



# Just telling God who He is

**Andrew Lumbuye** is leader of the celebrated Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir (AYF). Despite a recent serious illness, despite the many hardships of life in Uganda, he and his fellow choir members can still rejoice and sing about all God has done for them

The Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir (AYF) was formed in 1983 as a youth group of committed Christians with the burden of improving praise and worship in the Anglican church, evangelism and training youth for leadership. Over the past 23 years, Ayf has ministered in most dioceses of Uganda and other countries. As a result of our ministry, other youth groups have started in the churches we have visited and we have seen a tremendous improvement in worship in the Anglican church. We as group members have also developed spiritually in our quest to provide good guidance to others.

I couldn't agree more with the words of David in 1 Chronicles 29: 10 – 20, when he led his people in prayer after their generosity towards building of the temple. After telling God who God was to David and the Israelites, he said that all that was brought belonged to God and so they had only give Him what belonged to Him, for it is Him who had given them. How awesome! When one reflects on what God has done for him or her or the circumstances they have gone through, it becomes natural for one to 'rejoice', the more it happens, the more frequent the rejoicing.

## Worship involves submission to God

Different people worship God for so many reasons and in many ways. I consider worship in simple terms as 'telling God who He is'. I have also learnt that worship involves submission to God. It calls for me to live a life that reveals to other people that God is supreme not only in my life but also in circumstances around me.

As many of my colleagues in Uganda can concur, having gone through times of civil strife, famine, inadequate medical and food supplies among many, when you realize that God has supplied your needs 'according to His riches' and you therefore 'shall not want' – you can not stop praising and giving glory to Him. This can happen as many times

as you reflect on what He has done for you and those that you know.

## Five hour journey to hospital

I do not take it for granted that I went to one of the best schools in the country, successfully completed my university education and currently have a good job that enables me look after myself, my family and others. Not every Ugandan has that privilege, others go to school but it is not easy to get gainful employment. On Easter Sunday I was diagnosed with acute appendicitis and other intestinal problems. It was sudden and an emergency operation had to be carried out. I was referred to a hospital in Kampala (about 383km from my work station) for the operation. Traveling by road to Kampala took us about five hours. I arrived in time for the operation. Five weeks after, I am still grateful to God for His provision for 'all things worked out for my good'. This has made me rejoice again and again. Not every one has such opportunities. If I was not in gainful employment and had not had the opportunity to consult a doctor, I would have died without access to proper medical care and folks would have thought the cause was witchcraft or any other related causes.

At times you just keep quiet in wonder, tears could flow down your cheeks; sometimes you cannot hold it anymore and so you speak out the words. Other times you express yourself in song whether in private or public. I have observed people who put up their hands during worship; as a gesture of surrender, others kneel down and in some cases, I have seen people prostrating on the floor or ground. Whatever the choice of style, in worship, we lift God above any other.


This experience puts you in direct encounter with God. You realize that He is different and where you stand in relation with Him. In my experience, after each 'genuine' worship session, I have felt that I have made a connection with God. I am assured

of His love, care, protection, provision and have always felt a sense of relief and empowerment. The outcome of this has been that I have freely shared with those around me what God has done in my life and therefore who He is to me. It is amazing how God keeps blessing you more and more as you recognize that the blessings come from Him and you return the Glory to Him.

## Gratitude for the air we breathe

While writing this article, I asked one of the teenagers that I look after who is a committed Christian, and an orphan, about his understanding of worship and this is what he said:

'When it is time for worship, I either have a moment of silence or sing songs of worship. During this moment of silence, I tell God how I feel about Him in my own ways and thank God for each and every thing He has done for me and us. These things include life, the provision of the air we breathe, security, good health, provision of food, tuition fees and shelter among others and I also take the opportunity to repent of my sins. In song, I call out His name in praise and honour but also ask for His forgiveness.'

His response helped me appreciate why different people worship God and how they do it. Let us therefore join together as we worship God and tell him who he is, our lifestyles are a living testimony of what God has done for us and it is my prayer that each day, I may lead a life worthy of the name of the Lord. Many will be drawn unto Him as we lift His name on high for yet we will rejoice. 

**Andrew Lumbuye** is leader of the Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir – a group that was formed in 1983 to improve worship in the Anglican Church in Uganda. He is also involved in youth ministry at his home church. He is married to Evelyn and they have two children Elijah and Eleanor. Andrew works as the Human Resources Manager of a cobalt mining company in South Western Uganda. For details of the AYF choir's visit to the UK from 9 September to 15 October, 2006 go to [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) and search for AYF-Uganda-UK