

Prayer Season 1

11 - 31 January 2021

Corporate days of fasting

11, 18, and 25 January 2021



Greetings from the Prayer Coordination Team

All of God's characteristics are equal in their wonderful greatness, but His grace, that has granted forgiveness to wanton sinners and gives them a second chance, perhaps shines a little brighter than all the others. (Miguel De Cervantes)

The year 2020 was a year of grace. It was God's unmerited favour upon our lives as well as on the ministry of African Enterprise. Many turned to Christ through the newly-developed Home-based Evangelism strategy, in which we trained many Christians across the continent.

As we come into this time of prayer and fasting for 2021, let us be mindful of God's love, grace, and mercy by which He will bring to completion what He has started.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10 [New Living Translation])

Fasting

We encourage each person to fast, especially on the Corporate Prayer Days. This can be a full fast, a partial fast, or a fast from an activity to give you more time to pray. Your choice is between you and God alone.

Prayer

We encourage each office, Board, intercessory group, spouse, and volunteer of African Enterprise to determine your way of spending this time with God. We encourage you to involve the prayer groups around you, both within and outside of AE.

Please let us know if you have any testimonies or God-given messages for the organisation. This will be a great encouragement in the work of the Lord.

Please send all comments to prayer@aeint.org.

Blessings,

Biggie Paul

Prayer Coordinator

on behalf of Stephen Mbogo, Emmanuel Kwigera, Salome Mumbi, Joan Addison, Joana Amegashi, Lucas Owako, and Guide Makore and as the Prayer Coordination Team

11 January 2021

Corporate Day of Fasting

AE International CEO - Stepen Mbogo

African Enterprise January 2021 Call to Prayer

Early last year (2020) at COVID-19's onset, I read an article that sought to look ahead at what the impact of COVID-19 would look like. The article, using the weather seasons as a metaphor, gave three scenarios: COVID-19 as a *winter storm*, as a *blizzard*, and as a *severe prolonged winter*. My wishful thinking was that COVID-19's impact would be short lived, a passing storm! Now we know it turned out to be what we feared: a prolonged severe winter-like scenario that ran for the entire year 2020. In its wake, it left deaths, families psychosocially affected, loss of jobs with economies on their knees, and leadership squabbles that didn't spare governments. While thankful that we have seen God's grace among AE's staff, board members, and friends, many of us are cognizant of having lost people, both close and distant. We felt and continue to diversely feel the severity of this long "winter".

The impacts of a long "winter" can in Africa be compared to a long spell of drought. In East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia) such droughts are common. They are characterised by massive livestock loss and in severe cases malnourished children and human death! We refer to these long spells of drought as famines. Coming from a very arid part of Kenya, I have in my short lifetime experienced quite a number of these droughts. The only turn around to these spells is rainfall! It's interesting that long droughts will often be followed by heavy rains just as a spring and a summer follow and eliminate the severity of winter.

While in nature these cycles occur naturally, I want to encourage us to seize this start of year 2021 Prayer and Fasting Season as a time to intercede and usher in "a new season". My prayer is that just as the rainy season alters the landscape from dryness to lushness, that in our waiting on Him, He the Lord may refresh and rejuvenate us. The psalmist's cry "Oh Lord restore our fortunes" (Psalm 126:4) expresses this longing. Reverse what we have lost! Our fortunes, in this case, represents our spiritual state, our health (and that of our friends and communities), our psychosocial state, and even the material possessions (finances and investments) God has placed under our stewardship. The sense of need and pain will vary in all of these. However, I pray that as the Lord grants us brokenness and contriteness of heart—which is the *lush* state of our hearts He desires—that beyond this, the Lord's benevolence in these virus-related times may reach our health as well. John the Apostle's prayer points to good health (that often appears as a mirage) as being equally within God's desire for us:

*Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health, and,
that all may go well with you,
even as your soul is getting along well. (3 John 1:2 [NIV])*

This is my prayer for you during this African Enterprise start of year 2021 Prayer and Fasting Season. With the many things you are bound to pray over, may we also petition and intercede together over this (3 John 1:2) during this prayer season. And, may the Lord restore our fortunes. May He answer us to the extent that we will be amazed as in the case of the Israelites as witnessed by the same psalmist I referred to above.

Day 1

Prayer Season 1
11 - 31 January 2021

11 January 2021

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126:1-3)

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for God's grace upon the AE Staff, Board members, and their families.
- Pray that the Lord would refresh and rejuvenate us, and restore all that we have lost.
- Pray for God's healing for all who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pray that God would continue to protect us and give us good health in this new year.
- Pray that AE would listen and respond to the Shepherd, to be completely surrendered to Him, and follow His will wherever He may lead us as an organisation.



Day 2

12 January 2021

Team Leader Rwanda - John Kalenzi

Anxious About the Future

If we could know the outcome of our entire lives, would we want to know? Some would say yes because they are anxious about what is going to occur. And that is understandable. But we do not have to know what is ahead if we know God. We can rest in the future that He has for us because He loves us so much. (*Holy Bible-READING Plans*)

The COVID-19 Pandemic has levied many challenges upon the entire world. The challenges range from economic to social, from psychological to spiritual.

- Many people's source of livelihood has been negatively affected due to the total and partial lockdowns which continue to impoverish the poor and marginalised groups and to further entrench chronic poverty. There are more people now who are unemployed or underemployed as local economies cave under the movement restrictions nationally and beyond. As this happens, inflation is sharply increasing making basic commodities out of reach for many people.
- Some social protection programmes are not operating at the same pace as before the pandemic due to containment measures.
- In most countries, Christian fellowship through church meetings and prayer gatherings has been negatively affected with many church buildings still closed and therefore not accessible for fellowship and comfort.
- The social fabric in many communities has changed significantly, as recommended safety measures continue to change rapidly. Instead this is increasingly replaced with fear, uncertainty, suspicion, and grief as families are unable to embrace, comfort, or celebrate through sickness, death, and joyous celebrations.

Let us turn to Matthew 11:28-30.

Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne. (*AMPC*)

Prayer Points

- Pray that we would put our trust in God and shift our eyes from the troubles that surround us.
- Pray that we will live by faith and not by sight.
- Pray that through fervent prayer we can draw the strength to cast our anxieties, worries, and concerns to the Lord, with full understanding that He cares for us.

Day 3

13 January 2021

Team Leader Ethiopia - Mel Mesfin

God Is Able

AEE in its COVID-19 response met a poor lady called Emebet who was in her final week of expecting a child and we supplied her with food parcels. Six weeks after the first visit, AEE went back to her and supplied the family with food items and warm clothing for the new-born baby. She said “your follow up has made me feel recognised, loved, and cared for. Now I feel warmth inside of me.”

The COVID-19 experience reminds us of the flood that came on the earth at the time of Noah. God quarantined Noah and his family, eight people total, along with two of every kind of living creature, inside the ark to save their lives. This may be referred to as the first worldwide quarantine that lasted for a year.

Noah and his family placed their trust in the Lord despite the circumstances. Noah “walked faithfully with God” (Genesis 6:9). But the generation was unrighteous and most wicked. So, we learn from Noah’s life that it is possible to walk with God even when everything around us seems to be spiritually degenerating.

After rain fell for 40 days and nights and the earth flooded for 150 days, God kept his promise to Noah. God made an end to the catastrophe by bringing wind, which can be done by Almighty God alone. The life of Noah provides us with a roadmap for obedience. Let us walk with God, listen to Him, and obey so we are spared in the time of trouble. Let us also be God’s tool to help others in such a time of crisis.

As we continue to help out the poor and pray for God’s intervention, God is able to make an end to the COVID-19 crisis in a mighty way.

