

**PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS AND
ECONOMY SECTOR
AND THE FUTURE OF UGANDA**

50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON

19th August – 7th October 2017

'Engage in business until I come.'
Luke 19:13

PRAYER GUIDE 2017

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PREFACE

On 8th October 2012, the eve of our nation's first Golden Jubilee, we covenanted our nation to God for His purposes in the next 50 years. Leading up to Independence Day annually, Uganda Jubilee Network coordinates a season of prayer focusing on God's face and praying for the fulfillment of His purposes for our land. The main focus of this year's prayer and fasting season is praying for the Economy and Business Sector and the future of our country and Africa. We invite the Body of Christ to participate in this prayer season starting 19th August 2017 and ending 7th October 2017.

The objectives for the 2017 prayer season are:

- To pray for the Economy and Business Sphere and the future of Uganda and Africa
- To humble ourselves before God and seek His face as the Body of Christ
- To pray that God will be greatly glorified in the Economy and Business Sphere of Uganda.
- To pray for the Body of Christ to rise to her calling in all the spheres of society
- To pray for the full manifestation of God's Kingdom in all spheres of Ugandan society by the Jubilee in 2062
- To renew our covenant with God concerning our nation
- To seek God's enablement for us to fulfill our individual, family, congregational and organizational roles in seeing God's plan for our generation come to pass.

This prayer guide covers seven themes linked to the weeks of the 50-day fast. Each week focuses on an aspect of the BUSINESS AND ECONOMY SPHERE and related institutions.

Guidelines for the prayer and fasting

1. The recommended mode of fasting is taking one meal over a 24-hour period. We encourage the drinking of plenty of water and light fluids.
2. While we encourage believers to participate in all the 50 days, we

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recognize that many believers are not accustomed to this length of fast so we suggest some variations for those who would like to take part in a shorter fast during the period. The fasting period is seven weeks. If one took a 24-hour fast on a different day of each of the seven weeks, they would cover all the themes in the prayer guide.

3. Alternatively one could choose one week during the seven-week period to fast and pray over all the themes covered in the prayer guide.
4. This period provides the opportunity for every believer to exercise him or herself in the discipline of fasting and stretch him or herself a little more than they are accustomed to.
5. Personal, family, organizational, and local congregational matters regarding God's plans for the future should be covered in addition to the themes in this guide.

Dates to Note

Prayer groups and congregations should organize the events listed below locally:

- **Friday, 18th August 2017 (evening):** dedication of the prayer and fasting season. This should include praying for those committing to the fasting season.
- **Weekly prayer vigils:** Friday nights are recommended times for the weekly prayer vigil. Prayer leaders must ensure they get the necessary permission and observe local regulations. Apart from praying through the themes of the week. Time should be spent praying through various family, church, local, and national needs.
- **Saturday, 7th October 2017 (evening):** conclusion of the fasting season. Sharing of Holy Communion is recommended as we pray for the hastening of the day Jesus spoke of in Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25 and Luke 22:18.
- **Sunday, 8th October 2017:** Independence eve night prayer vigil. Dedicating the year 2017/2018.

WEEKLY PRAYER THEMES

WEEK 1	19 th August – 25 th August	Personal Preparation
WEEK 2	26 th August – 1 st September	Establishment of Righteousness and Judgment of Corruption
WEEK 3	2 nd September – 8 th September	The Role Of Government and the Private
WEEK 4	9 th September – 15 th September	Infrastructure Development
WEEK 5	16 th September – 22 nd September	Unemployment and Underemployment
WEEK 6	23 rd September – 29 th September	Industrialization
WEEK 7	30 th September – 7 th October	Justice in the Global Economy & the Future

Please note that each week has institutions to focus on in prayer using the guide in Chapter 1.

In a prayer meeting, the different institutions can be divided up between the people praying so that they are all covered at the same time.

INTRODUCTION

Do Business Until I Return

*⁷And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.
Jeremiah 29:7*

The Parable Of The Talents

Read Matthew 25:13-30 and Luke 19:11-27.

In these passages Jesus tells similar stories. In both accounts, a man who is preparing to leave on a journey entrusts his possessions to his servants. In Matthew's account, the man distributes his wealth among three servants on the basis of their abilities. In the Luke account ten servants are recipients. These parable focuses on four major themes: resources, work, time and profit. When work is applied to resources over time, God has provided that the result will be profit.

Resources

The term “**talent**” means something very different today from what our Lord meant when He told these parables. In our day talent refers to abilities but in Jesus' day it was a measure of money – it was the largest measurement of money. It was actually a measurement of weight and therefore did not have a constant value, A talent of gold, for example, would be worth a whole lot more than a talent of bronze. A talent of gold was a lot of money. The approximate value of a talent of gold then was the equivalent of 20 years' wages for a common laborer¹. This means that even the man who got one talent actually received a lot of money.

¹ William Hendriksen, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1973), p. 879.

Work

Genesis 2:15 indicates that when God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave them work to do. The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for and maintain it. Work existed before the fall of man and only became toilsome after the fall of man. From that point on work was different; there was a certain “futility” to work.

The first and second servants immediately got to work with his master’s money. The third servant was lazy and only had excuses – he didn’t do any work. He didn’t even hand the money over to bankers to let them go to work with it. Our Lord’s teaching in the parable of the talents is that God expects profit that is the product of our labors. He provides the resources and the ability, but we are expected to work hard with what He has given us, for the profit of the kingdom. In the parables, money was given to use, to work with, not just to give back. How many of us are simply giving back money that we have not put to use.

Profit

The parables teach us that those who over time, work with what they are entrusted, in order to make a profit for their master, are rewarded for their faithfulness. Those who are unfaithful lose not only their reward, but also their stewardship. God expects to see a profit with the resources that He has entrusted to individuals, families, organizations and nations. God is not harsh, nor does He require that we do the impossible (make a profit where He has not provided the means). Unlike Pharaoh in Moses’ day, God does not require us to “make bricks” without providing both the clay and the straw. However wherever He has gifted He does expect returns.

...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:48

Just as a businessman expects to make a profit, and rejoices when his employees increase his wealth, so God expects a profit and rejoices in it. He has granted the time and the resources for men to make a profit for the kingdom of heaven, until He returns. These should be sobering thoughts for a country that prides itself in being “gifted by nature”.

Sloth and Laziness

The third slave is described as being lazy, and thus useless, as opposed to being hardworking, and therefore useful. He does not “go to work” with his master’s money, over a lengthy period of time, and thus make a profit. He does no work and thus is useless. The lazy, wicked slave in the parables is that person who refuses to go to work with the resources God has provided, to produce profit for the kingdom of heaven.

Reward

Faithful saints are given even greater responsibilities, and even more work. But this work is joyful. Such labor is, to a large degree, entering into the joy of our Master. If so, then what is the fruitful labor God has given to you as an individual? How about to your family, church or community? What endowments has God given to our country? What is your/our unique contribution to the kingdom of God? What is it that He should find us doing when He returns?

So in summary, God provides resources, He expects us to work with the resources he provides, He expects profit from what He has endowed us with, and there is a reward for faithfulness but loss for unfaithfulness.

God's provision

⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdelium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

Genesis 2:8

In the Garden of Eden God provided for all that man would ever need. There were trees, water, gold and other minerals, food. The Garden of Eden was modeled as a perpetual source of provisions requiring only to be worked upon in order to produce abundant yields to Adam.

- *If man did not work it, it would not yield.*
- *The extent of its yield was dependent on the scope of working invested.*

OVERVIEW OF THE UGANDAN ECONOMY

The Economy in the Family

A country is made up of families. Families receive money through either the sales made by family members (for example sale of farm produce), or the services that the family provides (for example working with the government, teaching or treating patients). Some families will also receive money from relatives working abroad (remittances). From time to time the family might

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find itself short of money and have to borrow in order to make ends meet (loans). When it comes to big projects like building a house, the family might decide to take a loan in order to complete the building project faster and repay back the loan over a longer time with interest (mortgage).

When a family is constantly not having enough money to meet its basic expenses (food, shelter, clothing), it would be classified as a poor family. Families in distress are unable to even feed themselves and need external help. When a family is able to meet all its expenses from its income and have surplus to save and invest then it would be considered a rich family. To move from poverty to abundance, the family must increase its source of income (like increase its farm produce sales, have more family members earning, or generate other sources of income) and decrease its expenditure (cut back on expenses like reduce money spent on rent by moving to a cheaper house or moving children to a cheaper school).

Having this simple picture in mind is helpful in understanding national economies since in essence a country is made up of its families. The World Bank classifies countries according to their income: Gross National Income (GNI) per capita - the total income the country receives from other countries each year from both goods and services. It is not a perfect tool but gives an idea of how the country is faring economically. Using this classification, Uganda is a low-income country with a Gross National Income per capita of USD 700 as at 2015¹.

1 <http://data.worldbank.org/country/uganda>

No.	Category	Income Threshold (USD)
1	Low – Income	1025 or Less
2	Lower Middle Income	1026 - 4035
3	Upper Middle Income	4036 – 12,475
4	High Income	12,476 or more

Some of the African countries, which have already attained lower middle-income status include; Morocco, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zambia, Angola, and Ghana among others.

