
- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we tried to steal God's honour by building magnificent churches with the purpose that people may praise us;
-  that God helps us to put evangelism and caring for our people at the forefront of our church programmes.

Passage for further study: 2 Corinthians 8:1-8



Missionaries from our midst

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38). We had great Ugandan missionaries in the past, like Apolo Kivebulaya, who went into Congo, or Festo Kivengere, who went with his family as a missionary to Tanzania and later became a global evangelist. However, God’s desire for mission has not stopped with the past.

It is true that many doors in the world are still closed for us, but God is able to open closed doors overnight. Our concern should not be with the closed doors. Our responsibility are the many doors standing wide open.

Before Jesus assented into Heaven, He called His disciples and gave them His 'last will' to go into the whole world and make disciples. Let us obey Him and participate in that mission.



Pray:



that God creates in us a real desire to pray for more Ugandan missionaries who are willing to go out into the wider world;



that God raises a new generation of great missionaries from our midst, who are committed to go into the world and share God’s Word with those who do not know Jesus Christ;



that committed Christians form a Ugandan Missionary Society to send missionaries out and mobilise funds to care for them.

Passage for further study: Matthew 9:35-38



The Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo contains most of the vast Central African Rain Forest and is 10 times the size of Uganda. The eastern part of Congo especially, is rich in minerals but people are tortured in some areas by rebel groups, tribal conflicts, shortage of food, lack of infrastructure and health care. In addition, in many rural areas Christianity is not deeply rooted and people cling to their traditional ancestral spirits and small gods.

These people are living not far from us. Yet, few Christians from Uganda have done anything to support and strengthen the Church there.

“You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).

Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for knowing about these challenges that our brethren in Congo are facing, but most of us have been neither interested in praying for them nor in finding out how to help them;

🙏 that the conflicts come to an end and a real desire for peace fills the hearts of the conflicting parties;

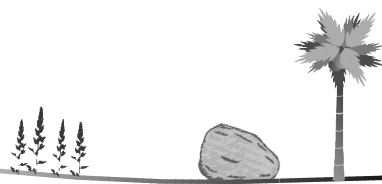
🙏 that Christian leaders of spiritual maturity and moral integrity may rise up to strengthen the Church in Congo and to evangelise the people;

🙏 for a national government which has the support of the people and which will rule with honesty, justice and a respectful concern for the interests of its people.

Passage for further study: 1 Corinthians 12:21-27



Our Jerusalem

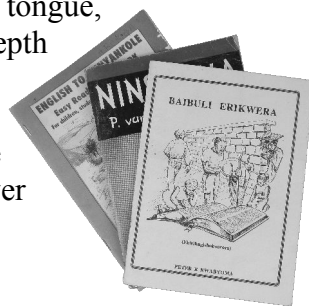


The importance of mother tongue

The mother tongue is the language we learn first on our mother's laps. It is the language in which we first learn to think and talk about the world around us, to interact with people closest to us and to acquire and express our values. It is the language which becomes part of our personality and identity, and which expresses our ethnicity and solidarity with our linguistic community.

Without services and scriptures in the mother tongue, churches are not able to sustain spiritual depth within their cultural identity and values.

William Cameron Townsend emphasised that "[the] greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough¹ and is never considered a foreigner".



Pray:



that our youth may learn and value their mother tongue and respect their own cultural identity. This will enable them also to respect the cultural identity of others;



that more committed Christians may be willing to share their wisdom and experiences by writing and publishing Christian books in their mother tongue. Printed material has a stronger and more sustainable impact in the Church because it can be used many times by many people in many places;



that the gap between those who know English and vernacular (bilingual speakers) and those who know vernacular only does not increase. Sadly, it sometimes results in a bilingual elite in the Church, while the wisdom and spiritual gifts of those who do not know a second language are overlooked.

Passage for further study: Acts 2:1-12

¹To go on furlough means to go on leave.




Favouritism and clans

Favouritism is common in our everyday life. In our families, there is often a tendency to favour certain children and not the others. In society, there is a tendency to favour those from our clans whenever there are opportunities in terms of jobs or educational benefits.

