

ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

IN THIS ISSUE ...

A Voice of Response (pg 1)
Hope of the Nations: Uganda (pg 2)

The Voice

A voice of response to the cry for Righteousness

“Fear not ... I am the Living One” Revelation 1:12-18

Cries for Righteousness can be heard from every corner on this planet. Whether it's the glaring faces of anguish caught in the latest catastrophe on television, the dismayed faces in heart breaking articles in print, the sadness filling the faces of our neighbors, or it's the agonizing cry from our own heart. *“Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from the dread of the enemy.”* Psalm 64.1 Righteousness includes all we call justice, honesty, virtue and equity between man and man.

There is a cry for righteousness in each of us. A cry for what is right, for what is just, for what God says is right. Do we recognise the sound of that cry for Righteousness? “Can anybody hear me?” “Is there anyone who can help me?” “I'm afraid!” “Why is this happening to me?” “I'm dreading tomorrow.”

This collective cry for righteousness, we know, is in reality a cry for a person, a deliverer – for Jesus Christ our Lord the Righteous. He's our Saviour. Not an ordinary sort of hero but, a supernatural being unmatched in His beauty, splendour, power or position. His voice is answering this global cry for righteousness, this universal groan to be set free.

“Then I turned to see THE VOICE that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw ... one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his VOICE was like the roar of many waters ... from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, ... He laid his right hand on me saying, “fear not ... I am the living one.”-Revelation 1:12-18

This voice is THE VOICE of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that we will all turn to recognise the One who speaks, and focus on the Voice rather than the cry, hearing his words, “Fear not...I AM the LIVING ONE.”

“ASKing POINTS” for meditation: meditate on Revelation 1:12-18. Make a list of every description of Jesus Christ given in the text. Ask God to speak fresh revelation through His Holy Spirit for the symbolic meanings of each description. Then join your voice with THE VOICE and proclaim Him over every cry for RIGHTEOUSNESS you hear. Pray that those who cry out would hear Christ's voice and meet him as the answer, their Saviour.

...receive from Him
anything we ask, because we obey
His commands and do what pleases Him...

1 John 3:22



Hope of the nations: ASKing for Uganda

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



FAST FACTS ABOUT UGANDA

Area: 91,136 sq. mi. **Peoples:** 66 (4 least-reached) **Capital:** Kampala
Religion: Christianity 84.9 %, Islam 9.6%
Official language: English, Swahili
Population: 35,873,253

"Declare his glory among the nations..." Psalm 96:3

Uganda, long known as the pearl of Africa because of its temperate climate, lush vegetation and beautiful geography, celebrated 50 years of independence from British rule last month on October 9th. Such a moment is an opportunity to take stock on all fronts and make resolutions for a better Uganda. "President Museveni made a speech in which he publically repented of his sins, and the sins of Uganda as a nation, in a move aimed at establishing Uganda as a God-fearing nation." So says the official report of the extensive Golden Jubilee celebrations. But insiders say that much of this is propaganda, and paint a different picture.

"As a country, socio-economically and politically, we are in crisis. The last report of Transparency International put Uganda as the most corrupt in East Africa. We have the lowest completion rates in Primary level education - around 25% compared with the regional average of about 75%. Youth unemployment rates stand at around 80%; Malaria kills about 320 people per day. The churches are packed but the impact in wider society is not evident. I could go on... but the biggest challenge Uganda faces is leadership, both in Church and society. Our leadership is in survival mode, and corruption is endemic," one insider said.

While it is true that Christianity is the main religion, (84.9%), and the Pentecostal and charismatic churches are seeing rapid growth, at the same time it is common to mix animism and even witchcraft with church going. The gospel itself is corrupted by prosperity gospel preaching, so seductive in cultures of deprivation and risk.

Since the late 1980s Uganda has rebounded from the abyss of civil war and economic catastrophe, but the lives of many thousands of people in the north remain blighted by one of Africa's most brutal rebellions, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by the infamous Joseph Kony. In the 1970s and 1980s Uganda was notorious for its human rights abuses, under the military dictatorship of Idi Amin, and the rule of Milton Obote. During this time up to half a million people were killed in state-sponsored violence. Today the LRA perpetuates human rights abuses. Inequality between men and women continues and many children are at risk. However, Uganda has known revival, and the blood of martyrs has been spilt on her soil. Let's ask that her Christian heritage be recovered.

ASK FOR:

- President Museveni and his government to pursue justice openly, selflessly and courageously. *"Righteousness exalts a nation..." Proverbs 14:34*
- A widespread exposure of corruption. *"... There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known."* Matthew 10:26
- God's mercy and provision in the health and education arenas. *"Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."* Isaiah 35:6b
- For Joseph Kony to be brought to justice; for peace and safety. *"For the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous."* Psalm 37:17
- For the true gospel to be preached in and through the churches. *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."* 1 Corinthians 3:11