During the 1980s, Uganda was one of the most rapidly developing countries in Africa during the 1980 however this has slackened¹. Some of the reasons for this are suggested as:

- Bureaucracy and expensive business licensing requirements that discourage development of the private sector².
- Excessive government spending exacerbated by the burgeoning number of districts has led to rising debt without any positive impact on growth³.
- A weak and inefficient judicial system⁴
- Pervasive corruption is likely to remain serious impediments to sustainable development⁵. Uganda ranked 151 of 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) annual report conducted by Transparency International in 2016. Uganda scored 25% dropping 12 places from its position in the 2015 report.
- Low productivity in the country resulting in a trade deficit

Uganda is currently revising a range of laws and regulations to create greater government accountability, develop infrastructure, and build a more vibrant private sector⁶. In 2016, the government constructed a one-stop border post, reducing border compliance time for exports⁷.

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Although, Uganda's GDP per capita has grown over the years, Uganda is still a low-income country. To improve this, the value of goods and services that we produce must improve by leaps and bounds. Some of the key focus areas to achieve this are:

- **Manufacturing:** Since the Industrial Revolution, no country has become a major economy without becoming an industrial power¹. For a country's GDP per capita to reach high levels, its manufacturing base must be strong. Manufacturing is a major value-producer and in addition, because it is labor intensive, it's also a high employment provider. A major push in manufacturing is necessary to create jobs for the 500,000 people who join the workforce every year. To this end the push to turn Uganda into a major manufacturing hub is very necessary.
- **Investments:** To create a solid, world-class infrastructure a country needs investments. While interest rates play a huge role in driving investments, Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) is as important, if not more. Restrictions and hindrances to FDI will have to be eased and that means liberalizing various sectors to attract investments.
- **Infrastructure:** Uganda is still far behind in key infrastructural areas such as power supply, transportation, logistics and taxation. Power generation capacities are barely enough to support even residential demand, let alone the commercial demand. The efficiency, connectivity and capacity of various modes of transport, rail and road in particular, will have to be improved to complement manufacturing capabilities.
- **Urbanization:** Building large-scale manufacturing capabilities requires labor. With 84% of Ugandan population living in villages, urbanization is necessary to absorb them into the urban landscape².

1 Lee Kuan Yew quoted in Ssepuuya, p. 336

2 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2212.html>

- **Literacy:** Uganda's literacy rate is still well below par compared to the developed countries. Higher literacy rates implies better chances of being employed and in turn, better standards of living. Spreading awareness, increasing capacity and promoting research-based education are necessary to improve literacy in Uganda.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Traditionally, doing business in Uganda has been tough and tedious. There are far too many obstacles and permits involved to start/continue a business. Uganda is ranked 115 among 190 economies in the ease of doing business, according to the latest World Bank annual ratings. The rank of Uganda improved to 115 in 2016 from 116 in 2015.³ The doctrine of "minimum government, maximum governance" will have to be implemented effectively to create more jobs and value. A large government becomes parasitic on the sector that produces.

1 <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/uganda>

2 *ibid*

3 *ibid*

4 *ibid*

5 *ibid*

6 *ibid*

7 *ibid*

3 <https://tradingeconomics.com/uganda/ease-of-doing-business>

VISION 2040

“A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern & Prosperous Country within 30 years.”

- **Target:** Upper Middle Income status with a per capita income of USD 9,500 by 2040.
- **Goal:** To achieve middle income status with per capita income of USD 1,033 by 2020 (medium term).
 - Average Ugandan should be earning at least USD 1,033 (UGX 3.5 million) annually by the end of next 3 years or USD 86 (UGX 290,000) monthly

Objectives:

- Increase Production, Productivity and Value Addition;
- Increase the Stock and Quality of Strategic Infrastructure to Accelerate the Country’s Competitiveness;
- Enhance Human Capital Development;
- Strengthen Mechanisms for Quality, Effective and Efficient Service Delivery

The Major Achievements – Items for Thanksgiving

- Uganda achieved a stable macroeconomic environment (fundamentals are under control – inflation single digit, average growth rate at 6%, etc)
- A stable macroeconomic is essential for the business sector as it enables predictable business environment;
- Reforms in public finance management were introduced, improving efficiency in public expenditure management;
- The reforms led to enactment of a new law – Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2015;
- Registered tremendous improvement in domestic

revenue collection and competitiveness of economy.

- The contribution of tax revenue to the total resource envelope increased from 45% in 1998 to about 80% in 2017 (currently domestic taxes finance almost 80% of the national budget).
- In real terms, tax revenue increased from Shillings one trillion in the 1990s to projected Shs.13 trillion in 2017.
- Domestic taxes contribute about 14% to total GDP
- Over the past 3-decades, there has been significant reforms in the tax administration (URA), bringing it in line with international best practice.
- Uganda is now a model country in the region, as other countries come to benchmark the tax system.
- The discovery of oil & gas brings along new expectations and creates an opportunity to build necessary infrastructure (roads, refinery, pipeline, etc) leading to economic growth and development.
- The petroleum sector presents an opportunity to boost local business, utilize local capacity and enhance skills development.
- Foreign direct investment as well as taxes can increase, if the sector is managed well .

The Challenges Uganda's Economy Faces:

- The national budget is still financed through external sources (about 20%) - Loans and Grants
- Financing this budget deficit brings external debt – a bulk of Uganda's current external debt is contracted from multilateral creditors; mainly World Bank and African Development Bank.
- External financing (debt) is very costly in terms of loan repayments & interest over along period of time.
- It comes with conditionalities, such as counterpart

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funding, attainment of certain indicators (benefiting the creditors), governance issues, etc.

- High costs of borrowing (interest rates)
- Lack of Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) at Sector level as well as at Ministries and Government Department levels.
- Capacity constraints in public investment management, characterized by low absorption of released funds and delayed implementation of key projects (e.g. roads).
- Budgetary indiscipline leading to accumulation of domestic arrears and supplementary budgets budget cuts which has implications on budget implementation
- The discovery of oil & gas poses a new set of challenges for fiscal policy makers in Uganda. There is need to ensure that these large, volatile, and finite revenue are utilized sustainably, invested wisely, spent productively and accounted for transparently.
- Significant decrease in international oil prices, shift in consumption from rather productive sectors and exchange rate appreciation, among others.
- **The current legal framework is still ill-equipped to safeguard all the above issues; even though the PFM law tries to address some of the challenges.**

Where does Uganda currently stand?

- 1 million babies every year
- 49% of Ugandans are working population-WP (15-64).
- 30% of the WP are unemployed
- 64% of WP are in subsistence employment
- Leaves only 6% in money employment (about 1m Ugandans)
- Income equality levels same as were in 1990

- 64% of Ugandans living below USD 2 (24.2 million)

What is the structure of Uganda's Economy?

- The main drivers are Service, Industry and Agriculture Sectors - contributing about 47%, 25% and 20% respectively to GDP.
- Agriculture employs about 64% of Uganda's working population estimated at about 13.9 million. 80% of the households were involved in Agriculture.¹
- Agriculture (the largest employer) is predominantly subsistence, while the service sector is predominantly informal.
- The largest population comprise of young and youthful persons (majority of which are dependants).
- Statistics: 0–4 years old (48.7%), 15–24 years old (21.2%), 25–54 years old (25.7%), 55–64 years old (2.4%), 65 and above (2.1%).

Potential Game Changers – under the National Development Plan

Identified essentials to boost Uganda's competitiveness:-

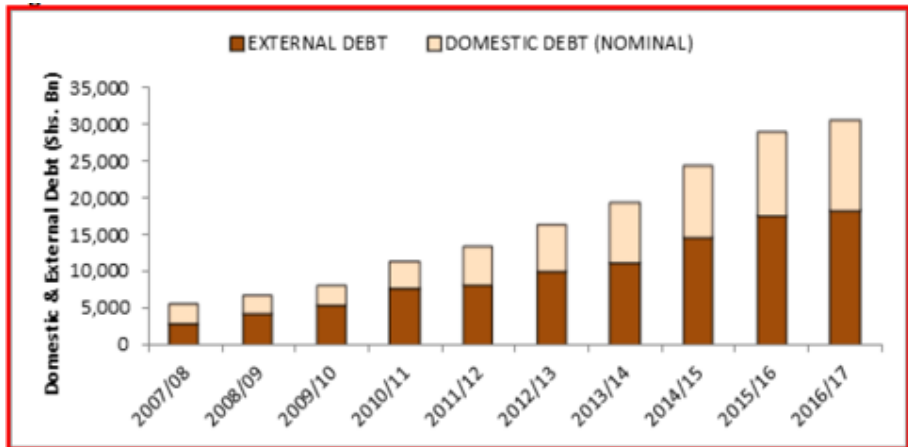
- Construction of the Standard Gauge Railway
- Construction of the Oil Refinery in Hoima (to refine the Oil discovered)
- Construction of an oil pipeline from Hoima to Tanga
- Upgrading of electricity transmission network and completion of major hydro power projects (Karuma, Ayago and Isimba)
- Rolling out the National Health Insurance Scheme
- Extending the National Backbone Infrastructure; and
- Establishing and equipping skills development centres of excellence in agriculture, mining, oil and gas, infrastructure, health and education.

¹ <http://www.ubos.org/2016/03/24/census-2014-final-results/> – 7th October 2017

NATIONAL DEBT

Uganda remains at low debt distress but the vulnerabilities have intensified. The financing of debt is increasing as shown in the chart below.

Rising Domestic Debt Financing



Source: Bank of Uganda.