Prayer Points

- Obedience is better than sacrifice. Pray that we will be obedient to God’s commands.
- Pray that we would not be an unrighteous and wicked generation but would walk faithfully with God.
- Pray that we would be God’s tools to help others in time of crisis to be brought into a living hope through faith.
- Pray for God’s intervention that He is able to make an end to the COVID-19 crisis.

14 January 2021

Team Leader Tanzania - Emmanuel Kopwe

When the Going Gets Rough

The going has been tough, since COVID-19 was a reality globally. At first to every one of us within Africa the virus seemed a farfetched dream. We were all overwhelmed with fear and deeply shocked when news of the virus became real issues in our communities. The WHO's projections for countries like Tanzania were mass deaths in the streets; adding to the fears, especially when the developed countries were showing an inability to contain the pandemic. The news and handling of the pandemic generated serious challenges in the lives of people. African social values and relations were greatly challenged: doubting even loved ones, services, and support systems generated deep grief. Economies of many individuals, families, and nations become more vulnerable and grimmer.

However, the proverb is true that says, "*when the going gets tough, the tough get going.*" We are thankful in Tanzania for being spared at individual and national level. Our President got tough in the name of God: he stood against the global trends that generated fear, filling the global vacuum of leadership, and strategically helped the people to cautiously go on with their lives while observing protective measures and recommended diet and supplements. He was strong on the need for trusting God. Esther and Mordechai in the book of Esther showed that in times of difficulties we need to run to God, not lose heart, and completely trust God. Even those who are facing second or third waves of the pandemic, please remember that nothing is too hard for the Lord. Tough times require alignment with and standing with God, not the crowd.

Prayer Points

- Pray for those who are suffering and losing hope, that they may be encouraged.
- Pray for the right support to those who need it.
- Pray for courageous leadership, against fear of ridicule, and indifference in trusting God.

Day 5

15 January 2021

CEO South Africa - Theuns Pauw

COVID-19 2020: Challenges & Praises

As we take time out to pray collectively for the year ahead, we also reflect on God's goodness and mercy through the year that has been...a year like no other...2020.

From an organisational perspective, we have had to restructure and re-imagine our roles and effectiveness, while relying on God for provision to see us through the economic crunch.

From a missional perspective, we have had to pivot to a greater emphasis on social action in the form of food security and supplying of face masks and sanitizers. We have also had to learn to engage the world online through digital evangelism.

From a personal perspective, we have had to distance ourselves from loved ones: my wife and I had to recover from contracting COVID-19; we had to home-school our children; we had to work from home; we had to learn to do things ourselves; etc.

From a spiritual perspective, as the Church, we have had to press in to the Lord like never before, with nowhere else to go, and no control over the situation...history proving yet again that Jesus is the ultimate and only true refuge! Consequently, many put their faith in Christ for the first time, and many others grew in their faith.

Someone said, "every time I count my blessings, my love for God grows bigger...and every time I count my struggles, my faith in God grows stronger."

So last year was challenging in many respects, but we have also learnt and grown stronger. I would like to echo and claim David's last verse of Psalm 23 for each of us:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Our Lord carried us through 2020, and He will do so again in 2021.

Prayer Points

- Thank the Lord for carrying us through 2020.
- Seek the Lord for His guidance and wisdom for 2021.
- Ask the Lord for a great harvest of souls in 2021.
- Appeal to the Lord for an abundance (of provision) for every good work.

Day 6

16 January 2021

Team Leader DRC - Leonard Kiswangi

COVID-19 Experience: Challenges & Praises

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

Paul urges us through this instruction to his son Timothy so that we are prepared to preach the Word be it in in-season or in out-of-season circumstances.

Paul gives a picture of the major needs of the community at any given time. The essential thing he urges us to do is doing what must be done in order to save people's lives before God's anger comes upon those who would not obey or those who would just undermine God's call to repentance. So, Paul instructs: "Correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instructions."

Paul's reading of the future times then—now our present times—described strange seasons such as the one caused by COVID-19 with the global impact humbling men and women in every walk of life with no exception. Knowing the kind of sufferings waiting for anyone who will be without Christ in their lives, those who would choose to give in to sins rather than inviting Christ in their lives, Paul warns Timothy to be prepared and escape from this: "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control..." (2 Timothy 3:1-8).

As it has been observed by all of us, 2020 has been a terrible season. The statistics of those affected by the pandemic and those who died from this pandemic may give us just a glimpse of the terrible time we are living in. We have experienced such a huge confusion and the chaotic environment the world without Christ looks like, thus the urgency for us to go and witness Christ as the only solution to the salvation of all mankind.

Genesis 1:2 encourages us to seek and cry out to God who alone can give shape and hope into a corrupted earth; the formless, hopeless, and helpless people; the earth void of peace, meaning, and perspective. We need to call upon the Holy Spirit while He is still hovering over all situations we are in. We have experienced brokenness in people around us. We have herein experienced that being alive on a daily basis is God's grace more than anything else.

Prayer Points

- We are living in the end times. Pray that we will be resolute and resilient in the preaching of the Word.
- Pray that we will seek the Kingdom of God first and not be lovers of ourselves.
- Pray that we would change with the changing world and discern the environment and atmosphere.
- COVID-19 has taught us to preach the Word in season and out of season. Pray that we would be prepared at all times.

17 January 2021

Missions Director Malawi - Abel Sauti-Phiri

COVID-19 Pandemic: The Challenges and Hope It Brought in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic came with devastating shock in 2020 around the globe. There was and still is great fear, anger, panic, and desperation in the world. Life in 2020 has completely been disturbed: we have lost many people; business has been negatively affected; family life, education, and church life all have been affected negatively and positively if you like. Immediate questions were and are still coming, "Why this pandemic? Why has God allowed this pandemic?" The questions are many.

Life has changed, businesses have nosedived, poverty levels increased, and there has been an alarming rate of girl-pregnancy during lockdown. But COVID-19 has not only been the monster of our time.

One Scripture passage came to mind as I pondered on the trying times that have befallen us in 2020 globally: Isaiah 43:1-3. Let us ponder the situation Israel went through during the prophet Isaiah's time. The picture we see in Isaiah 43 is a picture of desperation because it appeared as though God had lost control and that He was not able to rescue His people out of the terrible experience they were going through. God gave them a word of hope in the middle of panic and fear. "Fear not for I have redeemed thee . . . For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy SAVIOUR." For the believer and the church difficult times like these are an opportune time to bring hope to the helpless via the preaching of the gospel. And also to recognise that God is sovereign and His promises are everlasting. AE faced COVID-19 head-on by doing HBE and we thank God that many souls have been encouraged and some have come to a personal relationship with Jesus. May we increase our commitment to winning souls in 2021.

Prayer Points

- Pray that many unbelievers would turn their hearts to God.
- Pray that the church will awake to her duty of preaching the gospel to a dying world.
- Pray that the church would discern new approach of evangelism in the COVID-19 situation.
- Praise God for many souls saved and pray that they will abide in the Lord.



Fear Not

Isaiah 43:1-3

18 January 2021

Corporate Day of Fasting

Team Leader Ghana - Bernard Owusu Sachie

The Faithfulness of God

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so, a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” (Genesis 15:1- 4 [NIV])

The call of Abram was accompanied with a commensurate promise of a blessing:

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing . . . and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.
(Genesis 12:3)

God’s faithfulness came to bear in Abram’s life even when he was in Egypt amidst famine. His family was protected, and his wife was restored to him. Abram became rich in livestock and rich in male and female servants.

In Genesis 14, Abram with his 318 trained men conquered 4 powerful kings and rescued his nephew Lot and his family. It all happened because God was faithful in keeping His promise to Abram.