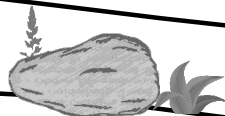
However, Paul's charge to Timothy is that he should not do anything out of partiality or favouritism (1 Timothy 5:21). The kind of justice God loves is to make opportunities available to people on the basis of their potential and abilities – not on the basis of lineage and ancestry.



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we have favoured people just because they were from our own clan or tribe;
- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we have recruited and chosen people for posts in our churches because of their clan, instead of their spiritual gifts;
- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we have put our trust and security in people of our own lineage instead of putting our trust in God;
-  that we learn from Jesus to love all people which makes us able to give equal opportunity to them.

Passage for further study: James 2:8-10



Inviting Muslims to experience the love of Christ

Muslims are our friends, relatives and neighbours. We exchange invitations with them for wedding and other parties. Their religion, Islam, has grown in our villages, towns and cities. The Qur'an emphasises that Jesus (called Isa in the Qur'an) was sent by God (Surah 5:49), that He is the "Word of Truth" (Surah 19:34) and the Messiah (called Isa al-Masih in Surah 3:45) who rose from death (Surah 19:33).

Unfortunately, our Muslim friends do not know what this implies!

Let us invite them to experience the love of Christ and His power to forgive sins. Let us help them to receive His healing power over sicknesses and evil spirits. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Saviour for everyone and the Giver of eternal life.



As Christians, it is our duty to share this wonderful news with our Muslim neighbours.

Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for failing to care for the spiritual needs of Muslims because of their religion. God has called us to share His love with everyone – regardless of religion;

🙏 that God opens our hearts to share the love of Christ with our Muslim neighbours;

🙏 that our Dioceses may arrange trainings for Christians in sharing the Gospel in such a way that our Muslim friends can experience the power of Christ in their lives.

Passage for further study: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3



The Republic of Egypt

Egypt is 4 times the size of Uganda and was influenced by Christianity right from the first century. However, in the 7th century, Islam became the most influential force.

Today, there are about 8 million Christians in Egypt (about 13% of the population). In many areas of public and political life, like in government offices, academic institutions, and the military, Christians are rarely allowed to occupy positions. Christian activities are restricted to church-owned grounds and buildings only. The growing Islamisation of society gives much ground for worry among Christians. Because of this, 10,000-20,000 mainly nominal Christians convert to Islam every year. Others are trying to emigrate to the West or limit their contacts to fellow Christians only.

However, there is hope that more Egyptian Christians will realise their responsibility to share the love of God with their Islamic neighbours. The Bible tells us to “remember those ... who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering” (Hebrews 13:3).

Pray:



that Christians in Egypt who have been discriminated against, unjustly imprisoned and suffered for their testimony to the Lord, will stand firm in their faith;



that Christians may find creative ways to share the love of Christ with their Muslim neighbours;



for fair and humane laws in Egypt that do not discriminate against Christians and are impartially applied by the courts and police;

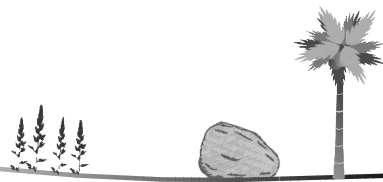


that God raises faithful Christians who have a strong impact in the Egyptian Government and society, as it was during the time of Daniel (Daniel 6:25f).

Passage for further study: Hebrews 13:1-3



Our Jerusalem



Our testimony at home

We have Christians who excel in giving testimonies and preaching outside their families and local churches. However, sometimes they fail to live that testimony within their local church and at home.

It is easy to appear as a strong Christian far away from home because we can hide our weaknesses. But our families and local churches know who we really are. Therefore, the best training place for us to become real strong Christians is at home where everyone knows us. Home is the most effective place for us to mature in faith by allowing the fruit of the Spirit to grow in our lives: love, humility, kindness, patience, gentleness, self-control etc. (Galatians 5:22f).

Imagine how amazing and powerful our testimony could be in transforming lives for Christ if we began to live it in our families, our neighbourhood and our local churches.