CHAPTER 1

MAIN PRAYER PASSAGES FOR INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

Isaiah 22:15-25 (NLT)

This is what the Lord, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, said to me:

"Confront Shebna, the palace administrator, and give him this message: "Who do you think you are, and what are you doing here, building a beautiful tomb for yourself - a monument high up in the rock? For the LORD is about to hurl you away, mighty man. He is going to grab you, crumple you into a ball, and toss you away into a distant, barren land. There you will die, and your glorious chariots will be broken and useless. You are a disgrace to your master! "Yes, I will drive you out of office," says the LORD. "I will pull you down from your high position. And then I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah to replace you. I will dress him in your royal robes and will give him your title and your authority. And he will be a father to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. I will give him the key to the house of David—the highest position in the royal court. When he opens doors, no one will be able to close them; when he closes doors, no one will be able to open them. He will bring honor to his family name, for I will drive him firmly in place like a nail in the wall. They will give him great responsibility, and he will bring honor to even the lowliest members of his family." But the LORD of Heaven's Armies also says: "The time will come when I will pull out the nail that seemed so firm. It will come out and fall to the ground. Everything it supports will fall with it. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

In this season of prayer for Business and the Economy we will focus on petitioning God to remove the Shebnas in the institutions related to the economy and replace them with Eliakims. The Shebna-types of leaders are corrupt, arrogant and

self-seeking; the Eliakim-types of leaders, like good fathers, are servants and stewards; they live for the next generation. At this time Shebna who had a stewardship role (managing resources on behalf of his master for the benefit of the people) had abused his role and used his position to enrich himself. God had had enough with him.

Only the very wealthy in those days could afford to build themselves tombs or sepulchers in the rock. At Jesus' death, it was a rich man Joseph of Arithmea who surrendered his tomb for Jesus' burial. So tombs were the status symbols of the day. In our day the status symbols are different: grand buildings, land, vehicles, etc. Shebna had abused his office and corruptly amassed wealth for himself. Some of that wealth had been used to acquire the status symbols of his day. God had enough of him and pronounced judgment.

Vs 15 &16:

Pray that God will bring about a great confrontation of the Shebnas in these institutions (vs 15) that will result in:

- A great questioning of everything they are doing – even things that were done long ago that may have been forgotten (vs. 16).
- A great questioning of what they have accumulated and whom they have positioned in the major places to ensure that the looting of public resources goes on unchecked (vs. 16).
- Exposure of what they have done with stolen public funds (vs. 16).
- A return of even what they have hidden in far away places (vs. 16).

Pray that they will vomit out the stolen riches they have swallowed (Job 20:15).

Vs 17:

Pray that God Himself will:

- Seize them (when God grabs someone or something there is absolutely nothing **ANYBODY** can do about it – nothing can be snatched out of God's hand)

Vs 18:

Pray that God will:

- Cut their arrogance down to size.
- Crumble them into a ball (when something is crumbled into a ball it is squeezed and reduced in size).
- Throw them out of office in a way that they will not return to continue doing what they have been doing (when a ball is thrown out violently it bounces around until it finds a place to settle far away from its original position – now imagine God Himself doing that).
- Pray that as a result of what God will do to the Shebnas they will come to repentance and find the Way, Truth, and Life. (We do not pray for anyone's demise, but we pray that their works, schemes and the networks they have created will all die).

Vs 19:

Pray that God will:

- Drive the corrupt out of office – so that they no longer hold the offices that they have held.
- Pull them down from their position. Many times Shebnas leave office but still wield considerable influence on institutions because of money, connections, or the networks they created while still in office. Ask God to do a thorough job and pull them down from any positions of influence that they currently have.

Also, pray that God will:

- Arise and judge the stubbornly corrupt, arrogant and

self-seeking in the institutions and across the nation (Psalm 68:1-3).

- Close the doors of leadership in the institutions and across the nation to the Shebna-type leaders: leaders who like the leeches in Proverbs 30:15, exploit those that they lead.

Vs 20 - 25:

Pray that God will raise the Eliakim-types of leaders for the institutions and all across the country. Ask Him to:

- Clothe them with robes of responsibility
- Fasten on them a belt of strength
- Commit responsibility into their hands
- Lay on their shoulder the key of David – the ability to open and close doors as the final authorities. Sometimes upright people are in authority, but they do not have the ultimate power to make decisions. Ask God to raise Eliakims to top positions of both policy making and decision making in our institutions.
- Fasten them like a peg in a secure place (When God does this, no man or scheme will be able to remove them). Pray that He will firmly establish and defend them from the schemes of crafty and wily men coming from within the nation and internationally.

Eliakims are faithful stewards over Uganda’s institutions and resources with a renewed mindset who:

- Understand that God owns everything. Man is merely a steward on His behalf, and every generation is a steward for the next generation (Psalm 24:1 - The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it).
- Understand and practice the principle of accountability. They know that they are ultimately accountable to God, and also practice accountability to the people they lead.

- Father and nurture their institution and communities, and do not exploit and abuse them.
- Increasingly bring their organizations and communities to places of honor.
- Are strong, like a peg fastened in a sure place, able to carry institutional, community and national burdens responsibly.
- Are firmly established and secure from the schemes of crafty and wily men from both within the nation and internationally.

Ask God's:

- Forgiveness for the greed and theft in our society and the institutions. Corruption is theft and a breach of both the 8th and 10th commandments (Exodus 20:15,17).
- Mercy for the repentant and judgment for the adamant.

Earnestly pray and spiritually decree that the doors of the institutions will open up for the Eliakim-type leaders.

Romans 13:1-7

¹Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

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Pray that the Eliakim type leaders God is raising in the institutions where relevant will:

- Be a terror for wrong doers - those who choose to do evil will live in fear. That through them the Lord will make the going rough for thieves of public funds.
- Not be a terror for those living righteously
- Openly praise and commend those doing the right things
- Not bear their God given authority in vain; that they will exercise their authority with boldness. Not hold their divinely given swords in vain
- Execute wrath on those who practice evil.
- Be purged of those who abate crime and corruption and thus frustrate the institutions from fulfilling their divine mandate.
- Fulfill their divine ministry calling to be ministers of good to the citizens of Uganda
- Establish and enforce robust systems dealing with thieves of public funds
- Fulfill their divine mandate of promoting righteousness and justice, mercy and truth.
- Enable the restoration of moral consciousness of right and wrong in public service and society

A PROPHETIC WORD

Cindy Jacobs (a minister with a proven prophetic ministry) gave the following prophetic word at the All Nations Convocation, Jerusalem on 21st September 2012. It concerns the African continent and Uganda in particular:

The LORD says to Africa - I am coming with the great reformation to Africa. The principality of corruption is going to be cast down. I am going to begin to change the reputation of the continent. Even what was taken and destroyed under colonialism I am beginning to put in the hands of my people. There is a transfer of wealth. There are new economic systems coming.

The LORD is going to raise up economists in Africa that are going to put legislation. There is an anointing coming upon Africa. The sceptre shall not depart from Africa. It is your time. It is your time. Will I not bring another East African revival?

The desert will bloom like a rose. Even over Francophone Africa, there is going to be a mighty rushing wind coming to Congo, Ivory Coast, Mali. A great move of the Holy Spirit in Benin.

The controlling spirit over Africa is corruption. It causes decay to come to nations. It causes poverty. We know that there is idolatry, witchcraft but corruption is eating at the soul of Africa.

The LORD says over Uganda, the corruption will be broken. I am getting ready to bring a reformation. Uganda will be a reformation nation. The LORD says I am reaching deep into the soul of Uganda. I must answer says the LORD. I must answer. The witchcraft is being pulled out of the ground. The serpent is being out of the ground.

CHAPTER 2

WEEK ONE (19th – 25th August 2017)

PERSONAL AND CORPORATE PREPARATION

³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:31

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

- Examining our lives in attitude and practice with regard to money and wealth
- Confessing and repenting of personal sins with regard to our attitudes and practice in regard to money and wealth
- Making personal, family and corporate commitments to do things God's way.

¹³"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13

*⁹Honor the Lord with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

Proverbs 3:9,10

As we begin the season of prayer for our national economy, it is vital that we spend time examining our lives and attitudes with regard to money and wealth. As we do this and repent of our sins in this regard, the legal ground for the voice of the "accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10) before the throne of God will

be removed. Without doing so, our prayers will be made of little or no effect. Therefore the first week of this year's national fasting and prayer season will be spent on a self-audit in regard to attitudes and practice towards money and wealth.

The lifeblood of an economy is money. The circulation of money in a modern economy can be compared with the circulation of blood in the human body¹. Money does for the economy what circulating blood does for a human body. And, if money were to be somehow withdrawn from the circular flows, the production and employment system would come to a standstill in a modern economy². Money keeps each and every element of the economy in working order.

The word *mammon* comes from the Greek word *mammonas* meaning money, wealth, and material possessions." Jesus warned that mammon has an appeal to man that competes with the place that God should occupy. Indeed the love of money is akin to idolatry. In the New Testament, covetousness is also defined as idolatry.

²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Ultimately, *mammon* describes an idol of materialism. Jesus' words here show a powerful contrast between the worship of the material world and the worship of God. Worship of mammon can show up in many ways. When we envy others' wealth, are anxious over needs not yet met, disobey God's directives about the use of money or wealth, or fail to trust God's love and faithfulness, our thinking is out of balance concerning

1 <http://www.yuvaneeds.com/forum/econ/macroeconomics/how-can-you-say-that-money-is-the-lifeblood-of-a-modern-economy.html>

2 *ibid*

material wealth³ which indicates that we are out of balance in our relationship to God.