Unfortunately, fear gripped Abram. Perhaps he feared revenge from the kings he had defeated. Or he was afraid of uncertainties since he did not know what awaited him on his journey.

God gave him two good reasons for courage:

1. He promised to defend Abram: **“I am your shield.”**
2. He promised to be Abram’s **“very great reward.”**

Dear friends, our faithful God provided for us in 2020 amid novel coronavirus (of course there were some losses). He has helped us to wake up to greet 2021. This is enough evidence that God is faithful and so when we are afraid of what lies ahead, we should always remember that God will offer us His providence and protection.

Sometimes we are overwhelmed with life’s challenges and we turn to forget about God’s faithfulness and provision.

Abram did not even realise that the phrase, **“I am your great reward”** actually implied that everything he needed was already catered for, so long as he remained a friend of God.

18 January 2021

The truth is, he was so preoccupied with his childlessness that he could not receive the assured Word of God. He questioned God's integrity: "**Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless?**"

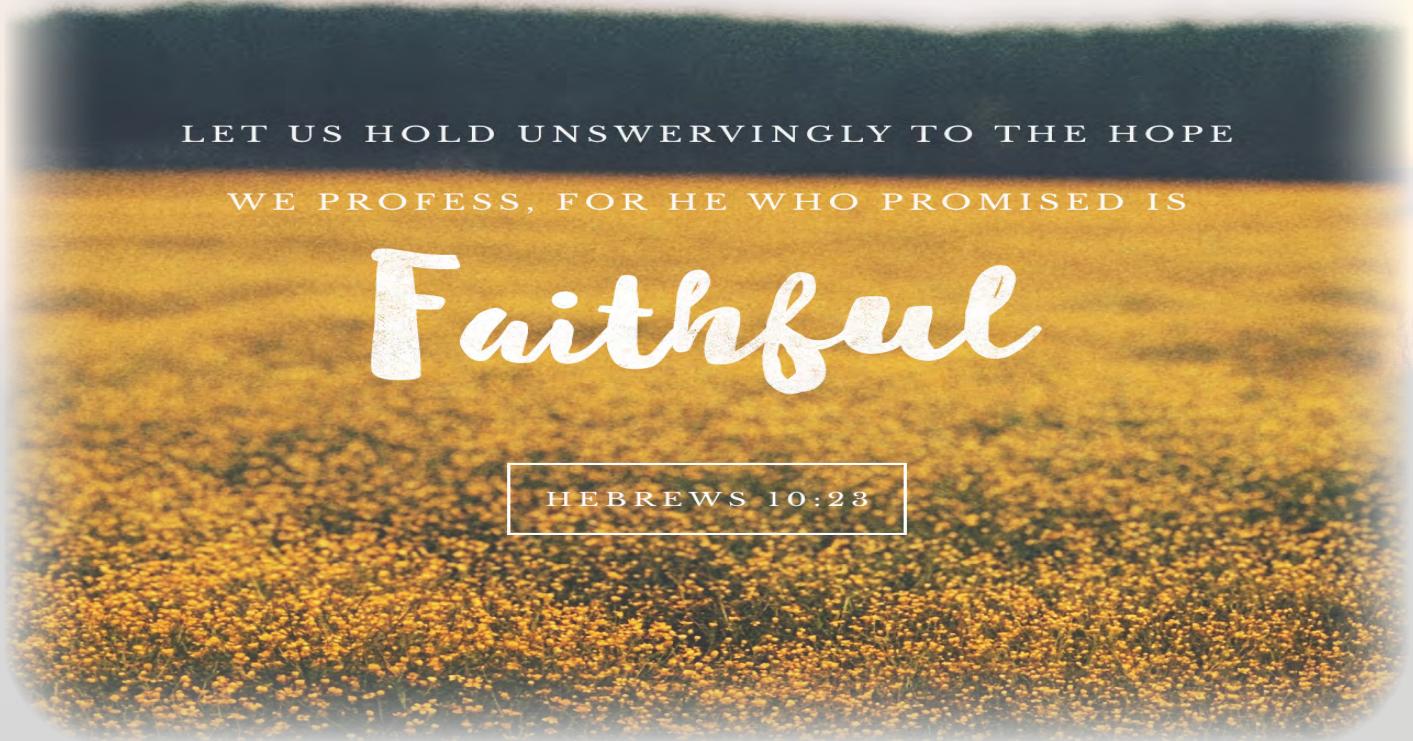
As we begin 2021 let us try not to be preoccupied with what we have or do not have. It is time to shake off all the unbelief and receive the Word of God in its wholeness.

Our trust in God's faithfulness should not give room for doubts and faithless questions.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
(Hebrews 10:23)

Prayer Points

- Let us thank God for His provision and protection for all AE teams and partners in 2020.
- Let us pray for people who were affected by COVID-19:
 - Those who were and are sick,
 - Those who suffered the loss of loved ones, and
 - Those who are suffering the loss of work and income.
- Let us pray for God's Spirit to touch our hearts and give us wisdom as leaders leading His people into evangelism.
- Pray that the coronavirus will not be a threat hanging over our heads for an indefinite time, but that God will work out a miraculous intervention according to His will.
- Pray that God will overrule the plans of Satan and his agenda.



LET US HOLD UNSWERVINGLY TO THE HOPE

WE PROFESS, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS

Faithful

HEBREWS 10:23

19 January 2021

Acting Team Leader Uganda - Edward Mubiru

The AEE-Uganda COVID-19 Experiences, Challenges, Celebrations, and Reflections

Overall Impact

It is widely acknowledged that governments and organisations took measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. However, some of the government measures totally disrupted the supply chain and healthcare service delivery system as all efforts were focused on COVID-19. The global economy has been hit hard. Beyond the health sector COVID-19 unleashed profound personal, family, community, and national tremors across the globe in the realms of the social, spiritual, and even political.

Experiences and Challenges for AEE-Uganda

In the short-to-medium term, COVID-19 created tremendous uncertainty towards ministry plans for AEE-Uganda. Scenario planning became the norm characterised by “moving goal posts” all the time. We scaled back and adjusted plans. Staff logistics quickly became a nightmare. “Work-from-home” arrangements became inevitable while we dreaded the prospect of suddenly ending staff contracts which became a real possibility too. **Uncertainty characterised our operating context.**

Infections, Recoveries and Some Deaths

In Uganda, the first wave of COVID-19 (March - June 2020), passed without confirmed deaths due to COVID-19. However, between October and November 2020, “community-level” infections set in. By 3 December 2020 the WHO reported 21,401 confirmed cases in Uganda, of whom 9,044 (42%) recoveries and 205 deaths. Closer to home, AEE-Uganda members have reported infections among church members and close family and friends. A couple of AEE-Uganda Board Members were infected/affected but recovered. AEE-Uganda responded with online engagements of members and friends of AEE to demonstrate **care**, to enable **sharing** of experiences and expert knowledge, and to **dare** members to find creative solutions for continued ministry. The introduction of Home-based Encounters (HBE) was very timely for us.

Praise items

- Despite COVID-19 and its effects, AEE-Uganda registered significant growth in ministry.
- A scaled-down Makindye Mission was completed despite COVID-19 and related restrictions.
- Uganda’s government and private efforts: e.g. providing food rations and other essentials for vulnerable urban populations.

The LORD will keep you from all harm:
he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over
your coming and going
both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

19 January 2021

Reflection

Our God has proved once again that He has power over world affairs. He protects, preserves, and sustains lives over the earth and beyond. Even for unexplainable phenomena before us, we still turn to God who hears and is able.

