

# UGANDA MINISTRIES

2009

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NEWSLETTER #5

*“For the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry,  
for the building up of the body of Christ.”*

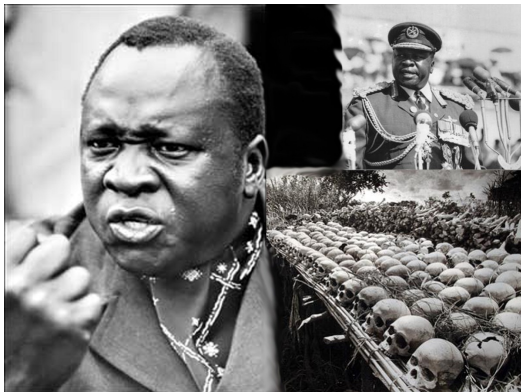
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## Uganda’s Spiritual Past

Idi Amin, Alice Lakwena, Joseph Kony, and Joseph Kibwetere are just a few of the more notable figures from Uganda that have garnered international attention in recent decades. Whether as a political ruler, a military figurehead, a spiritual leader, or any combination thereof, these individuals have impacted Uganda in such a way that has left certain indelible marks on the face of the country. They have shaped Uganda’s history and its people, and forging it into the country that we know today.

However, God’s Word reveals that behind every seat of influence upon the



*Idi Amin, Uganda’s most cruel and infamous military dictator terrorized his own people from 1971—1979.*

earth spiritual mechanisms are at work (Dan. 2:21; Jn. 19:11) to which the Apostle noted, *“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”* (Eph. 6:12).

While this fact is no truer of America than it is of Africa or any country or kingdom upon the earth, it is



*Alice Lakwena, a spirit-medium, claimed to channel the Holy Spirit as she led a national military uprising.*

noteworthy that Uganda, like many African countries, is more keenly aware of this fact. Whereas, America has gone the way of other so-called “developed” countries in becoming increasingly more secular with each passing year, many Ugandans tend to remain more attentive of the spiritual principalities behind each earthly influence.

Idi Amin, who seized military power over Uganda in 1971 professed to having visions whereby he claimed

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Learn about the various influences on Uganda’s spiritual history.
- Gain insight concerning Idi Amin, Alice Lakwena, Joseph Kony, and more.
- Discover the spiritual roots that have driven the social-political turmoil.
- Understand the military conflict that has been waged by rebel forces.
- Consider the Biblical warning about preachers of another gospel.
- Meet a Ugandan Pastor who is laboring to build up the Church in Uganda through God’s Word.
- Find out how Uganda Ministries is working to counteract the evils threatening the country.

## Another Gospel

The Apostle Paul cautioned the emerging church of the first century to be on guard against those who would come into their midst preaching “another gospel” than the Gospel which they had received at the mouth of the Apostles. Moreover, in his epistle to the Church of Corinth, the Apostle asserted

the following: *“the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved”* (1 Cor. 15:1-2 NIV).

Yet, in his follow-up letter the Apostle expressed the following concern: *“But I am afraid just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may*

*somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough”* (2 Cor. 11:3-4 NIV).

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## Uganda's Spiritual Past *(Continued from page 1)*

to receive direction on how to better carry-out his rule. No doubt from the influence of his mother who was believed to be a witch-doctor, Adi Amin took tribalism to a level which it had never been in Uganda. He ordered the persecution of the Acholi, Lango, and other tribes, resulting in the mutilation, torture, and murder of up to 300,000



*Joseph Kony masquerades as Uganda's "messiah," while simultaneously abducting her children to serve him.*

Ugandans during his rule.

It has been reported that during his presidency, "Bodies floated down the River Nile in quantities sufficient to clog the Owen Falls Hydro-Electric Dam in Jinja on at least one occasion." What's worse is that the very same propagator of the ritualistic mutilation, murder, and possibly even the cannibalism of his own people, professed that God spoke to him and told him to expel all the Asian residents of Uganda, resulting in the exile of some 80,000 people from the country in 1972.