*⁵For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, **nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.***
Ephesians 5:5

*⁵Therefore put to death your members, which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.** ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in*
Colossians 3:5

Jesus depicted Mammon as a spiritual entity that demands love, service, and loyalty. He used the ancient Aramaic word Mammon to describe a spiritual entity that was and still is being worshiped under many different spiritual guises in every culture and civilization. Mammon is out rightly opposed to God.

God hates all sin, but it would appear from the scriptures that He deals with some sins more severely than others. The Bible indicates that God hates idolatry with greater passion. God perceives idolatry as spiritual adultery or prostitution.

First of the two commandments on which all the Law and the Prophets hang:

³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

3 <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-mammon.html>

Matthew 22:37-38

No other objects or person is worthy of that worship or service, only the LORD God of Israel – YHWH.

The apostle Paul writes of the godly perspective toward mammon:

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Lust of any kind is insatiable, no matter how much time or effort is poured into the pursuit of the object of lust. King Solomon who enjoyed money and wealth to a level where few ever reach, writes of the futility of chasing after mammon:

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 5:10.

Jesus rebuked those who refused to hear His admonition to choose God over mammon:

“The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.’”

Luke 16:14–15,

The parable of the rich young fool in Luke 12:13-21 is the story of

a man who lives to increase his wealth yet in the end he loses his soul because he “is not rich toward God” (vs 21). In the parable of the sower Jesus warns of the deceitfulness of mammon and its ability to “choke the Word, making it unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19).

God is not against meeting the needs of His children and even blessing them with abundance. He is however against a condition where money and wealth become the pursuit of one’s life. The Proverbs speak much about this.

*“With me [Wisdom] are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.”
Proverbs 8:18*

*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.
Proverbs 10:22*

In Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us not worry about our physical needs, about houses or clothes or food:

*³¹“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
Matthew 6:19-34*

SELF AUDIT ON MONEY, WEALTH & WORK

1. What is my attitude to money and riches?
2. Is my love for the Lord more than the love for money, wealth and comfort?
3. Am I envious of anybody’s wealth?

4. Am I anxious about food and clothing (Matthew 6:19-24)?
5. Am I anxious over unmet needs?
6. Am I obedient and faithful in paying my tithes?
7. Do I give over and above the tithe?
8. Do I give with a generous and joyful heart?
9. Do I exercise restraint in my expenditure?
10. Have I cultivated a saving culture or am I primarily a consumer?
11. What is my response to those in genuine need who come to me for help?
12. Am I putting all the resources God has given me to use?
13. Am I guilty of laziness or sloth?
14. Do I make good use of the time God has given me?
15. Am I paying my local and corporate taxes?
16. Am I trusting God's love and faithfulness?
17. Am I paying back money that I have borrowed? (Psalm 37:21)
18. Have I returned possessions that I have borrowed?
19. Am I stealing from anyone?
20. Am I paying wages and salaries of my employees?
21. Am I content at heart or is my heart hankering for more?

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

22. Is there pride in my heart because of my possessions?
23. I am trusting in my wealth as I face current and contemplate future challenges?

24. Am I enjoying the riches God has blest me with in godly ways?
25. Am I doing good with the riches / resources that God has blest me with?
26. Am I doing good works?
27. Am I ready to give and willing to share?
28. Are there any areas where greed is manifest in my life?
29. What are the areas where covetousness manifests in my life?
30. I am investing for the future?

EMPLOYEES

31. What is my attitude to work and labor?
32. I am doing everything as “unto the Lord” or do I see myself as serving my boss?
33. Am I being faithful with my employer’s time and resources?

EMPLOYERS

34. Am I paying my employees or am I withholding their wages? Could there be wages crying out against me (Malachi 3:5; James 5:4; Deuteronomy 24:15)
35. I am guilty of taking or giving bribes?
36. Do I remit the correct statutory obligations like PAYE and NSSF?
37. Do I prop up corruption in any way?

TO DO:

- Use this week to take stock of your attitudes and practice toward money and wealth.
- Repent and make restitution where you where you need to.
- Make personal, family and corporate commitments to do things God’s way.

Pray for:

- A new attitude in the Body of Christ towards money and wealth that is in line with the teaching of Scripture
- Balanced teaching in the Body of Christ with regard to wealth, possession and poverty that would enable this to happen.
- The increased manifestation of Christian philanthropists in our day – men and women that God will trust enough to entrust with His resources for the advancement of His Kingdom in the country and the nations.

CHAPTER 3

Week Two (26th August – 1st September 2017)

ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN BUSINESS AND DEALING WITH THE SPECTER OF CORRUPTION

*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.
Proverbs 13:34*

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

- That God will judge the menace of corruption in Ugandan society and bring down the corrupt in the country from places of influence
- That righteousness will be established as the foundation of doing business in Uganda
- That God will raise up righteous leaders in business and industry

Corruption

Corruption is defined as the misuse of power, whether in the form of money or authority, to achieve certain goals in illegal, dishonest or unfair ways¹. The Inspectorate of Government Act defines it as the abuse of public office for private gain – embezzlement, bribery, nepotism, financial loss, property loss or false accounting. Countries with high levels of corruption are not capable of prospering as much as those with lower levels of corruption. A corrupted nation's political and economic operations cause its entire society to suffer as a result. According to the World Bank, the average income in countries with a high level of corruption is about a third of that of countries with a low degree of corruption. Also, the infant mortality rate in such countries is about three times higher and the literacy rate is 25% lower².

1 <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/012215/how-corruption-affects-emerging-economies.asp?lgl=rira-baseline-vertical>

2 *ibid*

Governments all over the world suffer from corruption. Uganda is seriously plagued with this vice. Though Uganda has very good anti-corruption laws, policies and institutions such as the IG, DPP, and Anti Corruption Court, the general institutional breakdown has resulted in inadequate supervision, weak checks, and controls. The result is corruption at all levels, both in central and local government covering aspects such as recruitment of personnel, procurement, and activity implementation.

The Ten Commandments can be summarized as follows:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Corruption is a breach of the first and second commandment – the corrupt have made money and wealth their god. Corruption is also a violation of eighth and tenth commandment and becomes a springboard for the breaching of all the other commandments. As Apostle Paul admonished Timothy:

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

When the door to corruption opens in one's life, morals, integrity, ethical values, character and uprightness begin to break down and collapsed. The Scriptures state that bribery and corruption

not only blind even the wise, they also twist the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:18-22

Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you. Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the LORD your God and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates.

Types of Corruption

Grand corruption involves large government bodies. Examples in recent times include the Uganda National Road Authority Commission that unearthed massive losses in the road sector over 8 years, the loss of UGX 5 billion intended for the purchase of bicycles for local officials in 2011, the misappropriation of money intended to implement the national identity registration exercise in 2011, the loss of UGX 58 billion within the Office of the Prime Minister in 2012, and the payment of 24.7 billion to a fictitious firm for the construction of Mukono-Katosi-Nyenga Road. No country can expect to develop when these kinds of scams are prevalent, and those caught are not severally punished.

Structured corruption consists of elaborate schemes arranged by both the public and private sector players to clean up swindles, and steal money public funds in a manner that is difficult to challenge legally. Political corruption involves leaders directly doing things for personal benefit, like fraudulently awarding contracts to companies they have interests in or from whom they have received bribes or hope to get kick backs. Another

example is vote buying. As a result of irregularities in the last elections, the Electoral Commission spent about UGX 300 million to organize by-elections for canceled results – a significant drain on scarce national resources.

Petty corruption occurs at the individual level, for example, bribery of police officers. According to the Inspectorate of Government, 17 percent of surveyed Ugandans report having to pay a bribe in the past 12 months to a public servant to access a service that should have been provided without charge. The total value of these small bribes in 2014 was approximately UGX 167 billion.

The Constitution of Uganda

Objective XXVI of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of Uganda states:

1. All public offices shall be held in trust for the people.
2. All persons placed in positions of leadership and responsibility shall in their work, be answerable to the people.
3. All lawful measures shall be taken to expose, combat and eradicate corruption and abuse or misuse of power by those holding political and other public offices.

The corrupt break both the Laws of God and the laws of the land.

If you didn't participate in Week One, take some time to repent of personal sins in this regard.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK TWO

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Inspectorate of Government
2. Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
3. Directorate of Ethics and Integrity
4. Office of the Auditor General
5. Public Accounts Committee of Parliament
6. The Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises – Parliament of Uganda
7. Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority
8. Directorate of Public Prosecution
9. Uganda Police Force
10. Uganda Prisons Service
11. Anti Corruption Coalition of Uganda: made up of the following groups: Uganda Debt Network, MS Uganda, Oxfam GB, Transparency International – Uganda, FIDA – Uganda, Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET), DENIVA, UCAA, FABIO and UNATU.
12. Office of the President
13. Office of the Prime Minister
14. The Civil Service
15. Parliament of Uganda
16. Ministry of Public Service
17. Ministry of Local Government

In a prayer meeting, the different institutions can be divided up between the people praying so that they are all covered at the same time.