Pray:



that God enables us to begin with our “living testimony” in our families, in our neighbourhood, in our places of work and in our local churches;



that our testimony is not just a matter of words but something practical, evident to our people through the way we live;



that Christians may go to live and preach wherever God calls them but leave a good testimony at home.

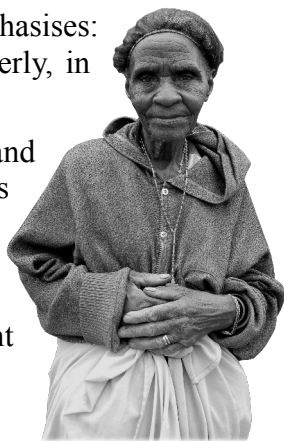
Passage for further study: 1 John 1:5-9






Ministry to old people

Every society and every church has old people. This group has much life experience and wisdom although their physical strength and health have decreased. They have sacrificed their lives to build up our generation. That's why the Bible emphasises: "You shall give due honour and respect to the elderly, in the fear of God. I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:32).

However, because of their limited strength and resources, some children and even some churches and their leaders have started to neglect the old people by failing to visit them, to care for their needs or to serve them Holy Communion in their homes. And those who worked for the government sometimes find it hard to access their pension.



Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we fail to advocate and care for old people in our community and in our churches;
- ✝ that God forgives us when we fail to appreciate them for what they have done for us;
-  that God increases our love for elderly people and gives us a humble heart to serve them;
-  that churches sets up ministries to visit and care for their needs;
-  that the state, the church and especially children may feel responsible for their parents.

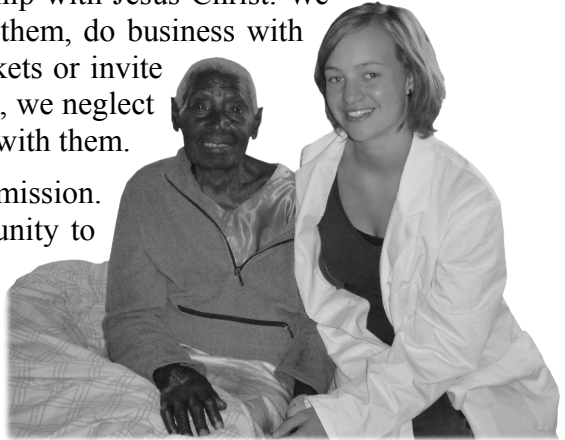
Passage for further study: 1 Timothy 5:1-8



Sharing our testimony with expatriates

Our country Uganda receives many expatriates e.g. NGO workers, volunteers, Indians, Arabs and tourists. Many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Bahai or Atheists and have never had the opportunity to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We help them to settle, work with them, do business with them, buy from their supermarkets or invite them into our homes - but often, we neglect to share the goodness of Christ with them.

Uganda is a strategic place for mission. We have the wonderful opportunity to share God's love with the expatriates and spread the Gospel of Christ through them to the whole world.



Pray:

✝ that God forgives us for the times we have neglected to share our testimony with our visitors and expatriates;

🙏 that God puts in us a real desire to build friendships and share the love of Christ with our Arab, Indian, Chinese and other neighbours;

🙏 that tourists may experience the reality of Christ in our lives.

Passage for further study: 1 Peter 3:13-17



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Great Britain is a union of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All these four states together have the size of Uganda but a population of about 59 million.

Britain's contribution to world evangelization in the last 200 years was unique. In 1877, the first British Missionaries arrived to spread the Gospel in Uganda. At that time, many British people were willing to go into foreign countries and to risk their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

Today, about 28% of the population claim to be non-religious. Furthermore, a large percentage of church members are nominal Christians without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Christian heritage has been continually eroded by post-modernist world-views. Sadly, many sectors of the public life no longer reflect the Christian values. However, evangelical Christians are growing in number, despite considerable general church decline.

Pray:



for Christians to remain firm in the truth of the Gospel and shine as true examples, which once made Britain's Christians a blessing to the world;



for a vigorous spirit among Christians reaching out to their fellow citizens;

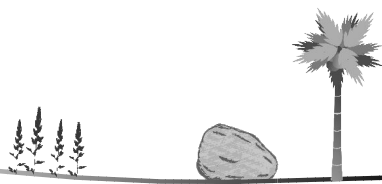


that Christians become passionate for God's glory, feel a burden to pray for revival and be freed from a deadening negativism and materialism that destroys the life of many churches;



that Church leadership might regain a prophetic role and speak with clear biblical authority to a nation that is morally and spiritually declining.