Prayer Points

- Pray for leaders in all countries as they make tough decisions in the face of COVID-19.
- Pray for staff and boards among all AE Offices: for protection, preservation, and courage in the face of COVID-19.
- Pray for the millions infected, hundreds of thousands of families affected, and individuals who have lost loved ones.
- Pray for Uganda (elections due in January 2021), and Ethiopia (political tensions there).
- Pray for effective holistic transformation wherever AE works.



Day 10

20 January 2021

Team Leader Kenya - Benson Omondi

A Pandemic of Opportunities

What was seen as a disruption with the capacity to bring to a halt all possibilities of outreach, has turned out to be a pandemic of hope with innumerable opportunities to serve. At least for the AE Kenyan team, the odds accelerated our response and the need to adjust quickly to what would have otherwise kept us indoors. We drew our inspiration from Ephesians 3:7.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

This Scripture reminded us of the following:

1. Once we become servants of the gospel, God gives us the ability to effectively share the gospel when it's favourable and when it is not favourable.
2. Regardless of our spiritual offices, God is gracious to each believer to provide alongside every opportunity, the ability, courage, and power to accomplish every task.
3. Our availability to serve those in need makes us conduits through which God fulfils His eternal purposes in every season.

As an organisation with the mandate to evangelise through word and deed, we therefore did not hold back preaching even during the obviously difficult season. The dwindling resources, yet amazing results have proved that God follows obedience with His provision. Rejoice with us on the following amazing praise points on what the Lord has done through feeble hands.

- **Prayer Mobilisation:** We closed the month of September successfully having mobilised our associates for a 30-day period of 24/7 prayers.
- **Great harvest:** We have continued to proclaim the word during our community-based outreach programmes where we have experienced a great response during prayers and sharing of the word prior to the actual food distribution.
- **Enhanced partnerships through food distribution:** Pastors are reporting restoration of church members in their assemblies through the food distribution partnerships among their congregants. We thank God for all our local and international supporters who enabled us to distribute food and face masks to vulnerable communities.
- **Home-based Evangelism:** We have aggressively equipped the body of Christ in Kenya and beyond to evangelise through Home-based Evangelism (HBE) with incredible results.
- **Digital engagement:** A vibrant online ministry on social media with daily quality postings has yielded immense feedback on the need to engage on media platforms as the new normal.
- **Preliminary Theological Course (PTC):** We have actively facilitated the PTC training in conjunction with Moore Theological College in Sydney, Australia with over 122 registered students up from 22 in the previous years.
- **Trauma Healing:** We have conducted the Trauma Healing session to families and pastors' wives whose houses were demolished by the government at Kariobangi estate.

Day 10

20 January 2021

Finally brethren, celebrate with us the faithfulness of the Lord in hosting the Proclaim2020 Virtual Congress, which brought together the continent in a one-of-a-kind gathering. A total of 3,318 individuals registered for the congress, representing 49 African countries and African diaspora in 10 nations. The 3-day congress had 1,892 participants, achieving a connection and networking goal as anticipated. Glory be to the Lord of harvest.

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the associates in Kenya who joined in the Prayer Mobilisation. Pray that their partnership would help promote the gospel.
- Praise God for the distribution of the food hampers that helped church members to be restored to their churches.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for Benson Omondi as he leads the Kenyan team in 2021.
- Pray that the glory and presence of God be with the Kenyan team in all their endeavours for 2021.



Day 11

21 January 2021

Missions Director Rwanda - Albert Mabasi

What Can We Learn from Our COVID-19 Experience?

**God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.**

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging. (Psalm 46:1-3 [GNT])**

The bible is not silent about troubles and that is why the Psalmist prepares all of us to take our refuge in God. The outbreak of COVID-19 became an eye opener for all of us to understand that this world is not our home. It also revealed to many that only God has the final authority over everything that happens. Both the rich and the poor, young and old, educated and illiterate were all affected by COVID-19. As Christians, we are not supposed to be taken by fear when troubles come. We know where to go when hard times hit us and when troubles knock at our doors. Our refuge is in God.

COVID-19 was a big challenge to many people all over the world. People lost their loved ones and businesses collapsed. God made a promise in His word to always be with us even when trouble comes. 2021 is in God's hands.

Prayer Points

- Pray for people who lost all their business and currently have no other means of livelihood.
- Pray for our governments to continue fighting this world pandemic while at the same time helping their citizens to stay hopeful.
- Pray for pastors and other church leaders to keep their faith in God even when their churches have been closed because of COVID-19.
- Pray for scientists to quickly find a safe vaccine for COVID-19 so that many lives may be saved now and in the future.

22 January 2021

Executive Director Australia - Ben Campbell

Overflowing with Generosity to Those in Need in the Midst of Trials

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)

During this time of COVID-19 we have seen the best and worst of people as we adapt to the trials that we are experiencing. Many of us have seen the very best from people and government as we adapt to the circumstances and tend to our community. In some parts of the world we have seen fighting over the smallest items such as toilet paper or repressive governments using lockdown to their own advantage.

When we reflect on this Scripture above, we remember the Macedonian church who despite the severe trials due to persecution and poverty, generously gave to brothers and sisters in need in other countries and regions through the evangelistic ministry of Paul. He highlighted the need that he saw first-hand, and the church responded.

With African Enterprise we are so thankful for the generosity of supporters who have made the evangelistic work possible in Africa, and we have all benefited from hearing the conversion stories, and rejoiced that the love of Jesus is manifested in word and deed. In the midst of our own trials, the sacrificial giving and kindness of supporters is overflowing to the Lord's people in Africa, bringing hope and love, and we in turn are benefiting from thankfulness and rejoicing in the building of God's Kingdom.

Prayer Points

- In all the ways that we excel in life through Christ, may we also excel in the grace of giving (see 2 Corinthians 8:7).
- Pray for the protection of lives through safe living and eventual vaccine distribution, and that the world would turn to Jesus for hope and truth and peace as we open borders again.
- Pray for all the plans of AE to make disciples of all nations giving glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

23 January 2021

Executive Director Europe - Lynn Nwagbara

COVID-19 2020: Challenges & Praises

For most of us last year was probably one we would very much like to forget and very much put behind us. In Europe the situation has been extremely difficult with two lockdowns (as I write this we are still there), only being allowed out to shop for food and limited exercise. This also affected all our plans for fundraising as it was no longer possible to meet with people, visit churches or organise and attend conferences.

I was at the Evangelists Forum in Lyon, France in early March when I learnt that it was no longer possible for us to travel to Togo for the Training of Trainers sessions for the mission to Lome. I spent most of the Forum trying to cancel or change my ticket! At that stage we had no idea what was ahead of us. Now we have glimmers of hope on the horizon that a medical solution has been found and that cases of COVID-19 are falling. Travel is becoming a possibility again.

This has been a time of fear and anxiety for many and a huge learning curve for most Western countries to realise that they are not in control, that they have been brought to their knees and have started to ask some fundamental questions. This has given the church an open window to stand up and speak out and with the technological advances of recent years many very quickly started online services and others upped their game for online evangelism. Even within my own local church in Brussels we have had new people starting to come to our online services. Just last Sunday I was in a breakout room with a new lady who indicated that she found joining an online service much easier than coming through the physical doors of a church: that it was less intimidating and more “user-friendly”.

I remember in one team meeting Stephen Mbogo, our ITL, saying, “We cannot stay silent as evangelists, we have to find other ways to share the gospel.” So within African Enterprise we quickly changed strategy to what we now know as Home-based Evangelism and how effective it is proving to be. Hopefully this is a strategy to be included in all missions going forward!

I have hope and I am encouraged by the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 91) who in the midst of trials said these words,

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

And then the psalm closes with these words from the Lord,

Because he loves me I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he will acknowledge my name.