CHAPTER 4

Week Three (2nd September – 8th September 2017)

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

¹Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. That God will enable Government to fill its divinely ordained role of maintaining security and order, without which business cannot thrive.
2. That Government will play its role in promoting good and punishing evil.
3. That God will enable the appointing authorities to appoint upright leaders and shun corrupt leaders
4. For an overhaul of the Civil Service and the establishment of a system that is business friendly, accountable and corruption averse.
5. The establishment of righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth as the pillars of governance all across the country
6. That God will raise up righteous leaders in business and industry

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Business is the main component in building the economy. Governments create the environment in which businesses operate through the policies they make and enforce. When a government is functioning properly and creates a conducive environment, businesses become profitable and bring prosperity to the people and the government by improving the quality of life, generating employment, reducing poverty and distributing income. If the environment is not healthy, doing business becomes difficult, businesses struggle and even fail, investors leave the country, and both the people and government are losers. A government plays key roles in economy and business in addition to sustaining law and order, protecting a country from external attacks, providing social security, taking care of public utilities and maintaining peace within a nation.¹

To foster the growth of the economy, governments must be intentional in improving international competitiveness, rapid modernization, and sustainable growth². The government plays the following roles in business.

- a. Regulatory Role
- b. Entrepreneurial Role
- c. Promotional Role
- d. Planning Role

1. Regulatory Role³:

The regulatory role is carried out by measuring and controlling the limits of the Private Sector. Regulation is done to encourage citizens to set up businesses, to spread out the growth around a country and ensure that a few companies do not dominate.

1 <http://vle.du.ac.in/mod/book/view.php?id=13720&chapterid=30630>

2 ibid

3 <http://vle.du.ac.in/mod/book/view.php?id=13720&chapterid=30630>

In regulation, the government standardizes the code of conduct, norms, and rules in the domestic environment. When governments are functioning properly, the control of business and economic activities happens in such a way that it benefits the society. Regulation involves:

- Price control,
- Control of import and export
- Taxation
- Foreign exchange control
- Adding restrictions on foreign trade
- Industrial licensing etc.

The Government of Uganda plays the important role of controlling the overall financial system in Uganda through independent regulators in the field of banking, insurance, capital markets, etc.,

2. Entrepreneurial Role⁴:

In the entrepreneurial role, the governments act as entrepreneurs and participate in economic activities through ownership in the form of public sector ventures. Sometimes the private sector is unable to establish its venture in some area due to constraints like lack of capital, lack of know how or restrictions by the government. In this, the government performs the entrepreneurial role by entering the market with its ownership through the public sector. The entrepreneurial role of government is encouraged due to the following reasons:

- For social welfare
- For balanced regional growth
- For capital intensive growth
- For providing consultancy to private sector

4 *ibid*

3. Promotional Role⁵:

In the promotion role, governments support business activities by promoting a better business environment, advanced infrastructure, offering various incentives to endorse economic activities in the business. This role includes ensuring there are proper roads, transportation, communication, power supply, financial institutes, banking, capital markets for coordination among various sectors. In the promotional role, the government

- Provides necessary infrastructure for smooth functioning of business activities
- Provides coordination among public, private, joint and cooperative sectors
- Ensures balanced growth among all sectors
- Creates a business atmosphere that is intolerant of corruption

4. Planning Role:

Governments have a planning role ensure optimum utilization of resources. Wise planning enables the increase of the productivity, the achievement of high per capita income and national income, the generation of employment, the reduction of inequality among different sections, and the attainment of greater social justice.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK THREE

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Bank of Uganda and the Banking Sector
2. Capital Markets Authority
3. The Civil Service
4. Kampala Capital City Authority, & other Municipal Authorities

5 *ibid*

5. Micro Finance Institutions & Enterprises
6. Ministry for Investment and Privatization
7. Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development
8. Ministry of Works and Transport
9. National Planning Authority (NPA)
10. National Information Technology Authority (NITA)
11. Private Sector Foundation (PSFU)
12. Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
13. Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)
14. Uganda Manufacturer's Association
15. Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)
16. Uganda Securities Exchange (USE)

Additional Information on some Institutions

BANK OF UGANDA

The Bank of Uganda (BoU) is the Central Bank of the Republic of Uganda. It was opened on the 15th August 1966. It is 100% owned by the Government of Uganda, but it is not a government Department. Bank of Uganda conducts all its activities in close association with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). Bank of Uganda is responsible for monetary policy and maintaining price stability.

Pray for the Bank of Uganda to fulfill its mandate in managing the monetary policy of Uganda:

1. Price stability
2. Controlling bank credit
3. Promotion of fixed investments
4. Promotion of exports
5. Equitable distribution of credit
6. Promoting efficiency

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development plays a pivotal role in the coordination of development planning; mobilisation of public resources; and ensuring effective accountability for the use of such resources for the benefit of all Ugandans. It derives its mandate and functions from the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and other related laws, including; the Budget Act (2001), the Public Finance and Accountability Act (2003) and acts establishing agencies and auxiliary organisations.

Role and Mandate of MoFPED

- Overseeing national planning and strategic development initiatives for economic growth;
- Budget preparation – mobilizing local and external resources for public expenditure; Budget execution – managing and sustainably controlling public finances; and
- Reporting and accountability

Pray the Ministry will achieve its vision of achieving the fastest rate of economic transformation among the emerging economies.

Pray that it will carry out its mission of:

- Formulating sound economic policies that enhance stability and development
- Maximising revenue mobilization: local and external financial resources for public expenditure
- Regulate financial management and ensure efficiency in government spending.
- Ensuring efficient allocation and accountability for public

resources to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development

- National planning and strategic development initiatives for economic growth

Pray against:

- Corruption
- Extravagance
- Unplanned borrowing

UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) was established by the Uganda Revenue Authority Statute of 1991 and set up in September of the same year as a central body for assessment and collection of specified revenue, to administer and enforce the laws relating to such revenue and to provide for related matters. This statute incorporated all the laws that were in force then regarding tax collection.

Pray that URA will fulfill its mandate of

- Assessing, collecting and accounting for Central Government Tax Revenue (including Non-Tax Revenues)
- Advising government on matters of policy relating to all revenue sources.
- Cultivating a taxpaying culture through provision of reliable services, leadership development, and building strategic partnerships

Pray Against:

- Corruption in the tax collection systems
- Unfair tax policies that target just a few citizens. Pray for a just tax system that is contributed to by all citizens
- Harassment of compliant tax payers

THE UGANDA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (UNCCI)

Uganda's economic policy focuses on promoting private-sector led economic growth in such a way that growth leads to a reduction of absolute poverty in the country

A chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens involved in Commerce and Industry. It serves two primary functions:

1. Speaking and advocating for the business and professional community and translating the group thinking of its members into action. This includes advocating for appropriate economic policies and interventions that encourage a favorable business and investment climate
2. Providing specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and to the area as a whole. Chambers of Commerce work with their members to enhance their capacity to grow and run efficiently.

The Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) is the oldest nation-wide umbrella organization for the private sector in Uganda. It was created by the business community in 1933 as a membership organization to guard their interests, at the time of anxiety caused by the great depression of the 1930s, and thereafter the Second World War⁶.

It suffered a setback with an economic collapse following the 1972 expulsion of Ugandans of Indian origin by Idi Amin. It was reconstituted in 1978 and registered as a company limited by guarantee without share capital, guided by a set of by-laws enshrined in articles and memorandum of association.

6 <http://www.chamberuganda.com/news/about-uncci/>

Other chambers of commerce include:

- The China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (Founded in March 2009 by Chinese investors and consisting of 83 firms as of 20167).
- Uganda Manufacturer's Association
- Indian Business Community

Pray that more Chambers of Commerce will be set up to:

- Providing the business community with influential local, regional and global networks for business growth.
- Strengthen the private sector in Uganda, through emphasis of trade promotion, industrial development, effective advocacy for sustainable economic policies, and a promoting a conducive climate for economic development.

Pray that members of the Body of Christ in the business sector will arise and awaken to their calling to work together to bring the Kingdom of God to the national economy. Pray that a strong network of members of the Body of Christ in the business sector will be formed.

Pray for:

- The increased participation of the private sector in human resource planning
- The identification by public and private sectors jointly of the subsectors where Uganda can compete globally, places where it has domestic and regional demand and where a large number of jobs can be created
- Increased access to finance for businesses through a reform to the banking sector. The current interest rates charged by commercial banks are prohibitive for the promotion of business and the low-interest rate loans like Islamic banking ones come with strings attached.

7 http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1423980/chinese-enterprises-uganda-create-jobs

- A strong government hand in restraining and stamping out corruption, which frustrates efforts to improve business and substantially increases the cost of doing business. A few benefit at the expense of the majority of the population.
- The curbing of bureaucracy and red tape that stand in the way investments, business, and commerce
- Stronger collaboration between the private and public sectors.

CHAPTER 5

Week Four (9th September – 15th September 2017)

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

*“Enlarge the place of your tent,
And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings;
Do not spare;
Lengthen your cords,
And strengthen your stakes.
For you shall expand to the right and to the left...
Isaiah 54:2,3*

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

- The downfall of the Shebna type of leaders and managers in the institutions related to infrastructure development
- Divine judgment on corruption in the infrastructure development sector
- Promotion of the Eliakim type of leaders and managers in the institutions in the infrastructure development sectors
- The development of a solid foundation in Uganda's infrastructure sector: roads, railways, air transportation, water and sewerage, communication, power supply, internet services, schools, and hospitals

OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK'S FOCUS

The availability of infrastructure services to meet the demands of businesses, households and other users is a major driver of economic growth and development. A simple definition of infrastructure is the basic facilities and installations that help a government or community run¹. Physical infrastructure covers transportation, power, and communication while

1 <https://www.google.com/#q=simple+definition+of+infrastructure>

social infrastructure includes water supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, education and health. An example of infrastructure is the road network, water supply, and power lines for a new housing development.