In the decade following Idi Amin's displacement from power, the spirit-medium Alice Auma—who later became better known by the name "Lakwena" after the spirit which she claimed possessed her—waged a "jihad" against the Ugandan government under the guise of "The Holy Spirit Movement." At the direction of the spirit, "Lakwena," Alice gave up the

*"Like Alice and Kony, Kibwetere had a similar chiliastic message. His actions, likewise, seldom coincided with his profession."*

path of an oracle and spirit-healer to take up the role of a military commander and rebel-leader.

Alice convinced many of the Acholi people to brandish their spears and to march against the Ugandan military and seize power from the government. She assured the thousands that she had influence over that they would be victorious

on account of their virtue, though they marched naked into battle wielding nothing more than sticks, and stones to answer to the enemy's automatic weaponry.

In the end, their efforts proved futile. Though they paved a path of desolation that ripped through the country, leading up to the very threshold of the seat of government in the capital city of Kampala, they were unable to accomplish the goal that was promised

thousands were killed. But even more devastating was the residual effect of this so-called "Holy Spirit Movement." For in its wake countless other rebel groups have sprung-up—not the least of which includes Joseph Kony's incarnation which has come to be known as the LRA.

A more likely military leader, though no less spiritually influenced, Joseph Kony has persisted to this very day as the self-proclaimed "messiah" of the so-called "Lord's Resistance Army." Following closely in Alice's footsteps, Kony has continued the villainous exploits of the people of northern Uganda, kidnapping tens of thousands of children, forcing the young boys to serve as child soldiers and throwing away the young girls as prizes to satisfy the whims of his soldiers.

On the opposite side of the country, another cult-leader known by the name Father Joseph Kibwetere, a self-proclaimed prophet of God, gained much ground for the kingdom of darkness. Like Alice and Kony, Kibwetere had a similar chiliastic message. His actions, likewise, seldom ever coincided with his profession. The cult was referred to as "Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God." Yet, in the end, this false prophet

*"[Jesus] did not die that man's blood might be shed, much rather He shed His own blood that man might live."*

did little in the way of "restoration." Instead, he claimed the lives of over one thousand followers, many of whom he locked within the building where they met for worship, and then set it ablaze. Afterward, mass graves were uncovered both on that premises as well as in other discrete locations where the cult had operated, revealing that the movement had claimed the lives of hundreds more than those originally calculated.



*Child soldiers serve as the backbone of Joseph Kony's rebel forces which have terrorized the country for decades.*

Amidst this spiritual fall-out, faithful men and women persist in trying to extend to the nation of Uganda the true hope and love that can be found in Jesus Christ, alone. He did not die that man's blood might be shed, much rather He shed His own blood that man might live. It is this message that we endeavor to share with the people of Uganda and to all of East and Central Africa...Jesus Christ came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10) and that "by His stripes we are healed" (Is. 53:5).

Moreover, Uganda Ministries works alongside native Christian ministers and churches that are equally committed to proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ in spiritually dark places, to the glory of God our Father and to the testimony of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose kingdom will not be established by military might, but by the revelation of His glory at His appearing.

## Another Gospel *(Continued from page 1)*

Elsewhere, Scripture exposes this tendency of the church to depart from the simplicity of the Gospel in search of other cleverly devised alternatives. So it is that we read in Paul’s Epistle to the Church in Galatia, *“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ”* (Gal. 1:6-7).

Though it may not be readily apparent in our English Bibles, the Apostle here is making a clear statement concerning the nature of this other gospel as one which is totally distinct in kind and fashion from the Gospel which the Apostles preached—though it may not have been so easily distinguished by the hearer.