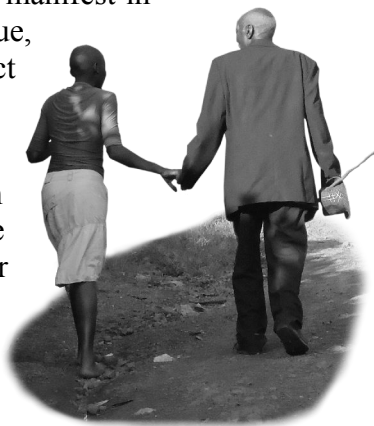
Passage for further study: Revelation 2:1-7



Bridging the generational gap

There is a growing concern in Uganda today about the expanding gap between the young and the older generations. Young people see themselves as educated, modern and advanced in technology. They have new ideas and want change, while the older generation is often less educated but they have much more life experience and hold the key positions in the church. The gap seems to get even broader with the decline of cultural identity among the youth, manifest in things like not treasuring their mother tongue, their change of dress-code and the disrespect for African community life. All these factors have much potential to create conflicts.

However, as brethren in Christ we as youth and elderly belong to one God where we have the same commandment to love one another and the same mission of spreading the Gospel.



Pray:



that the old generation allows the youth to explore their own ways of worshipping God, expressing their love to Him and evangelising their fellow youth;



that God fills the youth with the sense to appreciate and value the advice and guidance of the old generation;



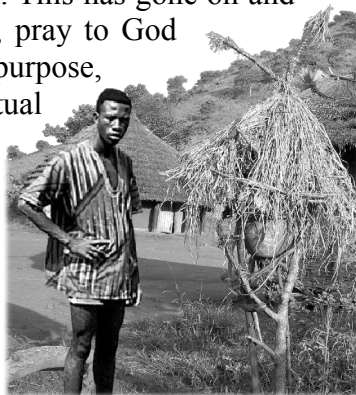
for the church to initiate programmes where young and old can join hands and work together to glorify God.

Passage for further study: Colossians 3:12-17



African Traditional Religion and Syncretism

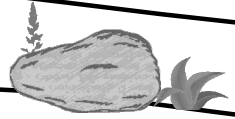
Before missionaries came to Uganda and Africa in general, many Africans had different ways of approaching God. With the coming of missionaries, these practices were very much discouraged since God rejects some of these approaches in the Bible. Many Africans, however, could not just let it go. They opted to accept and practise both Christianity and African Traditional Religion. This has gone on and on till today. Some Christians, for example, pray to God for help and consult, for the same purpose, “traditional doctors” who use other spiritual powers. This has led to stunted spiritual growth because no one can serve two masters (Luke 16:13). Jesus Christ made it very clear that He is the only true mediator (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15) and, therefore, other ways to approach and please God do not please Him.



Pray:

- ✝ for God’s forgiveness for the times we didn’t have faith in Jesus but also tried to use traditional approaches to push God for faster results;
- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we gossiped about people who consult those traditional doctors, instead of teaching them to trust in the power of Jesus;
- ✝ that God forgives us for the times we voted those people into positions within our churches while knowing about their syncretic behaviour;
- ✋ that God increases our ability to reach out to those people with love and wisdom.

Passage for further study: Deuteronomy 18:9-13



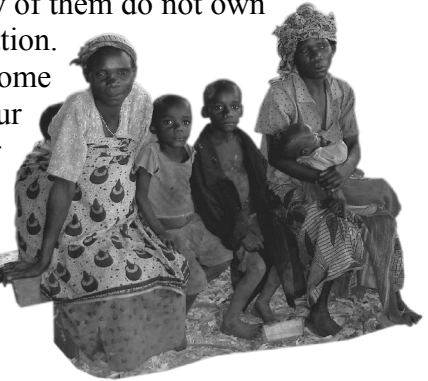
The Batwa people

God created everyone in His own image – without any exception (Genesis 1:27). A few verses later, the Bible emphasises: God saw all that He had made, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

Every human being is created wonderfully in God's image and, therefore, we are all very valuable and precious in God's eyes.