Good infrastructure is vital for the mother and children who walk distances every day to collect water. Piped clean and safe water means they have time to do other things and that the children do not get sick; in some parts of the country, children miss school just because they have to collect water. Adequate and cheap electricity supply enables students to study when it gets dark without inhaling dangerous fumes from paraffin lamps. The time spent obtaining water and fuel or traveling to markets and service centers is often significant. Good all weather roads and reliable transportation enable farmers to get their goods to market. These all have a considerable impact on the economy.

When there are inefficiencies and shortfalls in the capacity of a country's infrastructure, the result is increasingly congested roads, delays in transportation, frequent power failures together with long-waiting lists for installation of electricity lines, and shortages of drinking water. Without good transportation infrastructure, one part of the country may have surplus goods while another part of the country is experiencing shortages. At one time the southwestern part of the country had surplus milk to the extent that some farmers were pouring away the excess on a daily basis. Meanwhile, there wasn't enough milk in other parts of the country barely three hours drive away because the roads were in a deplorable state. These situations raise questions concerning the sustainability of economic growth in future. Analysts say the infrastructure sector as a whole needs to grow ahead of economic growth to sustain growth.

A country's sustained economic development is strongly linked to its infrastructure strength. A high cost of doing business

arising from inadequate and inefficient infrastructure can prevent the economy from realizing its full growth potential regardless of the progress on other fronts. Good infrastructure is one of the factors that improve a country's ranking on the ease of doing business. Uganda is ranked 115 among 190 economies in the ease of doing business, according to the latest World Bank annual ratings². Uganda's position improved to 115 in 2016 from 116 in 2015. This ranking means that compared to other countries, it is still relatively difficult to do business in Uganda. Serious investors, whether local or foreign, look at these kinds of indices to decide where to locate their business and therefore take their money.

The McKinsey Global Institute noted that a major competitive challenge for African manufacturing lies in the cost of transportation. These are much higher on the continent than say China, with whom Africa would want more equal terms of trade. Uganda being a land locked country faces greater challenges in this than her neighbors Kenya and Tanzania³. That is why initiatives like the standard gauge railway must be lauded. But also, there is the need for the establishment of a rail network with branches going all over the country.

Infrastructure and the Economy

Infrastructure services contribute to poverty reduction and improvements in living standards in several ways.

1. Improvement in infrastructure leads to improved health outcomes and a decrease in the amount of money spent on water-related illnesses.
2. Improved provision of electricity permits improved health service delivery in several ways: electrification of health facilities allows safe storage of vaccines and medication and modern energy sources allow substantial reductions in disease and death associated with the

2 <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreconomies/uganda>

3 Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p. 241

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indoor use of wood fuels for cooking and paraffin for lighting.

3. Improved transportation enables women and children better access to health care services. A healthy population translates to a more productive population thus positively impacting the economy.
4. Access to infrastructure services is also often associated with improved educational outcomes. Availability of adequate electricity is strongly associated with improvement in adult literacy as well as primary school completion rates, as it permits reading and studying in the evening and early morning hours.
5. Lack of improved water facilities can work against educational outcomes, especially for girls who do not attend school for lack of adequate sanitary facilities or because of the demands of household chores like collecting water.⁷
6. Access to all-weather roads has been shown to be a strong factor in increasing primary school attendance, particularly in rural areas.⁸
7. Infrastructure and Economic Growth. Infrastructure services also contribute to improved productivity of business, households and government services.
8. When transport and telecommunications services are accessible, family members, particularly women and children, can engage in more productive activities. The expansion in quantity and improvement in the quality of infrastructure services also lowers costs and expands market opportunities for businesses. This contributes to increased investment and productivity, which is essential for sustaining economic growth.

The ugly head of corruption has always reared up its head to frustrate and delay government projects in infrastructure development. There have been high profile scandals related

to almost every infrastructure undertaking. In this week of the fasting and prayer season let us beseech God to deliver Uganda from the many Shebnas in infrastructure development and to raise and promote the Eliakims who will be faithful stewards of the resources of the people of Uganda.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK FOUR

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Ministry of Finance
2. Ministry of Works and Transport
3. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development; Petroleum Exploration
4. Uganda Railways Corporation URC
5. Rift Valley Railways
6. National Water & Sewerage Corporation
7. Ministry of Water and Environment
8. National Information Technology Authority (NITA)
9. Private Construction Companies

Pray for:

- The quick completion of the standard gauge railway.
- The development of water transportation and air transportation
- The development of a labyrinth of good quality road networks for the entire country
- The mindset of short-termism which focuses on the here and immediate gratification will change to one of delayed gratification
- In all sectors (transport, energy, water, and telecommunications) too much, too little, or poorly judged infrastructure may cause undesirable environmental, social and cultural impacts.

Pray that:

- Good, sound infrastructure will be developed with a sense of urgency to catch up and then keep ahead of economic growth so that the right input of skilled, qualified and socially contented labor will shortly be available for the country
- There will be visible and reliable supply chains;
- There will be prompt and accurate information for decision-making; efficient process and updated technology can be given to the operations of manufacturing and services.
- The success of the current government focus on the improvement of infrastructure like the building of hydroelectric dams, railways, roads and the improvement of transportation by water.

CHAPTER 6

Week Five (16th September – 23rd September 2017)

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT

*²³In all labor there is profit,
But idle chatter leads only to poverty.
Proverbs 14:23*

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. The development of a biblical work ethic in the Body of Christ and the nation
2. The increase in work opportunities for the youth

OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK'S THEME

Youth unemployment is becoming an increasingly troublesome issue in many parts of the world and especially in Africa, which has the fastest growing population in the world. Youth unemployment poses a serious political, economic, and social challenge to any country and its leadership. The youth by definition have been regarded as that segment of the population from 18-35 years who are characteristically active, vibrant, daring and with useful energies.

Global population data indicates that Uganda is not only having one of the fastest growing population rates, but one of the youngest populations in the world. The median age is estimated at about 16 years, and about 80 % of the population is below the age of 35 years. Therefore Uganda, like many other African countries, is faced with the major challenge of how to absorb the large numbers of unemployed graduates in order to reduce unemployment and maximize the benefits that come from having a large work force. The unemployment rate for

young people ages 15–24 is 83%.¹ This rate is even higher for those who have formal degrees and live in the urban area.² The informal sector accounts for the majority of young workers.³ 3.2% of youth work for waged employment, 90.9% work for informal employment, and 5.8% of the Ugandan youth are self-employed.⁴ The growing number of slum dwellers in African cities is to a large extent a testament of employment that is not gainful.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicates that 500,000 young people join our work force every year from universities and other tertiary institutions. It is not unusual to find some graduates still roaming the streets, five years after graduating in search of jobs. A single job advert attracts hundreds and sometimes thousands of applicants.

A high rate of unemployment among the youth is associated with high poverty rates and insecurity. The lack of employment potential makes crime a more attractive option. Lack of employment, an inconsistent policy framework for youth development, and general economic hardship tend to result in the youth becoming agents of social vices, political thuggery, and misadventure. The cycle is making it increasingly difficult for Uganda to break out of poverty. Young women also more often have to stay at home in a maternal role from a very young age, which limits their ability to work.

Governments and policy makers in developing countries are increasingly finding it difficult to successfully handle youth unemployment. Several strategies of youth empowerment have been evolved over time but with little or remarkable results. This high rate of unemployment is resulting from the

1 World Bank. 2008. African Development Indicators 2008/2009. Washington, DC: World Bank

2 "The Effects of a Very Young Age Structure in Uganda" (PDF). Population Action International. 2010.

3 Garcia, Marito. 2008. Directions in Development- Human Development. World Bank

4 *ibid*

lack of adequate provision for job creation in the development plans. Another cause is related to an education system that leans towards University education irrespective of course and course contents. As a result, a number of skills acquired from the University are dysfunctional and irrelevant resulting in unemployable graduates who lack marketable skills. This is absurd in a country like Uganda that has many entrepreneurial opportunities. What the youth bring into the economy is largely determined by the education system and the transition from school to work.

Most economists agree that it is the human resources of a nation, not its capital or natural resources that ultimately determine the character and pace of its economic and social development.⁵ In Uganda, the education system is not providing the type of skills and work readiness required by businesses. The market needs skills like literacy, oral communication, information technology, entrepreneurship, analytical, problem-solving and decision making all of which are unfortunately lacking in the products of our education system. It has been said that if a country fails to develop the skill and knowledge of its people and to utilize them effectively in the national economy, it will be unable to develop anything else⁶.

The Role of Business, Technical and Vocation Education Training (BTVET)

BTVET is concerned with the acquisition of skills and knowledge for employment and sustainable livelihood. Technical education is that aspect of education that leads to the acquisition of skills as well as basic knowledge. Vocational education on the other hand is training for a specific vocation in industry or trade. The mission of technical and vocational education is to promote the production of skilled technical and professional

5 Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p.225)

6 PWC Africa Oil and Gas Review, June 2013 quoted in Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p.233

manpower to revitalize and sustain the national economy and reduce unemployment and poverty. Technical and vocational education gives individuals the skills to learn and become productive citizens.