In the original language of the Greek New Testament, this statement would read, *“I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you unto the grace of Christ unto another [of a totally different kind] of gospel”* (Gal. 1:6) which is precisely why he then goes on to reiterate *“[this gospel] is not another [of the same kind]”* (Gal. 1:7).

Elsewhere, the same language is used by Jesus when he spoke to His disciples saying, *“I will pray the Father and He will send you another [of the same kind of] Comforter.”* For the Holy Spirit, though He is entirely distinct from the Son, is of the same kind of nature—Divine.

So here the Apostle labors to empha-

size that this other gospel is not merely different in word or style, but it bears a totally different nature—and undoubtedly has a totally different effect on the one who believes in it than does the Gospel that the Apostles preached “by which [men] are saved” (1 Cor. 15:2).



*Benny Hinn conducting a nationwide “crusade” in Kampala in 2007.*

This word of caution concerning another gospel is no less true today than ever it was. The church of the twenty-first century is rife with those who have abandoned the Gospel which the Apostles had forsaken all else in order to preach, unto both persecution and death. It is that Gospel which the Apostle Paul was confirmed as a chief minister, according to the following admission: *“Are they ministers of Christ? I (speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of*

*the Jews received I five times forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils by my own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness”* (2 Cor. 11:23-27).

In stark contradiction to this, are those so-called “ministers” who present a different kind of gospel: one which promises health-and-wealth and a life full of earthly prosperity. This gospel is altogether unrecognizable in the lives of the Apostles and in the early church, and yet it is preached all across the world, today. This message, espoused by certain televangelists and Christian celebrities has infiltrated the Church in Uganda and has spread like wild-fire throughout the country.

Yet, despite the dark spiritual oppression that has gripped Uganda—the spiritism handed down from the tribal religions, the proliferation of evil and demonic cults, and the professions of false preachers who have exposed the church to heretical teachings—the country is largely marked by a people who are hungry for the truth of God’s Word. May we, as the Church, strive to assist them in this endeavor, in whatever capacity the Lord sees fit.

## Donation Information

Uganda Ministries operates entirely on the basis of God’s grace in cooperation with the willingness of His people to participate in the work of the building of His Church. This is a multi-denominational effort shared by all Christians who have a concern for seeing the Lord’s Church built-up both here and abroad.

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*Elisha Kakwerere has served for over four years as a leading pastor in Rukungiri.*

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for the work of the ministry,  
for the building up  
of the body of Christ.”*

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## PROFILE: Pastor Elisha Kakwerere

Like most Ugandans, Elisha was brought up in a religious home. However, it was not until his teenage years that Elisha encountered his first Bible. It had been given to him as a gift. It was weathered and torn, and missing sections, but Elisha read as much of it as he could.

It was never Elisha’s goal to be a pastor. Rather, he wanted to help equip and train other pastors for the

building up of the church. However, living in the capital city of Kampala afforded him opportunities not available to most Ugandans. So at the suggestion of his pastor, Peter Kasirivu of Ggaba Community Church, Elisha enrolled in Bible College to become better equipped to teach God’s Word. Upon finishing his studies, Peter encouraged him to start a church in an area where countless church plants had failed—Rukungiri.

Today, Elisha serves not only as the leading pastor of the largest free church in Rukungiri, but as the chairperson of all of the born-again churches in the District of Rukungiri; moreover, he is directly responsible for a second church plant in Rukungiri. Additionally, Elisha began Rukungiri’s first Christian radio program, broadcasting the gospel of Jesus Christ to over two million Ugandans, Rwandans, and Congolese.

## General Information

*Uganda Ministries is a U.S. non-profit organization designated for religious, educational, and charitable purposes. We are dedicated to supporting the ongoing work of*

*Christian ministry and the building-up of the Christian Church in the Republic of Uganda, through biblical training and spiritual equipping of native Ugandan ministers.*

*The mission of Uganda Ministries is to support and uphold the work of the ministry in Uganda that the Church there would be both edified and fortified unto the building up of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*