

The Standard

UCU COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Standard is published bi-monthly by the UCU Department of Mass Communication

Our view

Bravo to Bali

Uganda Christian University (UCU), Mukono Campus, students turned out to vote for the next guild government on Friday 7 November, after a flurry of campaigning.

There can only be one winner. We at *The Standard* therefore congratulate Arthur Sserubiri Baliruno, 'Bali', for beating the odds to become the guild president 2014.

In a tight race, Mr. Baliruno beat his closest opponent by 993 votes to 902. Democracy ruled.

We commend the four presidential candidates for giving their all in the campaign. We also congratulate all other candidates in the various positions.

It is our belief that the welfare of the UCU students is in good hands. We hope they will go the extra mile to make our confidence in them, expressed through the ballot, valid.

Much money and resources were spent on the campaign. The posters now come down. Handbills will be swept away. The loud music has stopped. It's now time for serious business.

The community heard the campaign promises. Now the rubber meets the road. The student body expects good governance, accountability and honour. Above all they expect you to make good on your promises.

Many say that holding a post in the guild government is a preamble for greater posts of leadership in the outside world. May you not forget that your performance in your tenure will reflect on you in years to come.

It is worth noting, however, that voter turnout was low compared to previous years. This could be attributed to various factors, or just mere voter apathy.

As a community we hope we will remember to vote next time. This is our government.

To the out-going government led by Ms. Blessed Murungi. As you hand over power reins, the UCU community thanks you for your service.

They noted your strengths and weaknesses but salute your bravery and guts to choose to be on the leadership helm.

Let the rest of us support the new office bearers as they execute the duties and powers we conferred on them.

CONTACT INFO:

June Lutwama - Supervisor/Managing Editor

jlutwama@ucu.ac.ug

Opae Papa - Staff Writer / News

editor@ucu.ac.ug

Dorcus Murungi - Staff Writer / Campus

campuslife@ucu.ac.ug

Gloria Kiconco - Staff Writer / Lifestyle

lifestyle@ucu.ac.ug

Desire Ruth - Staff Writer / Sports

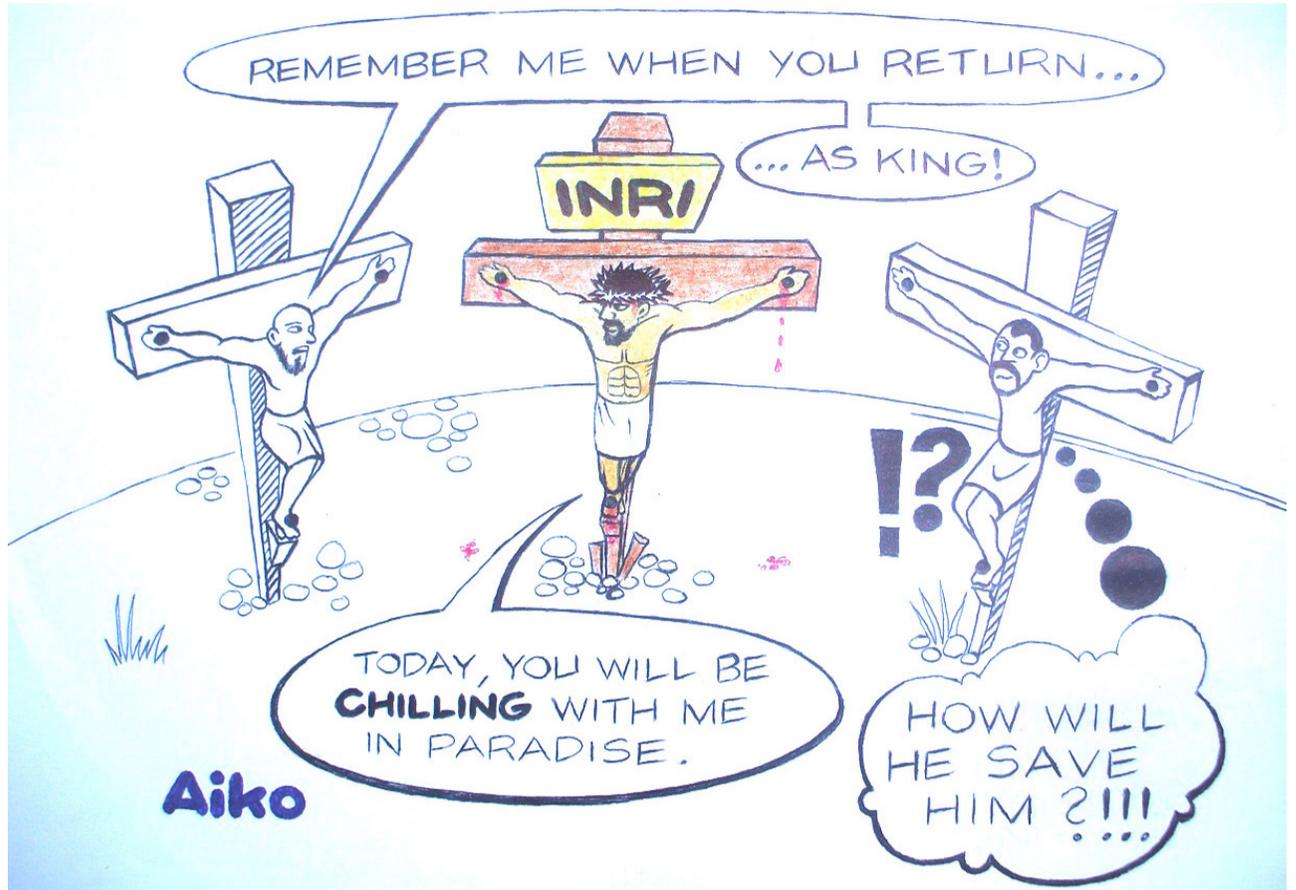
sports@ucu.ac.ug

Standard News Office: Ext. 879 & 213

<https://www.facebook.com/ucustandard>

<http://thestandard.ucu.ac.ug>

Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion



God hears our honest and helpless cry like He listened to the repentant thief on the cross.

Salvation is a mystery that can't be faked

THOMAS FROESE



It's a risky move, of course, to open up your Sunday morning message to questions. You never know who might ask what.

But this is what happened on a recent Sunday. The minister who I listened to had a post-sermon question-and-answer session and a woman stepped forward with what they call a show-stopper.

Her voice quivering, she asked rather plainly and desperately, "So just how do you get saved?"

It was a striking taste of what it must have been like when some people – Nicodemus comes to mind – asked Jesus just what in the world He was getting at with all this talk about being "born again."

Two thousand years later, if that minister had followed what has become the unimaginative convention of our time, he might have said, "Well, let me share with you the sinner's prayer, and, if you wish, you can even repeat it after me right now."

In some church subcultures, this has become the clichéd and standard response.

Some extra-religious prohibitions might then also be added, usually relating to activities like drinking or dancing or Sunday recreation, injunctions that have embarrassingly little to do with the irreligious example that Jesus actually left for us.

This is what the Scriptures reveal,

that the God who offers such wild promises and relationship is less interested in hearing any prayers by formula or rote as much as honest expressions. And this is why, I suspect, this minister then answered this woman by sharing the story of the thief on the cross.

There he is, this career criminal, looking death in the eye, looking over his sorry existence, mustering at least a dying moment of truth. And what does he say? Simply, "Jesus, when you enter your kingdom, will you remember me?"

It wasn't much. But it wasn't concocted either. It was from his own deep place, a place of unconditional surrender.

And that was enough for Jesus to give the remarkable revelation that this man was somehow not only forgiven, but about to have a cool drink, so to speak, with God himself on the seaside of eternity.

The tongues, even at the cross, must have wagged all the more. Are you kidding me? That hustler? That old rogue? Saved? Now?

And isn't this is the real rub of it? That God's ways are not our ways?

Yes, it may be true that God's followers have always been called to live holy lives, but this is not the heart of salvation. It's not the core. Mystery is. Mystery, like the wind, said Jesus. Where it comes from and where it goes next is anybody's guess. You can't make or fake it.

Too often, though, salvation is now reduced to this other step-by-step instruction on how to, say, bake a cake: just do this and add this and mix this and how sweet it all is. And, in our time, skeptics, of course, have a heyday with such weak professions of so-called faith.

But now there is you, here at this university where the target before you is real faith, the substance and evidence of things that may be unseen, but a target with substance and evidence, nonetheless.

And if this is true, then this university, at its best, is a place not unlike that minister, not just giving didactic one-way messages, but one that opens itself to questions and critical thinking to test ideas and ensure they're not just being passed around like cheap currency unbacked by a gold standard.

Yes, you're big enough to not just sit and listen idly, but to look into these important matters for yourself and ask your own questions to come to your own conclusions, and, by God's grace, your own place of spiritual reality and surrender.

And as you're changed and later leave this university, you'll, even in a small way, be able to change your own world.

Won't you?

Author and journalist Thomas Froese is a founder of *The Standard*. Read him at www.dailydad.net and www.thomasfroese.com