Despite the benefits of BTVET, it is still lowly regarded and many youth shy away from technical and vocational employment preferring degrees. As a result Uganda lacks skilled bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters, painters, lab technicians, electrical technicians, agricultural auxiliary staff etc. The majority of those currently doing these jobs are there by default rather than by choice and are most often not trained to do them. The result is often substandard. It should be noted too that it is this cadre of skilled manpower that form the foundation for industrialization and for an efficient society.

Unfortunately Uganda converted well-established polytechnics like Uganda Polytechnic Kyambogo, Busitema College of Agricultural Mechanization, and Arapai Agricultural College into degree-awarding universities⁷. These institutions were producing much-needed technicians but now produce scientists who tend to be under- or un-employed. For Uganda to become a manufacturing nation, a policy emphasis on vocational and polytechnic skills is needed, as was the case with Germany, Singapore and South Korea, which are now global giants in manufacturing. The experience of these industrial giants is that most of the skills that are needed in industry and manufacturing do not require degree qualifications, rather they come from vocational and polytechnics⁸. In 2014 China, another industrial powerhouse announced that it was turning half of its public universities (six hundred of them) into institutions of applied learning or polytechnics to produce more technically trained graduates⁹.

7 Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity by David Ssepuuya, p.226

8 *ibid*, p.228

9 World University News, 12 June 2014 quoted in (Ssepuuya, 2017, p.228)

Uganda is poised to reap a demographic dividend over the coming decades as its labour force grows. Whether or not Uganda benefits from this demographic dividend depends on whether the majority of Ugandan youth will be sufficiently educated to man the industrialization and the rest of the labour force. Should the country fail to prepare its youth for this emerging opportunity, there is a very real danger that dark forces and self seeking individuals will take advantage of the masses of unemployed youth to create national instability. The nation is therefore facing both an opportunity and a potential catastrophe.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK FIVE

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Central Organisation of Free Trade Unions
2. Education Service Commission
3. Farmers' Groups
4. Federation of Uganda Employers
5. Health Service Commission
6. Judicial Service Commission
7. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
8. Ministry of Local Government
9. Ministry of Public Service
10. National Organisation of Trade Unions
11. Non Governmental Organisations
12. Ministry of Education
13. Schools and colleges.

Pray for the National Education System that there will be:

- A complete overhaul of Uganda's education system to one that produces graduates with practical skills. Pray that the new education system that will evolve in the country will provide the labour market with an appropriately educated workforce and that the labor

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market will indicate the skills and learning needed in the education system.

- An end to the disconnect between the education system and the labor market.
- Greater worker training and entrepreneurship coaching
- An alignment between the education system and the national goals articulated in the national development plan
- A proliferation of appropriate tertiary education
- An adjustment in consumption habits and the structure of our economies to produce and consume more homemade manufactures
- A mindset change with regard to BTVET in the country
- Increased emphasis on and provision of BTVET in the country

CHAPTER 7

Week Six (24th September – 29th September 2017)

INDUSTRIALIZATION

The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting. But diligence is man's precious possession.

Proverbs 12:27

The hand of the diligent will rule. But the lazy man will be put to forced labour

Proverbs 12:24

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. The creation of a strong foundation for the industrialization of Uganda
2. The development of a solid foundation in Uganda's infrastructure sector: roads, railways, air transportation, water and sewerage, communication, power supply, internet services, schools and hospitals

OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK'S THEME

With the exception of the immensely oil rich gulf states, history had shown that it is only those countries that have industrialized that have been able to emerge from poverty. Since the Industrial Revolution, no country has become a major economy without becoming an industrial power¹. It is export orientated manufacturing that Uganda needs to look to for employment opportunities. The majority of the working population in Africa (60%) is employed in agriculture but its contribution to GDP is just 15%.²

1 Lee Kuan Yew quoted in Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p. 336

2 McKinsey, 2010 in Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p.133

Mensa Otabil in his book, “Buy the Future” defines the lazy man of Proverbs 12:27 as the hunter who works hard physically to hunt for game but fails to take his products to the next level³. Roasting is the process that takes hunted meat from its raw state into a more edible secondary state. The laziness in question is not physical laziness but mental laziness, where an individual finds it too mentally tasking to contemplate and explore the possibilities available to him beyond his/her routine. A mind that sits idle and never gets exercised in innovative thinking belongs to a lazy person. It describes the disposition of those who do not learn how to process their primary products into more useful secondary, tertiary, and even quaternary and products. These wise sayings throw light on how we manage our resources.

Roasting helps one to generate secondary income from one’s primary income. A country may produce gold, for example, but will have no facility for “roasting” gold; no gold refinery. The gold is taken to another nation, which has a refinery to refine the gold and mold expensive jewelry out of it. The raw gold producer turns around and buys the finished jewelries at a very high price. The same applies to almost all our raw materials: coffee, oil, copper, cocoa, aluminum, fish, crops, fruits, etc! Singapore had neither oil nor gas but has become the world’s third largest producer of refined oil and has established an advanced down stream petrochemical industry⁴. Africa needs to change strategy from exporting its raw materials to transforming them into high value final consumer goods.⁵

Africa has 30% of the world’s minerals and accounts for just 1% of global manufacturing Shrinking from 3% in the 1970s⁶. Africa’s terms of trade with industrialized countries will only get

3 Buy the Future by Mensa Otabil

4 Ssepuuya, D Africa’s Industrialization and Prosperity, p.308

5 ibid, p.14

6 ibid, p.299

worse if the continent keeps exporting primary commodities⁷. Africa's share of global manufacturing is shameful.

Industrialization versus Agriculture

In Uganda agriculture employs about 80% of the workforce but only contributes 30% of the GDP⁸. This implies that it is not a very productive sector. The means of agriculture we employ are not cost effective to make our agricultural products competitive on the international markets. Mechanization of agriculture would require a reduction of the sector of the economy that engages in agriculture.

Factories are the ideal way of absorbing the millions who come onto the job market every year⁹. The number of young people entering Africa's job market is set to rise for years to come because a rapid systemic reduction in fertility rates is yet to occur in SSA.

Steel, the principal capital input for railways and bridges is imported and this time round from China with some limited local content just it was brought from Britain and France 120 years ago. The steel of the railroads was probably made from iron ore extracted out of Africa¹⁰.

Uganda's Oil Economy:

Uganda's oil and gas industry is at its initial fledgling stage. With oil reserves now estimated at 6.5 million barrels after exploration of only 40% of the Albertine Rift basin and the estimated recoverable oil at 1.4 billion barrels, the country is preparing for an unprecedented jump in oil production. Estimates of natural gas reserves stand at 500 billion cubic feet. However, for the industry to realize this potential in full, a number of

7 Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p.331)

8 ibid p.213

9 ibid, 2017, p.348

10 ibid, p. 343

economic, social and geopolitical factors that influence the oil and gas sector globally need to be taken into consideration – as well as the technological and logistical challenges involved in extracting oil and gas from these reserves. It is necessary to understand how important variables such as global demand for fuel, the rise of alternative energy sources, climate change, regional conflicts impacts and economic development trends in different parts of the planet will influence the sector.

According to Uganda’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, the country has an unprecedented drilling success rate with more than 85 per cent of drilled wells finding oil and gas – the rate is one of the highest in the world. Additionally, the cost of finding oil and gas is among the lowest in the world, at less than US\$1 per barrel, compared with a world average cost between US\$5-25. The government hopes that the oil and gas sector will transform the country from a low-income into an upper middle-income country by 2040 and from a net importer to a net exporter of oil and its products. Caution, however, is recommended with respect to estimates of future oil revenues, especially in today’s new oil price realities.

Uganda has no domestic refinery, and all petroleum products are imported, mainly from the refinery in Mombasa, Kenya, which also supplies the other countries in the East African Community – the intergovernmental organization in the African Great Lakes region. This gives Kenya some degree of a virtual stranglehold over the economies of its neighbors. In an attempt to reduce this perceived vulnerability as well as its import bills, the government of Uganda plans to built the country’s first refinery. “

Though the oil and gas sectors contribute large revenues to national coffers, they create very little employment – less than 1% of the work force in most countries.

For producers of oil and gas, the ultimate beneficiation would come not in the form of royalties and crude oil /liquefied natural gas exports but from advancing the spin industries through employing oil and gas as raw material. Chemicals derived from petroleum or natural gas make their final mark in the consumer market where they appear in a range of goods including in agriculture, communication, personal health, medicine and transport industries. They are vital in cars, computers, mobile phones, toys, pesticides and fertilisers, household cleaning products, and pharmaceutical drugs.¹¹

PRAY THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL OIL AND GAS POLICY WILL BE ACHIEVED. That there will be:

1. Efficiency in licensing areas with the potential for oil and gas production in the country.
2. Effective management of the country's oil and gas resource potential.
3. Efficient production of the country's oil and gas resources.
4. Prudent utilization of the country's oil and gas resources.
5. Development of suitable transport solutions that give good value to the country's oil and gas resources.
6. Collection of the right revenues and their prudent use to create lasting value for the entire nation.
7. Optimum national participation in oil and gas activities.
8. Development and maintenance of national expertise.
9. Conserves the environment and biodiversity.
10. Mutually beneficial relationships between the state, oil companies and other stakeholders in the development of a desirable oil and gas sector for the country.

MINERAL SECTOR

Pray that:

- The development of the iron ore industry in Uganda. No country can industrialize without a domestic steel sector¹². Uganda is well endowed with high-grade iron ore in the western part of the country. After oil, iron ore is the second most-traded raw material in international commodity markets.