He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

Day 13

Prayer Season 1
11 - 31 January 2021

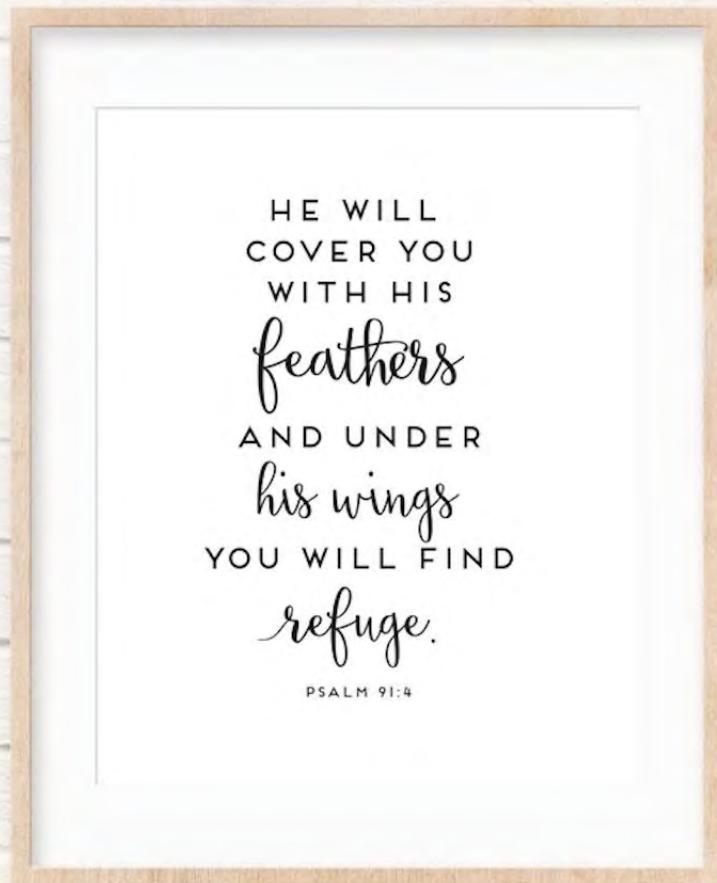
23 January 2021

Praise Points

- Give praise for all those who have stood with us in prayer and finances during this last year.
- Give praise for those who have returned to the Lord during these difficult times.
- Give praise for those who have entered the Kingdom for the first time realising that the Lord is Sovereign and reigns supreme over all the earth.

Prayer Points

- Pray for our national leaders to have an encounter with the Lord and give the nations back to Him.
- Pray for creativity for the support offices as they seek to raise funds for the ministry in an increasingly difficult climate.
- Pray for the AE team and their families around the world for health and protection as they seek to give their best for the Lord's work.
- Pray for African Enterprise to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to bring many more to Himself.



Day 14

24 January 2021

International Social Action Director - Janet Mwendwa

COVID-19 Experience with the Social Action Programmes

Praises:

From the social action desk, we bring a sacrifice of praise to God as the year comes towards a close. We have witnessed God's hand in several fronts:

- **Protection of our frontline soldiers.** A good number of members of staff were directly involved in COVID-19 response programmes. We can be grateful that we have not lost any to the pandemic.
- **Provision of funding to support the work.** God graciously provided through our support offices and we met our budgets.
- **Divine enablement.** Eleven national offices had implemented COVID-19 response programmes by the end of the third quarter. Through these social action interventions, we reached 209,293 beneficiaries with 8,133 commitments to Christ. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve and transform lives during this season.

Challenges:

The year has had more than its fair share of challenges:

- **COVID-19 infections among staff members.** The news of staff members who got infected in their line of duty was scaring and discouraging. We turned to God in prayer during such times. The Lord was gracious enough to heal them.
- **Suspension of some of our programmes.** Most of our programmes are social-based and they therefore require people to meet. With the lockdowns and health restrictions, we had to put some projects on hold which had a negative effect on beneficiaries' lives. This also meant decreased income and limited activity on the normal social action programmes. We, however, diverted the efforts to emergency relief programmes by responding to the COVID-19 crisis. We got the opportunity to bring hope to many.
- **Deferred trainings and programmes.** The Community Transformation Groups approach training for social action managers which was scheduled for mid-March had to be cancelled. Many of our plans changed and we had to adjust to the change within a very short time which was a tough experience.

Conclusion:

In the challenges and victories of 2020, **Psalm 124:1-8** is so real to us (African Enterprise Family).

God has surely been on our side and He has been our help during very difficult times. He has delivered us from the fowler's snare. He has remained on our side throughout the year. Our hearts are full of gratitude as we approach God's throne during this season of prayer.

24 January 2021

In paraphrasing;

If the Lord had not been on our side, let African Enterprise (AE) say,

If the Lord had not been on our side when the pandemic attacked us, COVID-19 would have swallowed us alive and its effects would have swept us away.

Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by the effects of the disaster.

We have escaped like a bird in from the fowler's snare.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the protection of the frontline workers and the funding to support the work.
- We give thanks to the Lord for many that came to faith through the Social Action Programme.
- Pray that the programmes and training will continue for 2021.



I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the Lord is a guard he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Psalm 34:4-7



Day 15

25 January 2021

Corporate Day of Fasting

Board Chair USA - John Reynolds

Set Apart and Chosen for His Purpose

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-5

I came to faith in my late teens. It was then that I began to first question how to live my life for God. If I was chosen and designed uniquely for His purposes, what did this mean for me personally? I believe we all feel that way sometimes regardless of how long we have walked with the Lord.

Wonderful direction is found in Jeremiah, where God's response is recounted for us. Firstly, we are reminded that "the word of the Lord came to me." To know that we are His child, chosen by Him, uniquely set apart for His purposes, begins with the simple foundation that we must be in an intimate relationship with Him in order to *hear* His word. Before the ministry, before the service, our personal relationship with God is our first priority. We serve an audience of One!

God, through this calling of Jeremiah, is also a reminder to us that this was not a spur of the moment decision by God. It is not even something which we can work for, or earn. "Before I formed you ...", "before you were born...", God chose you for His team and His purposes. You, a chosen child of God, serving Him, is all part of God's omniscient plan. That is something to be thankful for and sing praises about!

Furthermore, God stated to Jeremiah, as He does to each one of us, "I appointed you..." Each one of us has been appointed and set apart for a specific purpose. Notice it is not "I will appoint you..." or "When you have ... I will appoint you." It is an appointment decided even before we were born and for which you and I have been set apart. Today, I hope you feel special. God has designed you, and you are uniquely set apart for a divine purpose.

Prayer Points

- Pray today for a rekindling of that first love that you had for your Lord and Saviour.
- Thank God for the wonder of His love for you as an individual and the unique way He has designed you.
- Pray diligently that you are exactly where God wants you today, and doing exactly what He has called you to do.
- Pray that you may grow in faith, surrendering your own purposes to His purposes He has set you apart for as His child.

Day 16

26 January 2021

Former International Board Chair - Jonathan Addison

Justice, Mercy, and Grace¹

As I look around and reflect on the year, what disturbs me most is the high levels of corruption and deceit which seem to permeate all levels of society from the highest offices and even the church and its agencies. Why is there so much deceit? What is the meaning of this odour? But remember...

Jesus came to fulfil the law and to make things right. The last parable recorded in Mark's Gospel sometimes seems odd. It is the story of the vineyard owner.

Scripture: **Mark 12:1-12**

The owner sent various associates to collect what was rightfully his but, in each case, they were rejected. Finally, he sent his son; the tenants then killed him thinking they could inherit the whole vineyard.

