

# The God who sees

*Esther Ngéthe draws our attention to the presence of God in the separations, tragedies, bankruptcies and redundancies of the pandemic; as holding all things together when they seem to be falling apart; as the God who sees us, and cares for us and our work; and brings light into our darkness and gives us a sense of purpose.*

We are living in very unprecedented times where rather than running towards our loved ones, we are keeping our distance in a bid to protect them. Words such as social distancing and quarantine have become quite common in our speeches. Information from various sources such as politicians, health professionals, and the media tends to imply that leaving the house to mingle with others will lead to sickness and eventual death, either yours or someone else's, and it will be your fault.

The world is changing drastically, yet some things, such as our innate desire to be truly seen, remain the same. We

are communal beings, notwithstanding that some of us are self-proclaimed introverts. We long to be close to our loved ones, for them to see us not for who we pretend to be but for who we truly are underneath our masks. We want to share in both the joys and the sorrow of those in our communities. Unfortunately, the pandemic has taken this away from us.

I intentionally decided a while ago that I wouldn't watch the news because sometimes it is just too much. We are experiencing heightened anxiety, loss of jobs resulting in massive unemployment, death of loved ones, and businesses that

have existed for ages going through tumultuous times. Countries such as Afghanistan are experiencing political instability while others like Haiti are facing natural calamities.

Thoughts of things falling apart are not far-fetched, yet, strangely, everything is being held together. We are experiencing the depth of God's compassion. True to His word, 'He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together,' as St. Paul tells us in the letter to the Colossians. The falling apart is creating room through which the light of the world can infiltrate this darkness with His wonderful light.



Just like Hagar in the desert in Genesis 16:13, we are seeing the one who sees us. The wilderness experience of isolation, sickness, death, joblessness, a stark need for food, collapsed businesses, and uncertainty concerning the future, also brings with it encounters with God. Just like the time when Jesus was driven to the wilderness for 40 days, the devil was there, but so was God. Right here, we are becoming more aware of His presence, and I dare say, standing securely on Christ the solid rock! Truly, all other ground is sinking sand.

## The God who sees Cares

Being truly seen communicates to us that we are loved and cared for, that our presence is appreciated, and our absence is felt. When people notice how our eyes light up when we smile, or how we fidget when we are anxious or even how the tone of voice changes when we are agitated and respond appropriately, we feel seen.

Even though people may not always see us, and we struggle with thoughts of being invisible, we have God who sees us

and cares for us. He knows our greatest fears, engages our deepest anxieties, and understands our darkest emotions. We do not have to pretend that we are not concerned about the business, paying the wages, or even remaining afloat. Instead, we ought to cast all our anxiety on God because He cares for us, as is stated in 1 Peter 5:7.

I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember. My mother took me to church while I was still a babe. I heard the gospel and believed. Even though I had heard it multiple times, I did not truly understand what 'God cares' meant until a few years ago, when I was well into my twenties. I was nursing a broken heart, and I bet that if you can relate, you know how that can take a toll on you. It is one very long night. My friend thinks that it is needful to experience heartbreak at least once in your life; apparently, it is good for character development.

I have always enjoyed reading, and in that season, I read more. It was a healing balm. Through reading, I found the words to converse with God. I was

honest with Him about where I was at and what that felt like; conversations I couldn't have with my family or friends. Through the mist of my tears, I began to trace out a rainbow. The God who sees sought me in my pain. He is a High Priest who can sympathise, succour, and save completely.

Granted, the last 18 months have had their fair share of heartbreaks, most of which have nothing to do with forlorn lovers. Phil Jump discussed some of the changes we are experiencing in our working lives in the 'New Wine and Old Wineskin' article published in volume 21.2. Some of us are mourning the death of careers or businesses that have taken our entire working lives to build.