The Batwa are living in our midst. Very few of them are saved and glorify God as committed Christians. Many of them do not own land to cultivate and have no proper education.

As a result, many of them are poor and some depend on begging. There are people in our midst who laugh at them because of their habits, their size, their dialect etc. and call them backward. However, when we look down on them, we despise what God has created in His own image.



Pray:

✝ for God's forgiveness for the times we talked unkindly against the Batwa;

✝ that God forgives us for the times we laughed at them, instead of following the example of Christ to love and help them;

🙏 that God increases our love for the Batwa so that we can value, respect and appreciate them because they are very precious in God's eyes, like everyone else;

🙏 that God calls people from our midst who are willing to share God's love and salvation with the Batwa voluntarily. God's desire is to see many of them with us before His throne, worshipping Him in eternity (Revelation 7:9).

Passage for further study: Genesis 1:27-31



The Republic of South Sudan





South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011 and is 3.5 times the size of Uganda. It has a sad history of almost 50 years of war that killed more than 2.5 million people. The war has left the state with an estimated population of 8 million.

South Sudan is just on our northern border but has one of the world's weakest economies and health systems, little infrastructure and the highest maternal mortality and female illiteracy in the world (as of 2011).

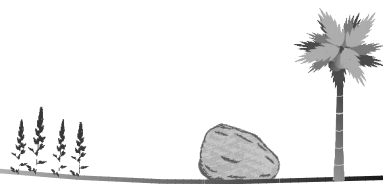
Most of the people still follow their old traditional religions and do not know the love of Jesus Christ. Where Christianity has reached, most are Catholics or Anglicans.

Furthermore, our brothers and sisters in South Sudan are still facing 7 different rebel groups in 9 out of its 10 districts, with tens of thousands displaced.

Pray:

- ✝ that God forgives us for the times our hearts grew cold towards our suffering brethren in South Sudan;
-  for peace in South Sudan and reconciliation among her peoples;
-  that God grants His wisdom to the Church in South Sudan to enable her evangelise and care for the people;
-  for missionaries who are willing to go there to preach the Gospel, to improve the health system, to educate the people and to offer them vocational training;
-  that God provides the Church with resources to care for the many orphans and street children left by the war.

Passage for further study: 1 John 3:14-18






Christians in positions of influence

In Uganda, we boast of confessing Christians who hold influential positions both in the civil service and the political sector. They are MP's, RDC's, ministers, permanent secretaries, medical people, bankers, teachers, to mention just a few. These people face strains and stresses from within the public and private spheres.

Our brothers and sisters in these influential positions need our prayers, most especially in handling the resources and the legislation of the country.



Pray:

- ✝** that God forgives us for the times we engaged in improper or rude talk about our leaders;
-  for the MP's Christian fellowship and for workplace Christian fellowships;
-  that God gives our MP's uncompromised Christian minds during their legislation period in parliament;
-  that God raises leaders with proper accountability and disciplined character in our country.

Passage for further study: 1 Timothy 2:1-4



Encourage one another

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

God has given us His Spirit to strengthen and guide us for a specific purpose: to witness. It does not say “try to be a witness” or “struggle to witness”. It says “you will be my witness”, because this is the consequence of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit who lives in us is a Spirit of mission and when we allow Him to guide us, He will guide us to do God’s mission. Ours is to listen to His voice and to do what He tells us.

May God help us, and may we encourage each other not to restrict ourselves to the most comfortable areas only.

May the love of God lead us to love people. As we learn to love people we desire to pray for them.

Pray:



that God continues to create in us love for His people and a desire to pray for them;



that God gives us a servant heart to minister even to those people who live in a challenging environment;



that God makes us willing to use the opportunities we have for mission instead of dreaming of opportunities we do not have;



that we encourage each other to pray for mission.

Passage for further study: Acts 1:6-11

***You are invited to start the new month with the first prayer item again.
Interceding for our brothers and sisters is an ongoing process.***