POWER DEMAND

- Uganda will require 2,000 Megawatts (MW) electricity by the year 2025 to run its industries and homes. To achieve this, more than \$3.5 billion (about Shs623 billion) will have to be sourced and spend in the energy sector¹³. Within 20 years from now the country must generate an additional 1700MW to meet its demand capacity. Uganda is currently facing a huge electricity supply deficit, as over 90 percent of the country's population is not connected to the national grid.
- The installed capacity in Uganda is about 300 MW, over 98 percent of electricity is generated by the hydroelectric plant at Owen Falls (the 180 MW Nalubaale station and the 200 MW Kiira station with five 40 MW units of which three have been installed) on the Victoria Nile¹⁴. There exists a small hydro power station at Maziba with an installed capacity of about 2 MW and independent power generation at Kilembe Mines and Kasese Cobalt Ltd with a combined capacity of over 15 MW. It has been estimated that there is another 80 MW of privately installed captive generation capacity.

12 Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p. 286

13 <https://www.mbendi.com/indy/powr/af/ug/p0005.htm>

14 <https://www.mbendi.com/indy/powr/af/ug/p0005.htm>

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK SIX

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Internal Affairs / Immigration,
2. Ministry for Science and Technology
3. Uganda Industrial Research Institute
4. Uganda National Bureau of Statistics, (trade and Industry have almost the same because the two functions have been under one docket until recently)
5. Umeme
6. Uganda Manufacturers Association
7. Uganda Small Scale Industries Association

CHAPTER 8

Week Seven (30th September – 7th October 2017)

JUSTICE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE

*¹Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And Your righteousness to the king's Son.
²He will judge Your people with righteousness,
And Your poor with justice.
³The mountains will bring peace to the people,
And the little hills, by righteousness.
⁴He will bring justice to the poor of the people;
He will save the children of the needy,
And will break in pieces the oppressor.
Psalm 72: 1-4*

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. A shake up in the World Economy and a transition to one that is fair to poorer nations
2. A World trade system that is fair to the poor nations

OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK'S FOCUS

Of all continents on the earth, Africa the continent most endowed with natural resources. Africa is so rich and yet so poor. 30% of the world's minerals reserves sit in Africa but the continent only contributes 1% of global output and by 2013 had a total of 383 million people living in poverty accounting for 54% of the world's poor.¹ The situation African countries face with regard to world trade was succinctly put by President Nyerere when he lamented.

1 Ssepuuya, D Africa's Industrialization and Prosperity, p.13

“ The price at which cotton is bought and sold in the market is determined by the workings of the international free market; countries of the South learn what the prices will be by listening to reports from Britain, USA and Europe. The cost of producing that cotton is completely irrelevant; so is the cost of living of the worker or peasant in the cotton fields. On the other hand, the prices of lorries, tractors, railway wagons, fertilizers, etc, are all determined by the producers – the transnational corporations and other firms.”

Africa supplies most of America’s strategic minerals. China, which has over 50% of the 17 rare-earth minerals, is consolidating its hold by stockpiling these industrially strategic resources.² The sources of these industrially strategic resources will probably be Africa this while Africa’s leaders and peoples still sleep.³ Unfortunately this would be at the cost of Africa’s prospective industrialization, unsuspecting as the continent usually is.⁴ If industrialized countries are doing it, African governments need to think quickly and deeply about setting aside strategic reserves of its resources for use in prospective industrialization drives or refusing to mine them at all until the countries are ready to industrialize.

For centuries, Africa’s trade with the rest of the world: engagement in slave trade, low-value agricultural production, and the present day extraction of minerals were all done with an overriding foreign interest. Africa exports the best of its natural capital and importing back goods processed from that natural capital at multiple times the cost. Producing what we do not consume and selling it at very low prices and consuming what we do not produce while buying it at very high prices. It is a net loss both ways For example coffee African countries like Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania are the among the top producers of coffee globally. Among these, only Ethiopia appears among

2 (ibid, p.281)

3 (ibid, p.281)

4 (ibid, p.281)

the top fifteen countries that exported the highest dollar value of coffee in 2015. The list is populated by countries that do not grow a single tree of coffee.⁵ “African countries are trapped in a state of existence in which by giving away their natural capital (people, agricultural produce, mineral resources, hydrocarbons) to others to convert into their own productive capital, they forfeit the intermediating benefits that include factories, jobs, deepened and widened tax bases, reinforced financial services, broadened logistical industries, increased civil infrastructure, diversified exports and skilled manpower.”⁶ The prices of Africa’s main products – diamonds, coffee, oil, cocoa, cobalt, sugar, iron ore, tea, aluminium, gas, cotton, maize – are determined in the commodity markets overseas but not in Africa.⁷

In addition Africans have built other continents while we remain poor. The Atlantic slave trade that lasted about 400 years from the 15th to the 19th centuries was critical in building the economies of the Americas and some European countries to the detriment of Africa. Even with the coming of the Chinese, Africa’s relationship with China is essentially structured like the one it had with imperial Europe: a source of raw materials, a market for manufactured goods, and a field for some development projects. China’s voracious appetite for resources touched off the second “Scramble for Africa.”

Pray for:

- God will rid the continent of leaders who are greedy and parasiting off the African people for their personal gain
- A new sense of appreciation of who God has made us to be as African people
- A new sense of ownership and nationalism over our natural resources and a collective commitment to safeguard them and rejection of those with an Esau mentality.

5 Ssepuuya, D Africa’s Industrialization and Prosperity, p.36

6 ibid, p.41

7 ibid, p.59

The Future

Uganda's future is intertwined with that of her neighbors and in many ways with that of the whole continent of Africa. The median person in Africa is 18 years old – half of Africa's population is under 18 and Africa is set to remain the youngest population in the world in the decades to come. According to projections by the United Nations, the median age in Africa will increase only to 21 in 2035 and to 24 in 2050. In other regions of the world, the median age will be 35 years old – almost 45 in East Asia and Pacific. According to UNICEF, by 2050, 1.8 billion babies will be born in Africa; the continent's population will double in size; and its under-18 population will increase by two thirds to reach almost 1 billion. Africa is the only region where the population is projected to keep increasing throughout the 21st century.⁸

Currently, there are 1.2 billion people on the continent, more than five times the population in 1950. By 2050, Africa's population will double to 2.4 billion, eventually reaching 4.2 billion by the end of the century, just about the entire world population in 1977.⁹ Africa is not the first region in the world to undergo such rapid population growth. America in the nineteenth century, China and the Asian sub-continent in the first half of the twentieth also experienced the same.¹⁰

The difference with the African experience is that the growth is happening at a time of the most rapid global socio-economic and political changes ever, and from a rural unskilled population base. A further factor is that progress in medicine and information reduced mortality rates long before the society was ready to reduce its fertility rates. North America's population surge included a proportion of urbanized migrants, businesspeople, and capitalists with skills and savings that helped to build the nation; India and China were able to isolate themselves for a

8 World Population Review, 2013

9 ibid

10 Cour et al., 1999

while from the rest of the world while making rudimentary steps towards social and demographic transformation. Africa, on the other hand, has entirely open to outside influences.

According to the World Population Review (2016) by around 2020, one out of every two newborn babies could be African. Being home to the world's largest population of youth will require careful foresighted planning to reap this population dividend and avoid it becoming a burden or even worse, a source of instability.

In addition to the rapid population growth is the large-scale migration to urban areas. By 2030 fifty percent of Africans will be living in cities, growing from 36 percent of the population in 2010. Africa's population of potentially productive youth will be the highest in the world. The continent's urbanization rate, the highest in the world, can lead to economic growth and transformation, at par with or even better than the current trajectories of China and other East Asian countries.

However, without transformation, it can steer further into increased inequality, urban poverty, the proliferation of slums, and even social chaos such as that of the 'Arab Spring'. Laws, policies, and actions needed to reap real dividends from Africa's urbanization are therefore critical in the continent's transformation. The need for African leaders to develop a long-term thinking mindset in planning for the next generations cannot be overemphasized.

We need leadership that will prepare us for this future which has emerged over the horizon.

- By the end of the century almost half the world's children may be African (The Economist).
- 40% of all humans will be African by the end of the century (The Globe & Mail).
- In the next 90 years Africa will see a population explosion

nearly unprecedented in human history (The Washington on United Nations Population Division projections.

- In 2100, Africa will be as densely populated as China is today (National Geographic on UN projections)

Pray that:

- The power of interests, both foreign and local that are determined to keep the status quo in which Africa is a consumer of imported manufactured goods will be broken
- Multinationals would be incentivized with the sanctions to repatriate profits
- Leaders that will wisely steward the abundant mineral and natural resources that Africa has on behalf of her people will emerge on the continent.
- The power of interests, both foreign and local that are determined to keep the status quo in which Africa is a consumer of imported manufactured goods will be broken.
- Pray for a great awakening among the African people and Ugandans in particular to take ownership and responsibility the endowments God has given us.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK SEVEN

Pray for these institutions using the prayer guidelines in Chapter One:

1. Ministry of Trade,
2. Ministry of Internal Affairs / Immigration,
3. Ministry for Science and Technology
4. Uganda Industrial Research Institute
5. Uganda National Bureau of Statistics
6. Umeme and the Electricity Generation, Transmission and Distribution companies
7. Uganda Manufacturers Association
8. Uganda Small Scale Industries Association

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