

Good afternoon all,

One of my favourite scriptures is found in Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

God has put an incredible value on the life of every individual, from every family, culture, community and nation. Men, women and children are so valuable to God that He paid the highest price for them, freely giving His life, shedding His own blood to redeem them.

I'm deeply disturbed by the events of injustice and the consequent scenes of civil unrest that have ensued from the tragic death of George Floyd, a young black man who was arrested with such excessive force by the police in Minneapolis, that it cost him his life.

As a husband, a father, a friend and a pastor, I'm acutely aware that these awful events have only highlighted, once again, that many of our family, friends and acquaintances in our communities experience prejudice and discrimination all too frequently.

I personally cannot imagine what this must be like to live with, but I know this has to stop!

Justice, Peace and Love are Kingdom values, no matter the individual's age, gender or ethnicity, these values should be known and felt. It's evident that the world really wants to experience those values too, but those Kingdom values are only a permanent reality when the King is known and experienced!

There is no place for bigotry, prejudice and discrimination in the Kingdom. Justice, Peace and Love are the true hallmarks of the impact of the King, Jesus Christ. Our best offence against this injustice is action. Yes, I did say offence, because we cannot sit idly on the edge of our communities hoping things will change. No, we are called as the church to be in the community, for the community and we have two great tasks to perform in this: to pray fervently and share the Gospel passionately.

Firstly, we must pray fervently. I urge each one of us to pray individually, corporately and join with others nationally and internationally, because prayer changes everything! We must never underestimate the power of prayer.

Secondly, the Gospel is the Power of God, it is "dynamite", and it can change the landscape of the communities we serve. Justice, Peace and Love should not just be aspirations, because for every believer they are a reality. Politicians, authorities, charities, businesses have all tried to solve this demonic scourge in our society, but only Jesus Christ, The King, can bring real and lasting change.

The tangible presence and the strong voice of the church is so vital in bringing hope into what seems to so many a hopeless situation. The Church, called to be salt and light, an agent of change, delivering through the power of the Spirit lasting transformation.

Let us, ACUK, as a movement rise in the power of the Holy Spirit to the challenge of bringing this hope to "everyone" around us. While the world is floundering to bring an answer, we have the privilege of proclaiming Jesus; His Kingdom Come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!

Yours in Christ Jesus
Ivan