

Discover Newsletter
for colleagues in Africa
June 2020



Making sense of crises in the light of our faith

Dear Friends

All over the world we have suffered the lockdown which has resulted from the corona crisis. As a result, many have suffered hunger, others have suffered because they could not reach the hospital. Then some in East Africa have been subject to the devastation of locusts. Others, especially in Kasese District, have suffered floods, which have cost lives, and destroyed homes and crops.

Have do we make sense of all this? Has God abandoned us? I am grateful to Christopher Nyakuni from Northwest Uganda for his thoughts on this subject, which I am pleased to share with you.

God loves the world so much that, before creating man, he began by putting in place what man needs. Light, water bodies, day and night, both domestic and wild animals and vegetation. The 26th verse of very first chapter of the first book of the Bible; Genesis, gives this account. After seeing that everything was now in place to meet man's needs, God said,



Despite the lockdown, Christopher involved some children in planting trees, and like many others visited and distributed food to starving people. He also surveyed the needs in the community, which, in contrast to Kasese, has been suffering a drought. He organised a team to repair the water supply from a spring, and the villagers are absolutely delighted. Read the story on our homepage [here](#).

"Let us now make man who should be like us" Then in Genesis 2:15, "Then the Lord God placed the man in the garden of Eden to CULTIVATE it and PROTECT it." These two key words, cultivate meaning, to make use of and protect or look after and conserve.

With the rapid increase in population in Uganda, humankind is abusing what God had commanded them. If we were to make good use of the land, by farming organically, protecting the wetlands, conserving the forests and protecting the eco system etc., then our land would still be fertile and would absorb and hold rainwater, water sources would be secure, trees would be providing wind

breaks and preventing flooding.

God never even wanted to create the world alone. He made us co-creators with him so that we are not idle and that we also take responsibility. He brought all the animals he had

created to be given names by us (Gen 2:19-20). When we do not play our correct roles and abuse creation, we are responsible for the calamities we face as a result of our actions. It is not that God is unleashing fresh anger on us. We must examine our actions and judge them in the light of the responsibilities we have been given. We must ask God to pardon us for misusing creation. Our prayer and pleading for mercy MUST be accompanied with action. Let us pray, and at the same time plant trees where we have cut down trees, leave the wetlands where we encroached on them, use organic manure where we have used excessive artificial fertilizer, space our children and plan our families well rather than having so many children we cannot care for them properly.

The number of people infected with the corona crisis keeps increasing. Arua district has 28 cases, all of which are people coming from South Sudan. The crisis has occurred because people have failed to respect animals and to treat them with care. It makes me understand clearly, that the whole world is closely connected. Whatever negative thing I do here in my village Nyirivu may affect someone in China, UK, America etc. It might seem insignificant to me, but it may affect someone somewhere. For example, if I throw a piece of polyethene into my local river here, this will move until it joins another one thrown by another person in another river. At the end of the day, rivers, lakes and seas will be polluted. The misuse of animals in China affected the whole world.

Is this how you understand current events? Share your ideas with us!

I am impressed and immensely encouraged by the dedication of many of you who have been working tirelessly to help your communities through this crisis. I take my hat off to you!

Best wishes – and stay healthy!

Keith Lindsey