In June, George Calhoun of Forbes wrote an article on a Chinese Business mogul and philanthropist, Mr. Jack Ma. The article titled 'The sad end of Jack Ma Inc.' described Ma's woes as an orgy of value destruction. It evoked anger, helplessness, and frustration over how unfairly Mr Ma was treated and how everything he had worked for seems to be falling apart altogether. When I think





about business, I think of posterity; that the company will outlive my generation; long after I have slept with my fathers, it will still be in existence, solid as ever. I imagine Mr Ma had the same thoughts. The article mentioned that he hoped that the school he began would exist for 300 years. Sadly, this might not materialise.

It is possible to get consumed by the busyness of building solid companies. We hear it, time and again, that our network is our net worth. The pandemic has adverse effects on the possibility of expanding our networks, given that quite a good number are working from home while others avoid in-person gatherings in a bid to stay safe. But maybe the pandemic is providing us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the true meaning of life; it is not wrapped up in what we do, but rather in what God is doing.

The God who sees cares about work; He has graciously invited us to participate in His work. We have plans and vision boards, but we must understand that God alone controls the future. He is not blind to our plight. Nothing escapes His divine notice, but at the heart of it

all, only that which God does endures forever. Because we know and believe that He cares, we are free to enjoy our labour and find satisfaction in what He has given us to do.

I believe that as leaders and professionals, we can mirror this trait as well and communicate that we care for those in our teams. We can communicate to them that they are valued and appreciated, not just for what they have to offer but because of who they are. However, we can only do this according to the measure that we have believed God cares. We first have to receive the care that God offers us, live as people who know that God truly cares, then, from the overflow of our experiences, give to others.

### **The God who sees is a God of Light**

The God who sees us is a God of light; in Him, there is no darkness at all. Light makes all vision possible; it makes life possible because it fuels growth. God is the source of all vision, freedom, and growth. He delights in shining truth into

the darkness of ignorance and wisdom into the murk of foolishness.

As a young person, I am confronted daily by the question of purpose; what am I here for? We are aware that young people are increasingly choosing companies that align with their purpose. Furthermore, the gig economy has provided a vast majority with opportunities to engage in tasks that make the most of their talents and reflect their true interests. Unlike our parents, we have more options; we are not limited to white-collar jobs. A career in the arts is becoming more acceptable, and we are redefining success.

Purpose creates a bridge between personal interests and motivations and a need in the world. Because God is the source of all vision, as a good shepherd, He is more interested in my getting where He would have me than I am. I am consistently taking these questions to God and praying for wisdom on applying my gifts in serving His purposes in my generation. The catch then is walking in obedience because it is only through abiding in Him that I will remain fruitful in the spaces God has called me.



The Psalmist proclaims, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light on my path.” Right here, considering all that is going on in our world, I know that we are helped. I often want to see the whole way before and conduct a risk analysis before taking the first step. But the uncertainty in this season is teaching me to take that first step and trust that if I stand, I’ll stand on the promise that He’ll pull me through and if I can’t, I’ll fall on the grace that first brought me to Him. His word is a lamp, not a floodlight. He provides just enough light to navigate.

Our God is a God of light! If your back is against the wall, look to Jesus. Through

His Spirit, He will teach you how to navigate these unprecedented times, turn your career or business around, or even establish a culture in the workplace that honours God and the people He has put under your care.

### **In Conclusion**

I echo the words of Anna L. Waring, which are very relevant for us as professionals and leaders. May it be your desire as well as mine.

*Father, I know that all my life  
Is portioned out for me;  
The changes that are sure to come  
I do not fear to see:*

*I ask Thee for a present mind,  
Intent on pleasing Thee.*

*Wherever in the world I am,  
In whatsoever estate,  
I have a fellowship with hearts  
To keep and cultivate;  
And a work of lowly love to do  
For the Lord on whom I wait.*

*I ask thee for the daily strength,  
To none that ask denied,  
A mind to blend with outward life  
While keeping at Thy side;  
Content to fill a little space,  
If Thou be glorified.*



*Esther Ngéthe is an experienced accountant who has spent a large part of her professional life working with SMEs. She is passionate about being rooted and built up in God. She is also an enthusiastic volunteer at Faith in Business and is based in the beautiful green city in the sun – Nairobi, Kenya!*