Should the owner come and kill the perpetrators? Justice may demand such an action. He could be merciful and expel them to work elsewhere.

The story then shifts to verses 10 and 11. There we find the same words as appear in **Psalm 118:7-25**.

*I didn't die. I lived!
And now I'm telling the world what God did.*

*God tested me, he pushed me hard,
but he didn't hand me over to Death. (The Message)*

This is God's Grace.

We humans wanted to be in charge, so we killed God's Son. But on that barbarity, He, God, built His church for the good of the whole of humankind, no distinction. In **John 3:16-18** we read:

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. (*The Message*)

God's grace is to lead us Home. Justice could have resulted in destruction. Mercy could have given another chance. His grace is to grant us salvation. It is free and underserved. The Carpenter of Nazareth told a different story.

¹ Formal approval or kindness, In the Christian sense given by God.

Day 16

26 January 2021

To quote just two stanzas of a poem I wrote in October 2020:

*It was Jesus, the Messiah, the Carpenter of Nazareth
Who enabled Charles Wesley to proclaim²
My chains fell off, my heart was free.
The Messiah had paid the full price
To set us free from chains of oppression and fealty to Satan
There is a pathway to freedom*

*We are free to create, to build
To walk in the Garden
And above all to tend God's creation:
the natural environment
The plants and trees
The birds and beasts
And butterflies and bees, even the spiders that tease
More, much more than this we are to
Care for humankind, and lift up those who are downtrodden
Or those who feel abandoned or set aside by society
We have freedom to seek peace and reconciliation
And, to be a force for transformation
To continue the work of the Carpenter.*

Will you join with me, in seeking to hear and discern the Word, and walk in obedience with the Carpenter? And find freedom? This is the role for AE. We can and should seek transformation. Can we start a Wesleyan style revival?

Can we set aside the *shibboleths*³ of the day with their influence of prosperity and power?

Prayer Points

- Seek God's guidance in reinvigorating and reimagining the work of AE.
- Pray that we may emphasise grace above wages or other gain.
- Pray that we can overcome the deceit and corruption that we face.
- Be bold: ask the King of Heaven, "What do You want?"
- Pray for AE to be transformational.
- Seek wisdom in remaining true to the mission statement and in promoting Jesus as the eternal Builder, and Redeemer.
- Seek further wisdom to work with the Carpenter to put things right.

² Charles Wesley, *And Can It Be* (1738).

³ A shibboleth is any custom or tradition, usually a choice of phrasing or even a single word, that distinguishes one group of people from another.

27 January 2021

Former Board Member South Africa - Mike Odell

Grace in a Wage-based World

COVID-19 has made us all aware of just how fragile and insecure life is. Suddenly our world has changed, businesses have gone bankrupt, many have lost their jobs. The world is working desperately hard to survive this pandemic.

The Samaritan woman was coming for her daily chore: drawing water, essential for survival. But by divine appointment she meets Jesus at the well and He makes her a priceless offer.

If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. (John 4:10)

We are so used to working for our survival, working hard at difficult and exhausting tasks. This woman immediately thinks, "Wow, no more drawing water!" Jesus then points her to the real source of life, Himself. What a priceless gift. When she realises the truth, her life is changed for ever.

Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. (John 4:29)

What was so special about this woman that Jesus would make this incredible offer to her? Nothing. So it is with all of us. When we come face-to-face with Jesus we have nowhere to go but receive this priceless gift by grace through faith.

So in these challenging times He is the source, whatever our need may be. There is no situation Jesus does not know about and He is always able to meet us at our point of need.

*Let us then approach God's throne of **grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find **grace to help** us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*

Prayer Points

- Thank the Lord for the AE Family everywhere, for safety and protection during these uncertain times.
- Thank Him for His grace in each of our lives and for calling us to serve in the AE ministry.
- Pray that this year will bring many more opportunities for evangelism and telling people about the Living Water.
- Pray for boldness and fresh vision for the AE leaders. Pray for grace, strength, and endurance for the AE teams.
- Pray that the Lord will open new doors for evangelism across Africa and beyond.

Day 18

28 January 2021

Communications South Africa - Gavin John

Who Is Your “Ebenezer”?

In the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour, the most obvious answer might be “Scrooge of course!”, the infamous character from the Charles Dickens novel, *A Christmas Carol*.

Truth be told he is the only Ebenezer that springs to my mind at first mention; which begs the question, how does this character of such notoriety represent even a modicum of God’s grace?

“Bah humbug!” as Scrooge would say.

Whilst “Scrooge” is an Ebenezer of literary repute, it is to the verse of **1 Samuel 7:12** that we must look to make the spiritual connection with the Ebenezer of biblical repute:

Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us. (ERV)

Ebenezer is a Hebrew word meaning “stone of help” which the prophet Samuel used to name a stone monument commemorating God’s intervention to grant victory in battle to the Israelites over the Philistines.

“Eben-ezer” was a constant visual reminder to the Israelites of God’s grace in protecting and helping them to be victorious over their enemy; and it evoked in them an automatic response of praise to Him.

The year 2020 commenced with such clarity and sharpness that we played on the normal visual acuity of “20/20 vision” flooding social media with memes to boot. Yet few, if any, foresaw the COVID-19 surreptitiously reaching pandemic proportions. As the “foghorns” of world leaders belatedly sounded off their warnings, we scurried panic-stricken to stock-pile before bolting our doors shut, bringing the world to all but a grinding halt: days of lockdown turned into weeks, then into months, and life was dramatically altered.

The “time-out” from our frenzied lifestyles did however cause us to bring into perspective all that we attach value to: whether relationships or material possessions; whether hankering after the unnecessary or appreciating the abundance of all that we have. God revealed His grace to us as we found greater appreciation for family, freedom of movement, socialising, visiting, communal worship, and all that we had taken for granted and had suddenly become “robbed of”. He also revealed how much harm we cause to our world through feverish industry as we witnessed the earth healing itself when air and water pollution levels dropped as industry stalled.

So here is a challenge I pose to you! As you reflect on the year 2020 and begin a new one, take some time to make your own *Eben-Ezer* from the “stones of help” that are your source of provision, protection, health, comfort, shelter, success and so on. It could simply be a list not necessarily a pile of stones.

28 January 2021

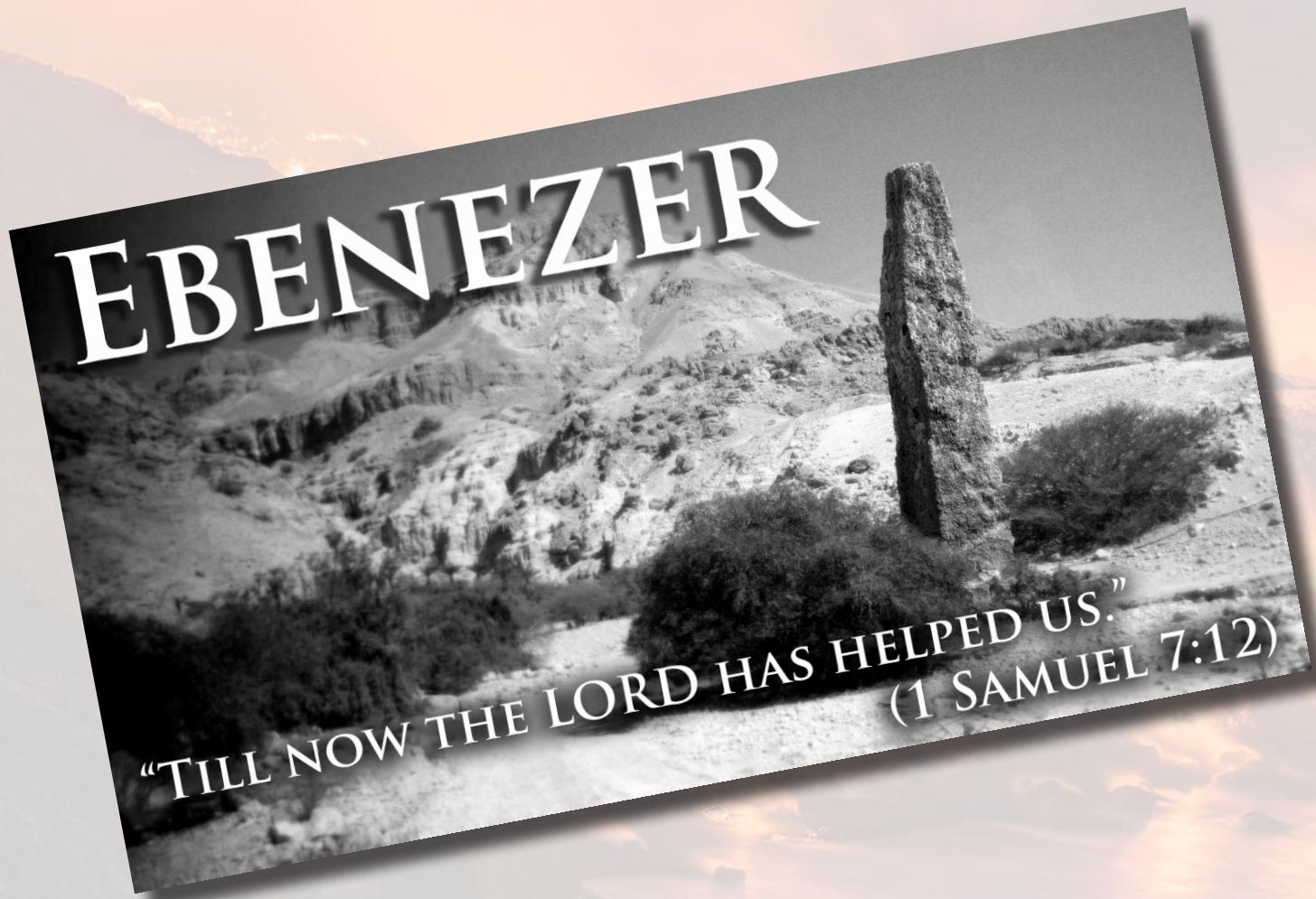
"Bah humbug" may very well be your response to the challenge; but I very much doubt that "Scrooge" will be your answer to, "Who is your 'Ebenezer'?"

As for this Christmas "Kerel" (*South African slang for "fellow"*), such is my retort:

*Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come.
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.*

Prayer Points

- Thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace.
- For His providence, protection, and provision during 2020.
- For a renewal of faith for 2021.
- For trust in God's Word and promises as we enter into a new year.



Day 19

29 January 2021

International Board Chair - Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi

Crazy Love!

Scripture: John 3:14-21

John 3:16 may be the most familiar verse in the New Testament. It is doubtful if Christians usually take time to dig deeper into God's Crazy Love that it talks about. The Gospel of Christ is the only Good News to the world because of God's Love.

We must know "Who God is" and "what He has done" to gain a glimpse into this love. Two attributes will suffice. God is holy—wholly other—He cannot look at evil. Evil attracts His unquenchable wrath. Unlike us, God is complete in Himself; He neither needs us nor wants us.

The phrase, "**God so loved . . .**", expresses the intensity of God's love. Try to substitute the word "so" with others such as, "very much", and the meaning changes irreparably, diluting God's love.

God demonstrated His love with plain abandon when He gave His one and only Son, His best for the worst, the Beloved for the unlovely. Crazy Love!

God's Love is reckless as it gave all He had, an only Son. It is stubborn love, which pursues sinners and enemies relentlessly. We refuse Him but God's love never gives up on us. It is extravagant because it gave all it had.

"**God . . . gave . . .**" also points to the Cross of Calvary, where God's love reached boiling point. There the undying Son of God tasted death for our sake—dying the death you and I deserved.

His death is puzzling (Romans 5:6-10); we can empathise with dying for a good person. But Jesus died for sinners, God's enemies because God loves us. That is God's Crazy Love!

Finally, Jesus' wounds from the Cross forever proclaim: "God has already given you the best." Hence, salvation is given full and free to all! The Cross is simultaneously God's judgement of sin and God's salvation for all.

As Bishop Festo Kivengere put it, "*Calvary is the place of exposure, the place where God's heart was opened.*" And we see His love, His Crazy Love!

Prayer Points

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us in African Enterprise the depth of God's love for the world, to love people as He loves them.
- Pray that the LORD will give our message wings of His love to melt people's hearts to surrender to His undying love.

Day 20

30 January 2021

Associate South Africa - Curt Miles

God's Grace

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, “Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” (Revelation 1:17-18)

Divine encounters often occur in the context of suffering for Christ. Many people who encountered the Lord, have often experienced a valley before they experienced the mountaintop. They might have ended up on the mountain top, but it was a valley that preceded it.

Here we see John is on the Isle of Patmos, which was like the Alcatraz of the Roman Empire. It was a prison island where they banished people to do manual labour. John is described as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. John was one of those three that had the privilege of seeing certain things that the rest of the twelve didn’t experience. So divine encounters, not always, but very often, are in the context of suffering for Christ, suffering with Christ. It was Samuel Rutherford, writing from prison in Aberdeen, Scotland four centuries ago, who was persecuted for the expression of his faith, who wrote several letters to his parishioners. He ended one of those letters with this sentence: “Jesus Christ came into my prison cell last night, and every stone in it glowed like a ruby.” His divine encounter was the context of a cell, the context of suffering for Jesus. We want the encounter, don’t we? We don’t want the suffering.

The second principle we see from John’s introduction to the book of Revelation is the need for extraction from your normal environment. If you would like a divine encounter, there is a need, a necessity to be extracted out of your normal environment. The Isle of Patmos was a rocky, desolate island about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide. Of course I’m not saying God couldn’t have given this vision to John anywhere, of course He could have, but it’s very interesting to me that it was in a desolate place of isolation that the Lord came to him. Divine encounter requires you to bail out of your normal humdrum everyday life. We must seek to extract ourselves from the norm in order to seek God. Ron Boyd-McMillan, a journalist for Open Doors, met Wang Mingdao who was the father of the persecuted church in China. He had spent years in solitary confinement. Wang Mingdao said to him: “When I was in prison all those years I had nothing to do except get to know God. For 20 years that was the greatest relationship I have ever known, but the cell was the means.” He says this: “I was pushed into a cell, but you will have to encounter God.”

A third thing is the role of being “in the Spirit”. Do you see what it says here? Not only was John persecuted, we see that in verse 9, but then in verse 10 it says, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day.” It seems more like John is speaking of a spiritual experience that was unique to him. Like a kind of out-of-body experience where he received the divine revelation of the book that we have. Divine encounters are God revealing something of Himself to you that you didn’t know, or at least you didn’t know it the way you needed to know it.

Day 20

30 January 2021

It is often in the context of suffering for Christ that we have divine encounters firstly. Secondly, there is the need for extraction from your normal environment. Thirdly, the role of being “in the Spirit”. Fourthly and finally, the Spirit’s objective in divine encounters is always to reveal and glorify Christ, always.

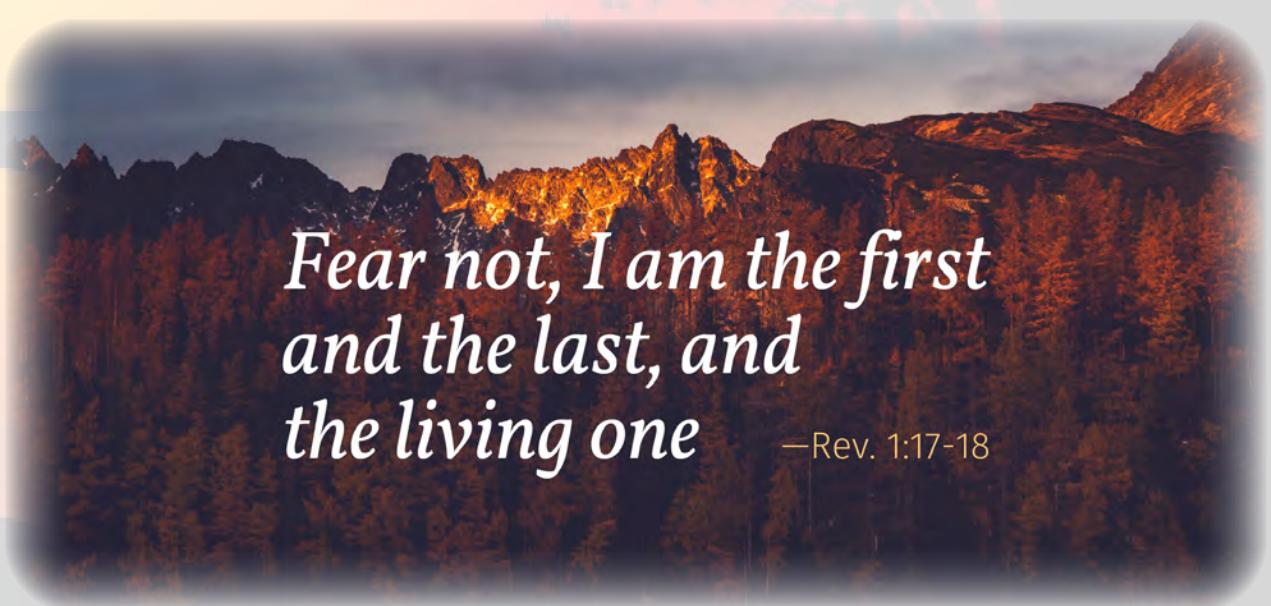
Can I just paraphrase that for you? “It’s all about Me”, that’s what Jesus is saying, “It’s all about Me, from start to finish, it’s about Me.” Can I say that if your pursuit of the divine encounter, or mine, is not to know Christ better, it’s a counterfeit pursuit and it’s probably selfish, or even sensual, just for the buzz, and, dare I say it, idolatrous; if it’s not a heart-passion to know Him.

This is the paradox of divine encounters as New Testament Christians, that you can have the exhilarating thrill of the close shave with God. The Lord Jesus is dressed in this vision as a Judge-Priest. He’s walking in the midst of the lampstands. He’s in the centre of the lampstands, He’s revealing Himself as He is, and He’s just about to tell those churches what He thinks and what He feels about them. We need to see Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. We need to behold Him, and we need to hear what He is saying to us today.

When we turn aside to see what He’s really like, and hear what He’s really saying, like John we will be overwhelmed, and we will receive a deposit from the Lord of the church, the Judge-Priest of the church, that will transform the church and us if we heed Him.

Prayer Points

- Pray for divine encounters with the Lord for 2021.
- Pray that the Lord would fight for us, defend us, shield us, and lift us to a platform of glory in Jesus name.
- Praise the Lord that we have seen Him in a new light through the crisis of COVID-19.
- Pray that we will endure the suffering and pain for the glory of Christ.



*Fear not, I am the first
and the last, and
the living one*

—Rev. 1:17-18

Day 21

31 January 2021

Conclusion

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Prayer for African Enterprise

- Give thanks for those who came into the Kingdom in 2020 and pray for a greater harvest for 2021.
- Mission activities have been halted due to lockdown requirements for 2020. Pray for godly wisdom to keep up the tempo of missions.
- Pray against any obstacles that would stand before the ministry.
- Pray for all the teams to work in unity and harmony for the glory of God.
- Pray against self-righteous spirits. Pray that we will have servant hearts to serve the Master.
- Pray for protection and added strength for the team leaders. Pray Psalm 91.
- Pray for all the team leaders that they would be obedient to the voice of God in their leadership.
- Give thanks for the success of Proclaim2020. “Proclaim2020 has been the most representative gathering of African evangelists in the history of the Christian movement in Africa.”⁴
- Pray that God would bring competent and passionate evangelists to join the team.
- Pray for Emmanuel Kzwizera for wisdom and guidance in terms of strategising for evangelism and missions.
- Pray for Stephen Mbogo as he gives leadership to the partnership.

⁴ Lausanne Movement, Proclamation Evangelism Issue Network.

31 January 2021

Through Obedience to the Word⁵ Comes Freedom

We often struggle with the concept of obedience

It may seem negative or robot-like

And yet, God gave the children of Israel the Law

To guide them through the Exodus and beyond

Jesus the Messiah came to fulfil the Law

Walking in His sandals

Leads to freedom and the promise of abundant life

In Psalm 119 we read⁶ "I love your statutes

And stand in awe of your laws"

It is not a slavish following of rules and rites

It should not be a confusion of God's Law and

doctrines and traditions

It is a freedom to seek God's purpose

And to walk in His sandals

When God created⁷ man and woman

He made them from dust

And breathed His breath into them

In His image He made them

They were there to tend the Garden

And to be fit companions

They were given intellect, and

Freewill

It is true that we failed

But throughout the generations

God has not given up

Nor failed His word

Abraham, Moses, the Judges, kings, and prophets

And ultimately Jesus the Messiah,

Son of God; Son of Man

All paved the pathway to freedom

⁵ In this context "the Word" has the same meaning as used by John 1: "The Word became flesh."

⁶ Psalm 119:113-120.

⁷ Genesis 1:26-31

31 January 2021

*It was Jesus, the Messiah, the Carpenter of Nazareth
Who enabled Charles Wesley to proclaim⁸
My chains fell off, my heart was free.
The Messiah had paid the full price
To set us free from chains of oppression and fealty to Satan
There is a pathway to freedom*

*We are free to create, to build
To walk in the Garden
And above all to tend God's creation:
The natural environment
The plants and trees
The birds and beasts
And butterflies and bees, even the spiders that tease
More, much more than this we are to
Care for humankind, and lift up those who are downtrodden
Or those who feel abandoned or set aside by society
We have freedom to seek peace and reconciliation
And, to be a force for transformation
To continue the work of the Carpenter.*

*It is through obedience to His word
That we can have freedom
To be fit companions for God forever
One day we can walk in the Garden at night with Him
Will you join with me
In seeking to hear and discern the Word
And walk in obedience with the Carpenter
And find freedom?*

Jonathan L. Addison

⁸ Charles Wesley, And Can It Be (1738).

Day 21

31 January 2021

Keep Praying All the Time

- Let nothing be strong enough to cause you not to pray.
- Anything that takes you away from prayer is not of God.
- When you succeed, pray.
- When you fail, pray even more.
- When you are tired, pray.
- When you are in good spirit, pray.
- When you are happy, pray.
- When you are sad, pray.
- If you are living in holiness, pray.
- When you are entangled in sin, still pray.
- When you feel guilty of a sin, pray.
- When you are mocked, pray.
- When you are loved, pray.
- When you plan to pray, start praying before the time you planned to pray.

Pray during your prayer time, pray before your prayer time, and pray after your prayer time. God hears all prayers whether in your prayer time or out of your prayer time, He hears!

Thank you for your faithful prayers!

Have a blessed 2021 full of divine encounters!